



STAFF REPORT TO COMMITTEE

DATE OF REPORT March 11, 2022
MEETING TYPE & DATE Committee of the Whole of March 23, 2022
FROM: Parks & Trails Division
Land Use Services Department
SUBJECT: Regional Active Transportation Plan – Round 1 Engagement Update
FILE: 8330-20 Active Transp Plan

PURPOSE/INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on development of the CVRD's Regional Active Transportation Plan and to present the Round 1 Engagement Summary Report (to accompany the delegation presentation from the project consultants).

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

For information.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Active Transportation Plan, initiated in Fall 2021, will be a framework for regional cooperation and collaboration, and result in a 20-year active transportation plan, with short term (<5 year) priority actions. This initiative focuses on non-motorized travel modes on and alongside roads, parks, trails and more. The plan will help establish a partnership process with regional partners (such as the local First Nations, BC Transit, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), member municipalities and Islands Trust) to advance active transportation initiatives in a coordinated and connected manner. Priority short-, medium-, and long-term investments will be identified, and a strategy for ongoing maintenance will be determined.

This information report is to accompany the update presentation by the project consulting team, Bunt Engineering & Associates and Uplift Engagement Co., at the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 23, 2022.

ANALYSIS

Bunt & Associates Engineering Ltd. was engaged to develop the CVRD Regional Active Transportation Plan, with support of Uplift Engagement Communications Inc. for community outreach and engagement, inclusive of member municipalities and local first nations.

The consulting team is developing the plan in alignment with the principles/phases previously outlined to the Committee for completing the plan, as follows:

- Step 1: Building the Foundation (June – September 2021)
- Step 2: Early Directions (September – November 2021)
- Step 3: Refining Directions (November 2021 – March 2022)
- Step 4: Finalizing the Plan (March – June 2022)

The Regional Active Transportation Plan is currently in Step 3: Refining Directions. The first round of public engagement was undertaken from December 2021 to February 2022 and is available in an interactive Engagement Summary Report, available on the project website:

<https://www.planyourcowichan.ca/regional-active-transportation-plan>

The next steps will be to develop and refine key active transportation network improvement options and will involve another round of public engagement, anticipated to take place in May 2022. Upcoming engagement will involve a combination of in-person and online events and tools.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Board has approved \$100,000 in requisition through Function 280 – Regional Parks for engaging consulting services to complete the Regional Active Transportation Plan in 2021/2022. The CVRD was also recently successful with receipt of a \$50,000 grant through the Provincial Active Transportation Fund for local/regional active transportation planning. These additional funds will provide for an expanded level of engagement with local First Nations and communities across the region in development of the plan.

COMMUNICATION CONSIDERATIONS

The public engagement process includes a broad range of public and partner outreach throughout preparation of the Regional Active Transportation Plan. Throughout the project, digital tools are being applied, including social media, to help broaden awareness and outreach within Cowichan communities as much as possible. Though the COVID-19 pandemic limited scheduled public engagement to virtual online events as part of the Round 1 Engagement, it is expected that, for the next round of engagement, a combination of in-person and online events will be offered.

STRATEGIC/BUSINESS PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

The development of a Regional Active Transportation Plan is supported by the strategic objective from the theme: “Our Infrastructure”, included within the *Cowichan Valley Regional District Strategic Plan 2020-2022*:

“4.2) Work with First Nations to identify and pursue opportunities to develop and/or complete multi-purpose trails that connection and traverse jurisdictions.”

“4.3) Develop and implement a framework to identify, prioritize, and fund active transportation infrastructure”

GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

☐ Not Applicable

Referred to (upon completion):

- ☐ Communications & Engagement
- ☐ Community Services (*Cowichan Community Centre, Cowichan Lake Recreation, South Cowichan Recreation, Arts & Culture, Emergency Management, Facilities & Transit*)
- ☐ Corporate Services (*Finance, Human Resources, Legislative Services, Information Technology, Procurement*)
- ☐ Engineering Services (*Environmental Services, Recycling & Waste Management, Water Management*)
- ☐ Land Use Services (*Community Planning, Planning – Strategic Initiatives, Development Services, Inspection & Enforcement, Economic Development, Parks & Trails*)

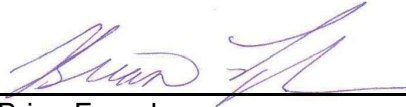
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Not Applicable
Not Applicable



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A/General Manager

Reviewed for form and content and approved for submission to the Committee:

Resolution:

☒ Corporate Officer

Financial Considerations:

☒ Chief Financial Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A