

# Report to Council



**Date:** December 11, 2017  
**File:** 1840-30  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Andrew Gibbs, Senior Project Manager  
**Subject:** Okanagan Rail Trail - Status Report

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives for information, the report from the Interjurisdictional Development Team dated December 11, 2017, with respect to the Okanagan Rail Trail - Status Report.

## **Purpose:**

To provide Council with a status report on the Okanagan Rail Trail project.

## **Background:**

### STATUS OF TRAIL DEVELOPMENT BY JURISDICTION

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

#### Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO)

- Scaling and removal of loose rock from steep rock slopes complete. Rock containment measures to be completed.
- 12km of trail construction (i.e. trail widening, subgrade prep, and aggregate placement and compaction) completed, from the south boundary of Area 'B' to Mile 88. Cleanup and final shaping of this section scheduled for December.
- Installation of trail crossing of Kickwillie Loop Road and Kekuli Park boat launch scheduled for December (signs) and line painting (spring).
- Shoreline erosion assessment and recommendations for Kalamalka Lake underway and will be complete by end of December. Erosion protection design, permitting and works to follow in the new year.
- In discussion with CN Rail regarding acquisition of the section of rail corridor north of the Mile 88 marker. Design underway for connection of rail trail from Mile 88 to College Way.

#### District of Lake Country (DLC)

- Scaling and removal of loose rock from steep rock slopes underway; to be complete by mid-December.
- 5km of trail construction (i.e. trail widening, subgrade prep, and aggregate placement and compaction) completed, from Crystal Waters south to the crossing of Oyama Road.
- Contract awarded for pedestrian improvements to the railway trestle over the Oyama Canal. Materials on order. Construction start in December.
- Extension of contract recently made for construction of another 11km of trail construction, from the Oyama Road trestle to McCarthy Road, excluding the area around Canada Lands. Work also includes road crossings, intersection upgrades and repairs to existing ditches and culverts. Construction completion of this section scheduled for March 2018.
- Shoreline erosion assessment and recommendations for Wood Lake and Kalamalka Lake underway and will be complete by end of December. Erosion protection design, permitting and works to follow in the new year.

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

- Addition to Reserve (ATR) process underway.
- Level 2 environmental assessment completed. Level 3 underway.
- Design for rail trail complete.
- Design for pedestrian improvements to railway trestle complete.

#### City of Kelowna (CoK)

- Vegetation clearing and management completed.
- Award of contract for 7km of trail construction (i.e. trail widening, subgrade prep, and aggregate placement and compaction), from Dilworth Drive to Bulman Road. Work also includes road crossings, intersection upgrades and repairs to existing ditches and culverts. Work expected to start in January and be complete by end of March.
- Scope of work for the 2km Bulman Road to Airport Way section amended to include a utility component (i.e. sanitary sewer force main) in conjunction with construction of the rail trail; funded by Council-approved Kelowna 2017 capital budget. Construction timing subject to MFLNRO review/approval.
- Rail trail crossing of McCurdy Road was completed as part of the Highway 97 6-laning project.
- Pedestrian improvements to the four railway trestles over Mill Creek are complete.

#### FINANCES

The construction budget of the project remains at its original value of \$7,688,800. The progress of the work is on track with the budget.

As of November 30, 2017, \$5.1 million has been donated, gifted and granted. Approximately \$2.6 million remains to be raised. Construction of the remainder of the trail is contingent on raising the outstanding funds. The Okanagan Rail Trail Initiative (ORTI) has spearheaded the fundraising for the

project. ORTI has launched the gift-a-metre campaign for December and continues to pursue a grant from the Build Canada program.

## PERMITS & APPROVALS

A Section 11 Notification was made to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) for the entire corridor. As most of the work does not involve activities in or about a stream most of the 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, and the 2km section of trail in Kelowna from Bulman Road to Airport Way) that may be subject to a more thorough environmental review and an extended construction start.

Owner staff met with Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) commissioners regarding the project's application to the ALC under Section 6 of their regulations, for use of the corridor for recreation purposes where it is on ALC land. Additional meetings, and a site visit by ALC commissioners, are anticipated in early 2018.

Application for a Heritage Inspection Permit has been submitted to the provincial Archaeology Branch.

## GOVERNANCE

A workshop of elected leaders was held on November 24. A number of topics regarding future use, management and development of the corridor were discussed, including but not limited to:

- Confirmation of the vision for a continuous, multi-use, regional rail trail.
- Improved and on-going communication between the jurisdictions, including owner jurisdictions and administrative jurisdictions.
- Coordination of future development, operation and use of the rail trail corridor (e.g. visitor services/facilities, events).
- Opportunity for involvement of external agencies (e.g. fundraisers, tourism associations).
- Formation of an interjurisdictional staff team
- Involvement of and final approval of elected officials in strategy, planning and further development of the rail trail corridor.

The IDT and owner jurisdiction staff were asked to follow up on these items and report back to their respective owner jurisdictions with more detailed information and recommendations for approval.

## OPEN HOUSES

In early October an informational open house was held in each community where trail construction was set to about to begin (i.e. RDNO, Lake Country, Kelowna). The majority of attendees expressed eagerness to see completion of the trail and a continuous route. Other issues of note raised by attendees included:

- Provision of future infrastructure and amenities (e.g. parking, washrooms, benches).
- Asphaltting of the entire route.
- Restricting vehicle access to the trail.

- Weed management.
- Timing of rail connection through the IR7 lands at Duck Lake.
- Conflicts between trail users and vehicles at the Coldstream end of the corridor.
- Connection to Lake Country's Main Street.

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**Internal Circulation:**

Alan Newcombe, Divisional Director, Infrastructure

Doug Gilchrist, Divisional Director, Community, Planning & Strategic Investments

Derek Edstrom, Director, Strategic Investments

Kelly Kay, Communications Advisor

**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:

A. Gibbs, Senior Project Manager

**Approved for inclusion:**



A. Newcombe, Infrastructure Divisional Director

Attachments:

cc: