

# Report to Council



**Date:** May 7, 2018  
**File:** 1120-01-001  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Derek Edstrom, Director, Strategic Investments  
**Subject:** Okanagan Rail Trail - Endorsement

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives for information the report from the Director Strategic Investments, dated May 7, 2018, with respect to the proposed governance model for the regional rail trail, including the establishment and operation of an interjurisdictional committee for the use, operation and further development of the Okanagan Rail Trail;

AND THAT Council endorse the City of Kelowna's participation in the Okanagan Rail Trail Committee in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the same, effective June 30, 2018;

AND THAT Council endorse the cessation of the Interjurisdictional Development Team, effective June 30, 2018;

AND FURTHER THAT Council appoint the Divisional Director, Community Planning and Strategic Investments, and the Director Strategic Investments as the alternate, to the committee to represent the City of Kelowna's interests, liaise internally with staff and report back to Council for updates, consultation and approvals as required.

## **Purpose:**

To enter into an agreement with other Okanagan Rail Trail owners and stakeholders for governance of the use, operation and future development of the corridor.

## **Background:**

In response to CN Rails' discontinuance of its rail line between Kelowna and Coldstream in 2014, the City of Kelowna, together with the jurisdictions of District of Coldstream, Regional District of North Okanagan, Regional District of Central Okanagan and District of Lake Country, united as an interjurisdictional acquisition team (IAT) to work collaboratively together to secure ownership of the rail

corridor. Upon successful acquisition of the corridor in 2015, the mandate of the IAT was fulfilled and the team disbanded.

Following this, and in order to lead the coordinated design and development of the rail trail, the jurisdictions of Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO), District of Lake Country (DLC) and City of Kelowna (CoK) joined together as an interjurisdictional development team (IDT). In early 2016 Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB) joined the team. Fundraising for development of the first phase of the rail trail, led by Okanagan Rail Trail Initiative (ORTI), has been very successful and the fundraising target of \$7.68 million is expected to be reached before the end of 2018. Construction of the rail trail began in 2017 in parallel with the fundraising and to date is approximately 50% complete overall. Substantial completion of most sections of the trail (i.e. in RDNO, DLC, CoK) will happen in 2018, with some site specific drainage, erosion, environmental and agricultural work to be followed up on in 2019. ALC approval for use of certain sections has not yet been received .

The timing for development of the 2.3km of rail trail proposed through OKIB IR No 7 is unknown at this time. Before construction or use of this section can begin, the corridor land must go through an Addition to Reserve (ATR) process.

At a rail trail strategy session of elected leaders held in November, 2018, participants identified a number of issues that they felt should be coordinated moving forward, including:

- Oversight, monitoring, and management;
- Planning for long term development of the ORT;
- Design and construction of future improvements and infrastructure;
- Regulation of uses and activities on the ORT;
- Maintenance and operations;
- Wayfinding and interpretive facilities;
- External communications and public relations;
- Programming and special events;
- Marketing and branding; and
- Fundraising.

As the initial phase of rail trail development is reaching an end and the function of the corridor is preparing to change, from one of development to one of operation, the mandated role of the IDT is coming to a close.

In preparation for this, and in response to input received at the November strategy session of elected leaders, a report on how the partner jurisdictions can jointly coordinate their future management and development of the corridor was commissioned.

This report (attached), the "*Interjurisdictional Arrangement for the Future Development and Management of the Okanagan Rail Trail Corridor*" (Tonn, 2018), can be best summarized by paraphrasing its vision statement:

- Develop and manage a world class rail trail that links the communities of the valley.

- Provide a range of recreational, transportation, tourism, and event opportunities in the communities through which it passes.
- Optimize the enjoyment of the rail trail experience for all.
- Manage uses to minimize conflicts between users.
- Integrate community and other regional level trails with the rail trail.
- Provide for the enjoyment, convenience, and safety of users by developing and managing and well-designed facilities along the route.
- Coordinate development, management, maintenance, and governance of the rail trail between owner jurisdictions
- Protect the long term opportunity to develop a multi-modal transportation corridor linking the communities along the corridor.
- Ensure owner jurisdictions retain decision-making authority for all matters within their legislated mandate, bylaws and adopted official policies.

As with the jointly participated-in committees that led the acquisition and development phases of this initiative, the report recommends that the long term development and management of the corridor be coordinated by a new committee of owner and stakeholder jurisdictions, namely:

- Regional District of North Okanagan (Owner)
- District of Lake Country (Owner)
- Okanagan Indian Band (Owner)
- City of Kelowna (Owner)
- District of Coldstream (Stakeholder)
- City of Vernon (Stakeholder)

This new committee would be called the Okanagan Rail Trail (ORT) Committee. A terms of reference has been prepared (see Appendix 1 in the attached report) in order to define the objectives, values, deliverables, processes and procedures under which the ORT will function. At high level these include:

- Principles
- Vision
- Coordination required to achieve shared vision
- Appointment of the ORT committee
- Responsibilities of the committee
- Responsibilities of the elected Councils and Regional Board
- Consultation with the elected Councils and Regional Board
- Term of the committee
- Committee membership
- Representation of committee members
- Committee chairperson
- Procedures
- Funding and financial management

Parallel to this report and its recommendation to this Councils, the same governance report and terms of reference will be presented to the other elected Councils of all the participating jurisdictions for their endorsement.

**Internal Circulation:**

Infrastructure Delivery, Senior Project Manager

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Personnel Implications:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Alternate Recommendation:

**Submitted by:** Derek Edstrom, Director, Strategic Investments

**Approved for inclusion:** Doug Gilchrist, Divisional Director, Community Planning & Real Estate

cc: A. Gibbs, Infrastructure Delivery, Senior Project Manager