

# Report to Council



**Date:** November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**To:** Council

**From:** City Manager

**Subject:** Okanagan Rail Trail Status Update

**Department:** Development Services

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Manager, Development Engineering dated November 18, 2019, with respect to the Okanagan Rail Trail – Status Update;

AND THAT Council endorses the project principles that will guide the development of the Okanagan Rail Trail Master Plan.

## **Purpose:**

To provide the elected leaders of the participating jurisdictions of the Okanagan Rail Trail Committee (ORTC) with a report on the status of the Okanagan Rail Trail and the activities of the Committee.

## **Background:**

The Okanagan Rail Trail Committee (ORTC) was established in July 2018 by the Councils and Board of the participating jurisdictions (i.e. Okanagan Indian Band, City of Kelowna, District of Lake Country, Regional District of North Okanagan, District of Coldstream, City of Vernon). ORTC is responsible for the joint coordination of activities related to the planning, development, maintenance and use of the corridor. The establishment of this committee is the function of the natural progression from the Interjurisdictional Acquisition Team (IAT) through to the Interjurisdictional Development Team (IDT).

The efforts undertaken by the Okanagan Rail Trail Committee in collaboration with community partners will further assist in achieving the vision of the collective Councils and Board as established in the Okanagan Rail Trail Committee Terms of Reference:

- 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.
- Ensure that future planning efforts recognize that the role of the corridor may change from recreational amenity to transportation network in the long term.

### **Discussion:**

Staff are currently pursuing the creation of a master plan. The master plan intends to ensure a balanced approach is taken for recreational and commuting opportunities in the communities through which it passes and to optimize the enjoyment of the Okanagan Rail Trail experience.

#### 1) Okanagan Rail Trail Master Plan

The primary objective of the ORT Master Plan is to create a comprehensive guiding document that will assist in the long-term management and phased development of the corridor.

As part of the Master Plan development, the following are proposed principles to guide in the development of the Plan:

- a) Protection and enhancement of the corridor's unique natural ecosystems and wildlife.
- b) Identification of the existing and proposed future uses, features, furniture, paths, and trail enhancements.
- c) Identification of recreational, cultural and historical values,
- d) Respect of registered archaeological sites or sites of heritage interest including any traditional use by First Nations.
- e) Balancing recreational opportunities with environmental protection.
- f) Identification of areas for ecological restoration.
- g) Opportunities and benefits analysis to determine use or need for existing structures, new structures, and amenities.
- h) Educational values of the site, including past, present and future research activities and opportunities as well as opportunities for ongoing partnerships.
- i) Creation of a long-term Development and Implementation Plan

**Internal Circulation:**

Policy & Planning  
Development Planning  
Infrastructure Operations  
Parks & Buildings

**Considerations applicable to this report:**

As the Committee achieves key milestones and deliverables, it will bring updates back to Council.

Submitted by:

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Manager, Development Engineering & Co-Rep ORTC

**Approved for inclusion:**



M. Bayat, Director, Development Services

cc:

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