



STAFF REPORT TO COMMITTEE

DATE OF REPORT October 6, 2023
MEETING TYPE & DATE Electoral Area Services Committee of October 18, 2023
FROM: Parks & Trails Division
Operations Department
SUBJECT: 2023 CVRD Regional Active Transportation Plan
FILE: 8330-20 Reg Active Transportation Plan

PURPOSE/INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to refer the approved 2023 CVRD Regional Active Transportation Plan for further discussion.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

For Information.

BACKGROUND

The 2023 CVRD Regional Active Transportation Plan was adopted by the CVRD Board at its meeting of September 27, 2023 (Attachment A). Subsequently, at the October 11, 2023 meeting, the Board directed that the approved 2023 CVRD Regional Active Transportation Plan be referred to the Electoral Area Services Committee for further discussion.

ANALYSIS

The approved Regional Active Transportation Plan for the Cowichan Region highlights three key regional components for connecting communities within and across the region, extending to Mill Bay/Shawnigan Lake in the south, Ladysmith/North Oyster/Diamond to the north and Cowichan Lake communities to the west. Additional links extending beyond the Cowichan Valley Regional District are also highlighted to affirm/establish active transportation connectivity opportunities to the Capital Regional District and Regional District of Nanaimo.

The regional network prioritized within the Regional Active Transportation Plan responds to the broad range of input and feedback (public, stakeholders and community champions), active transportation planning and investment initiatives at the local level (i.e. member municipalities, First Nations and electoral areas), inclusive of local active transportation plans or other plans which reference/support development of active transportation (i.e. individual Electoral Area Community Parks & Trails Master Plans).

The Regional Active Transportation Plan also acknowledges and references work completed at the local level (i.e. municipal and individual electoral area) to develop active transportation plans and/or incorporation of active transportation planning into other plans such as Electoral Area Community Parks and Trails Master Plans.

The proposed regional active transportation network in the plan focuses on further improvement and development of three key regional active transportation network components, totaling 226km of high, medium and low priorities across the region:

1. Cowichan Valley Trail (CVT) Completion and Improvements
 - Completing and improving the CVT to enhance a valuable, existing active mode corridor connection through the region.
2. East Route
 - The proposed Regional Active Transportation East Route connects communities east of the CVT route, including Crofton, Maple Bay, Cowichan Bay, Cobble Hill, Shawnigan Lake and Mill Bay, and are generally aligned within existing municipal and Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure road rights-of-way.
3. Regional Community Connections
 - Regional Community Connections provide cross-connection between the CVT and proposed East Route, in addition to linking with local business/commercial areas, institutions, and residential communities.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

COMMUNICATION CONSIDERATIONS

The approved Regional Active Transportation Plan will be shared with the local municipalities, First Nations and Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure, as well as the general public, through the CVRD website.

STRATEGIC/BUSINESS PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

The CVRD Regional Active Transportation Plan supports 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”

Referred to (upon completion):

- Community Services (*Cowichan Community Centre, Cowichan Lake Recreation, South Cowichan Recreation, Arts & Culture, Facilities & Transit*)
- Corporate Services (*Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legislative Services*)
- Operations (*Utilities, Parks & Trails, Recycling & Waste Management*)
- Land Use Services (*Community Planning, Strategic Initiatives, Development Services, Building Inspection & Bylaw Enforcement*)

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- Strategic Services (*Communications & Engagement, Economic Development, Emergency Management, Environmental Services*)

Prepared by:

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

Resolution:

Financial Considerations:

Corporate Officer

Chief Financial Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – 2023 CVRD Regional Active Transportation Plan