

# Report to Council



**Date:** September 24, 2018  
**File:** 1840-20  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** James Kay, Development Engineering Manager  
Michelle Kam, Sustainability Coordinator  
**Subject:** Okanagan Rail Trail – Grand Opening and Status Report  
  
Report Prepared by: Andrew Gibbs

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives for information the report from the Development Engineering Manager and the Sustainability Coordinator dated September 24, 2018 regarding the Okanagan Rail Trail – Grand Opening and Status Report.

## **Purpose:**

To provide Council information on the Grand Opening and updated status of the Okanagan Rail Trail.

## **Background:**

### OPENING CEREMONY FOR PHASE 1 OF THE RAIL TRAIL

An opening ceremony marking completion of the first 35.2 kilometres of the rail trail is scheduled for September 27, 2018, at 11:00 am. In keeping with the partnership approach to this entire initiative, there will be one opening ceremony held for the entire corridor - it will be held in the District of Lake Country, at the northeast corner of Wood Lake, commonly known as the Oyama boat launch, at 15455 Oyama Road.

The ceremony will include:

- Aboriginal drummer and storyteller
- Dignitary comments from each of the owner jurisdictions (Mayors, Board Chair and Chief)
- Ribbon cutting
- Acknowledgement of donors and granting agencies
- Displays, music refreshments and media photo op
- Opportunity to explore some of the trail

## STATUS OF TRAIL DEVELOPMENT BY JURISDICTION

The Councils/Board-approved objective for the initial phase of trail development is development of a continuous, compacted aggregate trail, approximately 4.0m wide, from Coldstream to Kelowna. In addition to the trail itself, and depending on location, construction also includes the development of safe road crossings, pedestrianization of railway bridges, rock fall stabilization, erosion control, ALR fencing and trail signage. In addition, beyond the scope of these works and funded for 2019 installation by additional private donations, is an interpretive program and facilities that communicates some of the natural and cultural history of the region.

The status of construction work the on the initial phase of rail trail development is as follows:

### Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO)

- Construction of the 12.0 km trail is 95 per cent complete. It extends from Hofer Drive to the boundary with Lake Country.
- Estimated total value of the works in the Regional District is \$2.0 million, funded by public donations and federal grants from the Canada 150 and New Building Canada programs.
- Remaining work includes:
  - The north extension, from Hofer Dr to College Way
  - Shoreline erosion protection
  - Wayfinding and signage

This remaining work is scheduled to be complete by June 2019.

### District of Lake Country (DLC)

- Construction of the 16.2 km trail is 95 per cent complete. It extends from the boundary with the North Okanagan to the boundary with Kelowna.
- Estimated total value of the works in Lake Country is \$2.47 million, funded by public donations, a Rural Dividend grant from the province and federal grants from the Canada 150 and New Building Canada programs.
- Remaining work includes:
  - Connection of the rail trail with Pelmeash Parkway
  - Agricultural fencing
  - Wayfinding and signage

This remaining work is scheduled to be complete by June 2019.

### Okanagan Indian Band IR#7 (OKIB)

- Design of this section of the rail trail is complete.
- Development of this 2.3 km section of trail is on hold pending successful completion of the federally administered Addition to Reserve (ATR) process underway, and approval by Band Council for public use of the corridor and construction of the trail.
- As yet there is no firm schedule for construction of this section of trail, but the grant program calls for completion of this section by March 2020 in order to be funded. From a

seasonal construction standpoint, this means that the construction of this section needs to be completed by the end of 2019.

- Estimated total value of the works in Indian Band No 7 is \$265,000, funded by public donations and a grant from the federal New Building Canada program.

#### City of Kelowna (CoK)

- The first phase of trail construction, the 7.0 km from Airport Way to Dilworth Drive, is 90 per cent complete.
- The next stages of trail development in Kelowna (12.7 km), north of the airport and the recently acquired section from Gordon Drive to Manhattan Drive, have been designed and budgeted, but construction has not started yet.
- The section from Gordon to Manhattan is planned to be completed by the end of 2018.
- Construction timing on the section north of the airport is tied to development of the IR 7 section, with the goal that both of these currently undeveloped sections of trail be completed and opened at the same time.
- Estimated total value of the works in Kelowna is \$2.93 million, funded by public donations, a BikeBC grant from the province and federal grants from the Canada 150 and New Building Canada programs.

## FINANCES

In July 2018, the Okanagan Rail Trail Initiative announced that the fundraising target of \$7,688,800 had been met. The projected funding for the project is as follows:

<u>PROJECT FUNDING</u>	<u>GRANTS</u>	<u>PUBLIC DONATIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL FUNDING</u>
New Building Canada*	\$876,921	\$1,753,842	\$2,630,763
BikeBC	\$ 777,435	\$ 777,435	\$ 1,554,870
Canada 150	\$ 471,500	\$ 471,500	\$ 943,000
BC Rural Dividend	\$500,000	\$1,011,250	\$ 1,511,250
Non-grant Work	-	\$1,048,917	\$1,048,917
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,625,856</b>	<b>\$5,062,944</b>	<b>\$7,688,800</b>

\* Note: the New Building Canada program has a maximum total value of \$4,089,600. Per above, only \$2,630,763 is accessible at this time as there exists a matching \$1,753,842 (2/3) in public donations available to access \$876,921 (1/3) of the grant. The Committee will identify opportunities for the owner jurisdictions to allocate their own funding if desired in order to take advantage of the un-funded capacity of the New Building Canada grant.

It is important to recognize that the funding for the development of the rail trail did not come from traditional local government or band council funding mechanisms. Rather, it came in from federal and provincial grants in the amount of \$2.6 million and, most notably, in the form of donations from 5089 members of the public who contributed \$5 million in total.

The projected expenditures to develop the trail, including completed and yet to be completed work, is as follows:

<u>JURISDICTION</u>	<u>BUDGETED EXPENDITURES</u>
City of Kelowna	\$2,928,800
District of Lake Country	\$2,475,000
Regional District of North Okanagan	\$2,020,000
Okanagan Indian Band	\$265,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$7,688,800</b>

#### COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Subsequent to endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the Okanagan Rail Trail Committee (ORTC) by the partnering Councils and Board this past spring, the Committee held its inaugural meeting in July 2018. The Committee meets monthly to collaborate on the development, maintenance and use of the Okanagan Rail Trail corridor.

Each jurisdiction has appointed a representative(s) to sit on the Committee, as follows:

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| • City of Kelowna                     | James Kay, Development Engineering Manager<br>Michelle Kam, Sustainability Coordinator |
| • District of Lake Country            | Matt Vader, Manager, Strategic & Support Services                                      |
| • Regional District of North Okanagan | Mike Fox, General Manager, Community Services  |
| • Okanagan Indian Band                | Victor Rumbolt, Executive Director   |
| • District of Coldstream              | Trevor Seibel, Chief Administrative Officer  |
| • City of Vernon                      | Kim Flick, Director, Community Infrastructure and Development                          |

To conclude, staff will keep Council informed of important updates to the Okanagan Rail Trail, as necessary.

#### **Internal Circulation:**

Divisional Director, Community Planning & Strategic Investments

Divisional Director, Infrastructure

Divisional Director, Financial Services

Integrated Transportation Department Manager

Department Manager, Infrastructure Delivery

Manager, Grants & Special Projects

Submitted by:

J. Kay, Development Engineering Manager and M. Kam, Sustainability Coordinator

**Approved for inclusion:**



Danielle Noble-Brandt, Policy and Planning Department Manager

cc:

Senior Project Manager  
Senior Airport Development Manager  
Community Communications Manager  
Communications Advisor  
Event Development Supervisor  
Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager  
Suburban and Rural Planning Manager  
Community Planning Department Manager  
Project Manager  
Integrated Transportation Term Appointment  
Urban Forestry Supervisor  
Parks, Beaches & Sportsfields Supervisor  
Parks Services Manager  
Parks & Buildings Planning Manager  
Park and Landscape Planner  
Roadways Operations Supervisor