

Report to Council



Date: October 2, 2017
File: 1840-30
To: City Manager
From: Andrew Gibbs, Project Manager, Interjurisdictional Development Team
Subject: Okanagan Rail Trail - Status Report

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Interjurisdictional Development Team Project Manager dated October 2, 2017, with respect to the Okanagan Rail Trail – Status Report.

Purpose:

For the Interjurisdictional Development Team (IDT) to provide the elected leaders of the participating jurisdictions of the IDT with a report on the status of the rail trail project.

Background:

FUNDRAISING

The Okanagan Rail Trail initiative has spearheaded the fundraising for the project. As of September 1, \$4.9 million has been donated, gifted and granted.

As a reminder, the budget for development of the rail trail is dependent on a grassroots public fundraising campaign led by the volunteers of the Okanagan Rail Trail Initiative (ORTI). Charitable giving receipts for donations will be issued by one of two trusted community foundations in the valley, Central Okanagan Foundation (COF) and North Okanagan Community Foundation (NOCF). Donated funds are used as a pool of matching money in applying for various grants. To date, the following significant grants have been awarded to the project:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| • Bike BC | \$1,554,870 |
| • BC Rural Dividend | \$1,511,250 |
| • Canada 150 | \$943,000 |

BUDGET

The construction budget of the project remains at its original value of \$7,688,800.

Based on the *Trail Development Plan* endorsed by the Councils and Board of the owner jurisdictions, and on the design and estimating work recently completed by the design team, the projected expenditures for construction of the trail are summarized as follows:

• Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO)	\$ 1,749,800
• District of Lake Country (DLC)	1,819,750
• Okanagan Indian Band, IR#7 (OKIB)	247,490
• City of Kelowna (CoK)	2,322,240
• Shared (design & engineering)	753,000
• <u>Contingency</u>	<u>796,520</u>
TOTAL Projected Expenditures	\$ 7,688,800

WORK COMPLETED

Work is proceeding briskly, supported by a broad team of professionals. Since the last status report (May 2017) the following work has been completed:

- Sep Geotechnical assessment and recommendations for steep rock slopes – WestTrek
- Sep Detail design and tender drawings/specifications for Phase 1 trail construction in DLC and RDNO - Urban Systems
- Sep Re-use and pedestrianization of railway bridges (4) in CoK - Cabin Forestry
- Sep Submission made to CN Rail requesting ownership or public access over that section of rail corridor north of Mile 88, to provide improved public access to the rail trail from Coldstream and Vernon - IDT
- Aug Communications Plan – Urban Systems
- Aug Archaeological protocol for construction - Ursus Heritage Consulting
- Aug Preliminary design and cost estimate for the entire corridor - Urban Systems
- Aug Sec 11 Notification acceptance received from MFLNRO - Associated Environmental
- Jul Geotechnical assessment/recommendations for trail structure and surfacing – Interior Testing
- Jul Sec 6 Approval Application made to ALC - Associated Environmental
- Jul Construction of a 1km test section of trail in DLC – Sureway Construction
- Jul Public showcase event on completed 1km test section in DLC (Urban Systems & ORTI)
- Jul Legal survey of property lines at key intersections along corridor – Runnalls Denby
- Jul 3D LiDAR topographic survey of entire corridor – X1 Aeronautics
- Jun Environmental Assessment and Management Plan - Associated Environmental
- May Access controls and regulatory signage in CoK, DLC, RDNO (IDT)

WORK UNDERWAY

- Shoreline erosion assessment and recommendations
- Detail design and tender drawings/specifications for Phase 1 trail construction (~9km) in CoK
- Site preparation for fish window work in RDNO and DLC
- Preparation for information open houses in October
- Preparation application for Heritage Inspection Permit

WORK UPCOMING

At the time of writing a number of invitations to tender are out for contractors to submit bids on different scopes of work:

- Re-use and pedestrianization of railway bridge (1) in DLC
- Rock scaling of steep rock slopes in RDNO
- Trail construction in DLC (~5km)
- Trail construction in RDNO (~12km)
- Vegetation mowing and clearing in CoK

SCHEDULE

The schedule for construction of the rail trail is driven largely by the deadlines of grants, the receipt of donated funds necessary to apply for grants and pay for construction, and the successful conclusion of the ATR process. The Phase 1 schedule, though challenged by the weather and amount of work, looks like this:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| • DLC trail construction (~5km) | Nov 30, 2017 |
| • RDNO trail construction (~12km) | Nov 30, 2017 |
| • CoK trail construction (~9km) | Mar 31, 2017 |

Approximately \$2.8 million remains to be raised. When this money is raised it will be possible to start and complete a second and hopefully final phase of construction; anticipated by the end of 2018.

APPROVALS

A Section 11 Notification was made to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) for the entire corridor. As the work does not involve activities in or about a stream the 2017 phase of construction can proceed subject to established provincial regulations, best practices and the comments provided by MFLNRO (e.g. potential rare species, work windows). There are some items of work (e.g. culverts, in stream works) that will require a full Section 11 Application for approval in the next phase of construction.

An application has been made to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) for approval under Section 6 of their regulations for use of the corridor for recreation purposes where it is on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land.

An application is being prepared for a Heritage Inspection Permit, for submission to the provincial Archaeology Branch.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE OF THE CORRIDOR

Public access and use of the undeveloped rail trail corridor varies by jurisdiction, as follows:

- Regional District of North Okanagan
The rail trail is open to the public. 'Use at your own risk' signage is posted at access points to the rail trail.
- District of Lake Country
The rail trail is open to the public. 'Use at your own risk' signage is posted at access points to the rail trail.

- Okanagan Indian Band, IR#7
This section of rail trail is still owned by CN Rail and is not open for public access. This section must go through a federally managed 'addition to reserve' (ATR) process before it can be transferred from the federal government to the Band.
- City of Kelowna
The corridor is closed to public access until the rail trail is developed.

GOVERNANCE

The IDT has retained a governance consultant to assist with identifying options for how the four owners might proceed with coordinated operation and administration of this regional rail trail. Senior administrator(s) of each owner will be discussing a preferred method for proceeding with this. As with other policy and financial decisions regarding the corridor, the elected political leaders of the owner jurisdictions will ultimately approve the coordinated governance model for the corridor.

OPEN HOUSES

To coincide with the start of construction on three sections of the rail trail (i.e. RDNO, Lake Country, Kelowna) there will be an informational open house held in each of those communities in the first week of October. The purpose of the open houses is to provide information to residents about the plans, location and scheduling of 2017 construction. The open houses will be held as follows:

- Regional District of North Okanagan
Tuesday, October 3, 2017, 4:00-6:30pm, at Coldstream Municipal Hall
- District of Lake Country
Wednesday, October 4, 2017, 4:00-6:30pm, at Community Complex of George Elliot Secondary
- City of Kelowna
Thursday, October 5, 2017, 4:00-6:30pm, at Parkinson Recreation Centre

At this time there is no open house scheduled for that section of rail trail corridor through the Okanagan Indian Band IR#7 lands. An open house will be conducted for this section once Band ownership is secured through the ATR process and development of the rail trail is imminent. In the meantime, OKIB members and residents are invited to attend one of the other open houses.

Internal Circulation:

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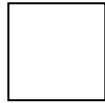
Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:
Existing Policy:
Financial/Budgetary Considerations:
Personnel Implications:
External Agency/Public Comments:
Communications Comments:
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:

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Approved for inclusion:



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