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**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021**

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**SUBJECT    BC Active Transportation Network Planning Grant Program Application 2021**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To seek support to submit a BC Active Transportation Network Planning Grant Program application for an update of the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan (PCMP) - Salt Spring Island (SSI) edition with a focus on a master transportation plan for Ganges Village.

**BACKGROUND**

The PCMP – SSI edition was completed in 2013. The plan focused predominately on an island wide cycling vision and cycling infrastructure priorities with limited attention being paid to pedestrian infrastructure.

BC Transit is currently undertaking a local area transit plan for SSI while Islands Trust is undertaking a Ganges Village Area Plan. A focused review of Ganges as the islands transportation and commercial hub is notably absent from the PCMP.

A number of infrastructure projects have been completed since the PCMP was drafted and as such the current priorities established in the plan are no longer necessarily relevant. Since adoption of the PCMP the CRD has declared a climate emergency and the impetus to act on reducing transportation related GHG emissions has been given even greater prominence. An update of the PCMP with a focus on Ganges Village is important so as to reflect the changing values and priorities of the community and to ensure alignment with parallel plans.

Many grants require that the submitted proposal be part of an active transportation network plan or equivalent. SSI is ineligible to apply for pedestrian focussed grants or active transportation not identified in the PCMP. At the same time a number of grants which had previously been focused solely towards cycling have recently broadened their eligibility to include pedestrian infrastructure. Updating the PCMP to include priority pedestrian infrastructure needs would align the plan with funding opportunities.

The CRD may pursue 50% of eligible funding through the Active Transportation Network Planning grant 2021 intake being accepted until July 30, 2021.

The project aligns with the Active Transportation Infrastructure grant criteria to improve:

1. Safety
2. Community connectivity
3. Continuity between existing or planned transportation corridors
4. Linkages to public transit, ferries, airports
5. Local economic opportunities
6. Tourism
7. Partnerships between neighboring jurisdictions

- 8. Physical health
- 9. Mental health

A board motion is required as part of the application process.

**ALTERNATIVES**

*Alternative 1*

The Electoral Areas Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:  
That approval be given to submit a 2021 Active Transportation Network Planning grant application for an update of the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan – SSI edition with a focus on a master transportation plan for Ganges Village.

*Alternative 2*

That the Electoral Area Committee not approve the grant application request.

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Financial Implications*

CRD has \$30,000 dedicated funds to match its 50% share of the \$60,000 project budget; and Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission has requested this project be included in their 5 year capital plan to be funded from reserves in 2022.

The project is in alignment with the Board priority for community wellbeing – transportation and housing initiative to work with government/community partners to plan for and deliver an effective, long-term regional multi-modal transportation system and to increase use of public transit, walking and cycling.

**CONCLUSION**

Responding to the CRD Board’s declaration of a climate emergency is of paramount importance to residents of Salt Spring Island. The majority of GHG’s on SSI stem from transportation. Updating the PCMP - SSI edition to include pedestrian priorities and a focus on Ganges Village as the commercial and transportation hub of the island, is vital. Completing the update will open the door to grant eligibility to assist in funding much needed pedestrian and active transportation infrastructure.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Electoral Areas Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That approval be given to submit a 2021 Active Transportation Network Planning grant application for an update of the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan –SSI edition with a focus on a master transportation plan for Ganges Village.

Submitted by:	Karla Campbell, BPA, Senior Manager, Salt Spring Island Administration
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