



March 3rd, 2025

Report on Shared Vision 2024 Coordination Funds from Regional Districts to ICF

From March 2024 to February 2025 ICF participated with 5 Regional Districts and 14 First Nation in the planning and development of the Corridor Shared Vision project under an MOU agreement with the five participating Regional Districts.

With the generous funding from Regional Districts as defined in the original MOU, ICF was able to hire a Shared Vision Project Coordinator (a position filled by Anna Russell) to work on coordination of Shared Vision project items between members and rightsholders of the ICF, and the various working group teams and consultants. The coordinator, alongside involvement of other ICF staff, successfully completed deliverables as outlined in the original MOU.

Work included conducting research and compiling background information for project participants, and participating in approximately 200 meetings and events such as working group sessions, regional networking events, public consultations, and meetings with representatives of First Nations, Regional Districts, provincial and federal governments and community stakeholders. These points of engagement were needed to build relationships, share information, support decision making and learn about members' priorities and interests in pursuit of a common vision.

Because of the large number of parties engaged in the Shared Vision project, and the fact that the development of a shared vision for the Corridor must necessarily be led by First Nations, ICF's work has needed to be respectful of that context and entirely flexible to changing circumstances.

Highlights of the funded coordination activities, as they relate to the original MOU deliverables, are noted below.

Further the work associated with the land reversion processes for First Nations who are expressing such an interest.

- As a critical first step, we met with First Nations along the Corridor including those with bisected reserves, starting the process of building trust and establishing effective working relationship, and to understand their issues and priorities.
- Researched on-reserve encumbrances and provided information to First Nations to inform their individual reversion considerations.
- Provided administrative support to K'ómoks First Nation to convene two All Nations Dialogue sessions at which First Nations held confidential talks regarding reversion and implications for each other's interests and the Corridor.

ICF serves the communities of Vancouver Island and gratefully acknowledges that we work on the traditional and unceded territories of many diverse First Nations, including the Esquimalt, Songhees, Malahat, Cowichan Tribes, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Halalt, Stz'uminus, Penelakut Tribe, Snuneymuxw, Snaw-Naw-As, Qualicum, K'ómoks, Hupacasath, and Tseshah. We acknowledge that Indigenous peoples have stewarded these lands since time immemorial and are committed to strong Indigenous partnerships and relationships based on principles of Reconciliation



ISLAND CORRIDOR FOUNDATION

Box 375 Stn A Nanaimo, BC V9R 5L3
office 250 754 7254
islandrail.ca

- In December 2024 ICF heard from First Nation members that tangible progress on reversion was needed in 2025. We provided research and analysis to support the ICF Board's directions on how to implement ICF's reversion resolution from October 2023.

Compile, prepare, and distribute necessary historical, contemporary and technical information and other background documentation to support all aspects of the reversionary process and visioning process.

- Completed a historical study of the Corridor's land assembly to inform our work
- Supported Regional Districts in their Shared Vision projects, including providing requested information to consultants, coordinating meetings with consultant teams, providing tours and access to the Corridor, and participating in public engagement activities.
- Researched and presented information on First Nations benefits scenarios, as requested by First Nations for the 2nd All Nations Dialogue in December
- At the request of various First Nations, created a Sharepoint site to host all materials related to the Shared Vision project, and researched resources to support indigenous business opportunities along the Corridor.

To validate and supplement for completeness, and inventory and update where appropriate, the suite of encumbrances, commercial contracts, rights of way, and other interests along the full length of Island Corridor.

- Researched parcel title information along the Corridor
- Completed a first draft of all encumbrances and interests on the whole line, and a final list on the stretch from Parksville to Courtenay.
- Research on the rest of the line will continue as parties express interest

To assist all participants with any aspects of the development of potential uses and alignments for each unique segment of Island Corridor in furtherance of the goals of each of the participants.

- Organized a study tour with First Nations and RD representatives to look at model transit-oriented developments in Metro Vancouver.
- Researched and prepared a presentation on transit-oriented development, as requested by two First Nations for presentation to respective Chief and Council tables
- Held preliminary discussions on a realignment study with various parties, for potential implementation in 2025.
- Supported parties in the Alberni Valley to develop a funding proposal for an emergency access route between Port Alberni and Parksville along the Corridor.

ICF serves the communities of Vancouver Island and gratefully acknowledges that we work on the traditional and unceded territories of many diverse First Nations, including the Esquimalt, Songhees, Malahat, Cowichan Tribes, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Halalt, Stz'uminus, Penelakut Tribe, Snuneymuxw, Snaw-Naw-As, Qualicum, K'ómoks, Hupacasath, and Tseshaht. We acknowledge that Indigenous peoples have stewarded these lands since time immemorial and are committed to strong Indigenous partnerships and relationships based on principles of Reconciliation



ISLAND CORRIDOR FOUNDATION

Box 375 Stn A Nanaimo, BC V9R 5L3
office 250 754 7254
islandrail.ca

In closing, ICF would like to thank the Regional Districts again for their leadership with Shared Vision Project funding and including the ICF. We hope that we have added material value to the project and have helping bring increased clarity and transparency to the corridor's lands.

It has been an incredible and busy year with many new projects and work happening all along the corridor. In 2024, building relationships was our major priority. We travelled up and down the corridor for meetings and events, breaking bread with our members, partners and other interested parties, and listening to people's concerns and ideas about the Corridor.

We know this work has only begun and it will continue to be the most important part of our work at ICF in 2025, alongside work to manage the corridor lands effectively for our members, while resolving long-standing issues, making progress on reversion, and seeking a shared vision for the future of the corridor.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Bevan

CEO Island Corridor Foundation

ICF serves the communities of Vancouver Island and gratefully acknowledges that we work on the traditional and unceded territories of many diverse First Nations, including the Esquimalt, Songhees, Malahat, Cowichan Tribes, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Halalt, Stz'uminus, Penelakut Tribe, Snuneymuxw, Snaw-Naw-As, Qualicum, K'ómoks, Hupacasath, and Tseshah. We acknowledge that Indigenous peoples have stewarded these lands since time immemorial and are committed to strong Indigenous partnerships and relationships based on principles of Reconciliation