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REPORT TO SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION MEETING OF THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

SUBJECT **BC Active Transportation Grant - Infrastructure Grant Application – SSI – Rainbow Road Pedestrian and Bike Path**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To seek support to submit a BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants application to fund the construction of the Rainbow Road pedestrian and bike path, an active transportation infrastructure initiative on Salt Spring Island.

BACKGROUND

There is an opportunity for the CRD to submit a grant application under Active Transportation Infrastructure stream of the British Columbia Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program. The program enables applications to be submitted for different communities within a Regional District. This project is being led by the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission, which operates the CRD community parks service on Salt Spring Island.

The Rainbow Road pedestrian and bike path is approximately 180 metres long and located in downtown Ganges (refer to a draft of the engineering design in Appendix A). This path is a highly used section of road between the Ganges Harbour, downtown Ganges, and the public schools in Ganges. As well the path will provide residents a pathway between parking areas along Rainbow Road and the Saturday market in Ganges.

Previously the strategic planning phase and public consultation have been completed and this path was considered a priority.

Applications to the Grant Program are required to be submitted by October 31, 2024, and the submission of a supporting Board Resolution is required by December, 2024.

ALTERNATIVES

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

Alternative 1

- 1) That the Rainbow Road pedestrian and bike path be considered a priority project.
- 2) That an application to the Province of British Columbia Active Transportation - Infrastructure Grant Program for up to \$315,000 be progressed for the purpose of construction of the Rainbow Road Path on Salt Spring Island.
- 3) That the funding provided through the British Columbia Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program will be supported with up to \$135,000 budgeted from the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission's Financial Plan; and

- 4) That staff be instructed to apply for, negotiate, and if successful, enter into an agreement and do all such things necessary for accepting Active Transportation Infrastructure grant funds and overseeing grant management for the proposed project.

Alternative 2

That staff be instructed to re-evaluate the application to the Active Transportation Network - Infrastructure Grant Program.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

The CRD Corporate Plan provides direction to work with commissions to enhance and manage community parks, recreation facilities and trail networks and to deliver service improvements where needed.

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

This Active Transportation proposal is in alignment with the Salt Spring Island Active Transportation Network Plan (2023).

Financial Implications

The Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant program requires that the local government contribute a minimum of 30% of the project costs associated with developing the project.

A class D estimate has been completed. A more refined Class C estimate is in progress and will be completed prior to submitting the grant application. The total grant request is estimated to be \$315,000 with the total estimated project cost at \$450,000. The remaining \$135,000 will be budgeted for in the Local Community Commission financial plan.

An additional \$25,000 will be budgeted to complete the process of acquiring property rights from some of the private landowners along the path where necessary to ensure wheelchair access, and desirable alignments of the path can be achieved.

First Nations Reconciliation

W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council and CRD have quarterly meetings to review projects that require land alteration for consideration of archaeology and cultural heritage. This project would be discussed at those meetings. Staff will also identify any other overlapping First Nations interests to ensure they are also informed and have an opportunity to discuss the proposed path.

Intergovernmental Implications

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) is the authority having jurisdiction over the road right of ways on Salt Spring Island. A License of Occupation is required for this roadside path and an application is being submitted to secure tenure for the trail.

CONCLUSION

There is an opportunity for the CRD to receive grant funding under the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant program. Regional Governments are permitted to apply for funding for each community within, which enables CRD to apply for grants for Salt Spring Island and islands in the Southern Gulf Island’s Electoral Area. If awarded, the LCC would fund its portion through the Financial Plan. This may include Community Works Funds, Public Donations and Capital Reserve. To be able to potentially access this BCAT grant, staff need to apply for, negotiate, and do all such things necessary for accepting the grant funds and overseeing grant management for the proposed projects. The BC Government only considers applications that include a supportive Board resolution confirming that an Active Transportation trail is intended as a priority, that the local government will contribute a share to the provincial grant funding provided, and the project will be completed within the timeline.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

- 1) That the Rainbow Road pedestrian and bike path be considered a priority project.
- 2) That an application to the Province of British Columbia Active Transportation - Infrastructure Grant Program for up to \$315,000 be progressed for the purpose of construction of the Rainbow Road Path on Salt Spring Island.
- 3) That the funding provided through the British Columbia Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program will be supported with up to \$135,000 budgeted from the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission’s Financial Plan; and
- 4) That staff be instructed to apply for, negotiate, and if successful, enter into an agreement and do all such things necessary for accepting Active Transportation Infrastructure grant funds and overseeing grant management for the proposed project.

Submitted by:	Stephen Henderson, BSc, MBA, Senior Manager of Real Estate, Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area and Saltspring Island Local Community Commission
Concurrence	Dan Ovington, BBA Acting Senior Manager, Salt Spring Island Administration

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Location Map and Draft Engineered Trail Design