

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK PLAN– STATUS UPDATE June 2023

This briefing note provides a brief background and current status on the Board’s direction from the [January 31, 2023 strategic planning session](#) concerning active transportation.

Board resolution – January 31, 2023:

THAT the Comox Valley Regional District Board support undertaking the actions identified in Appendix B to the [staff report dated January 27, 2023](#) to advance the 2021 Active Transportation Network Plan by:

- a) Supporting implementation of the plan through the existing Electoral Areas A, B, and C parks and trails service, municipal parks and trails services and the Regional Growth Strategy; and*
- b) Including active transportation as a consideration under the regional parks and trails service strategic plan development.*

Active Transportation Plan Network Implementation

- On September 21, 2021, the Board adopted the Comox Valley Regional District Active Transportation Network Plan (ATNP), outlining 24 projects within the electoral areas that seek to build out the active transportation network and encourage a transportation mode shift.
- In 2023, staff engaged Urban Systems, who prepared the ATNP, to develop criteria and facilitate engagement sessions with key stakeholders in order to further prioritize these projects and facilitate implementation.
- The criteria developed to prioritize the projects include the projects’ ability to facilitate a transportation mode shift, address known safety concerns, fill gaps within the existing network, connect local communities, and connect with future projects planned by member municipalities, in addition to the projects’ proximity to schools, level of community support, and capital and maintenance costs.
- Stakeholders that staff and Urban Systems met with include the City of Courtenay, Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Comox Valley Schools, and the Comox Valley Cycling Coalition. Meeting with these stakeholders allowed staff to gain a deeper understanding of prioritized areas or planned projects that may not have yet been made public. These conversations factored into the ranking of projects.
- The ATNP Implementation Strategy also highlights 13 regional projects. These were part of the original ATNP, but only as high-level “regional active transportation routes.” The specific projects break down the high-level network into projects that can be pursued individually over time as resources permit.
- The further prioritization of these projects will allow staff to focus funding and implementation efforts on projects that will have the most immediate impact on the communities and residents of the Comox Valley.
- A report on this work will be brought to the Electoral Areas Services Committee in July 2023 to provide further details and identify next steps which is expected to include grant applications this fall and construction in 2024.

The Comox Valley Regional District respectfully acknowledges the land on which it operates is on the unceded traditional territory of the K’ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

Active Transportation Network Plan and the Regional Parks and Trails Service

- The Regional Parks and Trails service was established in 2022 and strategic planning for the service is currently underway.
- The service establishment bylaw (No. 719) provides the following key directives for the service:
 - The protection and preservation of regionally-significant natural areas
 - The development of regional greenways and trails
- It is envisioned that the regional greenways will act as major spines to a broader transportation network that will connect core communities.
- The Regional Parks and Trails Committee will contemplate the regionally significant corridors and projects identified in the recent ATNP strategy and consider whether to pursue acquisition and development of such corridors. .

CONTACT

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