



Salt Spring Island Regional Trail Feasibility Study & Next Steps

Regional Parks Committee
November 26, 2025

Background

- 2016 Regional Trails Management Plan
- 2018 Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan
- 2023 Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032
- 2023-2026 Board Transportation Priorities (1a, 1b)



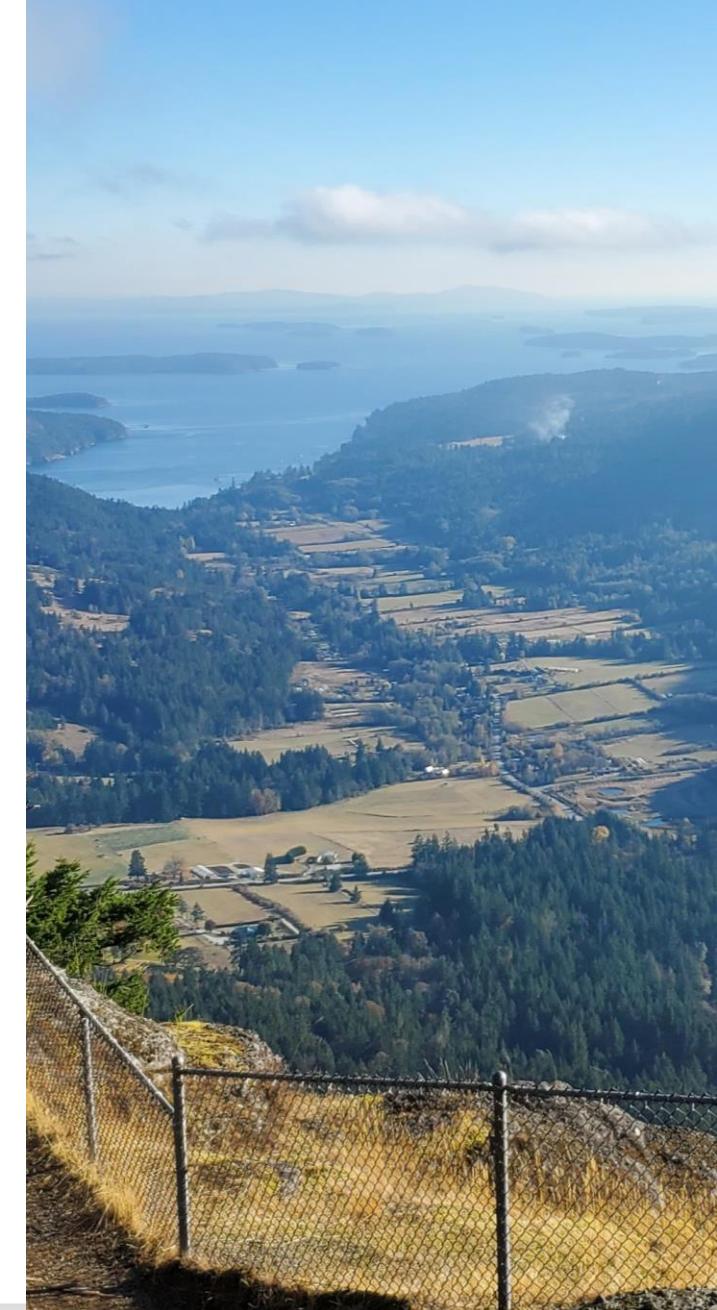
Regional Transportation Service

- **Regional Transportation Service (RTS) established**
 - Bylaw No 4630 consolidates transportation planning and regional trail management
 - Reports to CRD Transportation Committee
- Initial priorities: Galloping Goose, Lochside and E&N regional trails
- Regional Parks transferred staff/funding resources to RTS
- Gulf Island regional trails not current RTS priorities, but may be included with CRD Board approval



Feasibility Study Overview

- Project managed by CRD Regional Parks
- Launched in June 2024
- Assessed the 21 km conceptual route from Fulford Harbour to Vesuvius Bay via Ganges Village
- Applied BC Active Transportation Design Guide standards
- Identified physical constraints, cost estimates and priority segments for phased implementation
- Developed with input from key community and agency partners



Feasibility Study Results

Initially, 3m Paved, Separated Trail

- Meets AAA standards
- Generally, aligns with guidelines (except 4 segments)
- Estimated cost: \$102M

2m Unpaved Trail, Semi-Separated Trail

- Similar to Mayne Island Regional Trail
- Aligns with low-use rural guidelines (except 6 segments)
- Estimated cost: \$63M

Phase 1 Priority Segments

- Ganges–Vesuvius Bay
- Estimated cost: \$8.5M



Conclusions

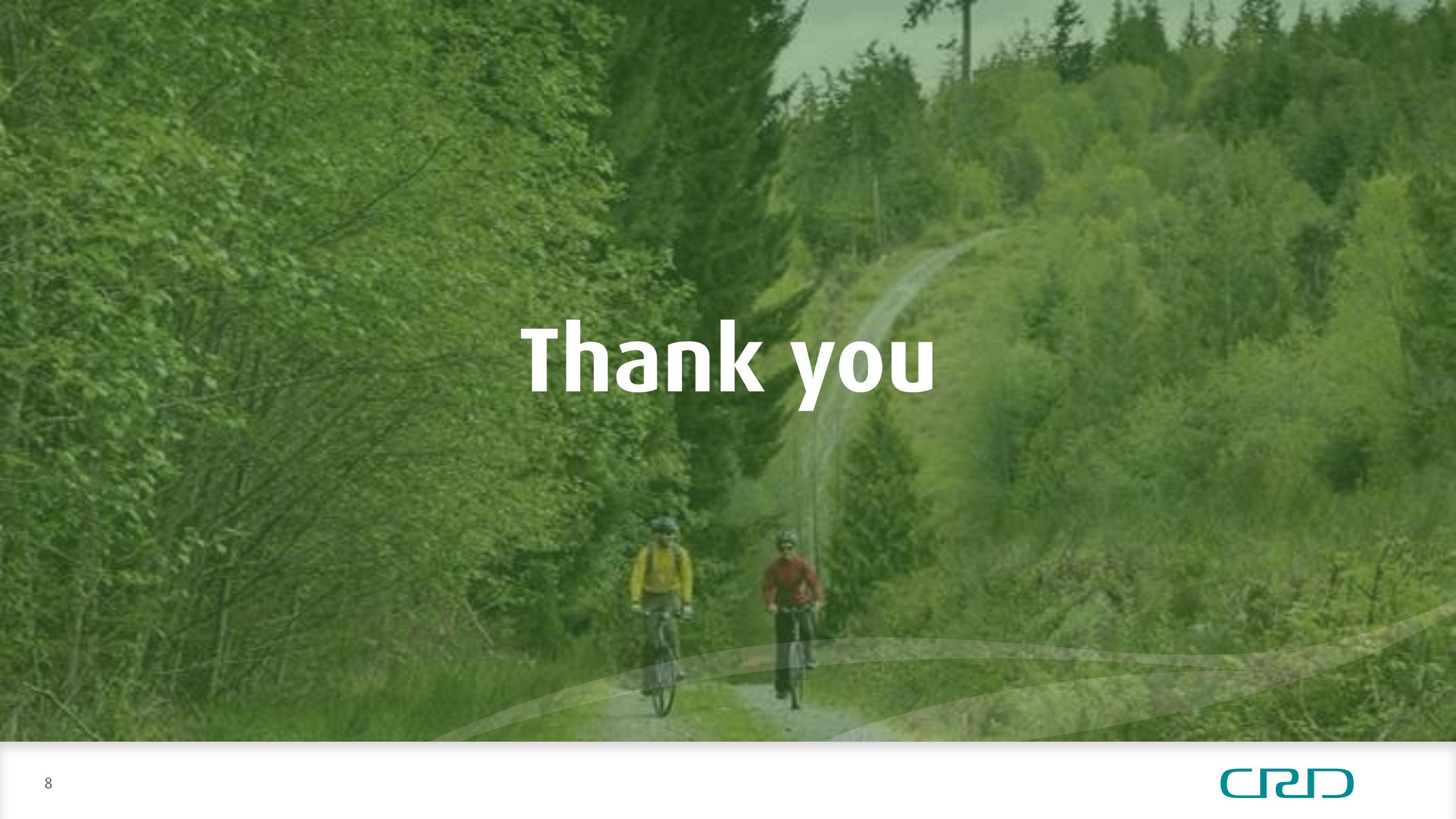
- Fully separated trail not feasible under current guidelines
- Viable corridor: mix of trails, traffic-calmed side streets, sidewalks and bike lanes (\$63M)
 - Interim measures could further reduce costs
- Requires coordinated, multi-year, multi-agency effort
- Regional Parks lacks capacity/expertise for active transportation trail development
- Aligns with CRD Transportation Committee mandate
- Existing plans may need review, revision, or repeal to align with RTS plans and priorities



Recommendation

The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That planning, implementation and operation of all regional trails on the Gulf Islands—such as those identified in the Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan—be referred to the CRD Transportation Committee for consideration;
2. That this report, including the Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan be referred to the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area Administration for information, in recognition of the local interest in establishing additional community trails in village sites on Salt Spring Island; and
3. That staff report back with a list of all CRD Regional Parks plans, policies, and bylaws requiring amendment or repeal as a result of establishing the Regional Transportation Service, and outline the process and timeline for completing these changes.

A photograph of a dirt trail winding through a dense forest. Two cyclists are on the trail: one in a yellow jacket and helmet, and another in a red jacket and helmet. The trail is surrounded by tall evergreen trees. A faint, curved white line starts from the bottom right and sweeps across the image, partially obscuring the trail.

Thank you