



Making a difference...together

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Honourable Rob Fleming  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
PO Box 9850 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9T5  
Via email: [Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Fleming:

**RE: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT**

Thank you for paving the way for staff-level discussions about future investment in the capital region's active transportation infrastructure. Together with your staff, we have made progress in clarifying our mutual goals and next steps.

Identifying and securing sustainable funding streams for our active transportation infrastructure projects remains a priority for the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board. Our commitment to this goal was re-asserted through the CRD Board's four-year strategic priorities (2023-2026) which were approved on March 8, 2023.

I am pleased to say that staff at various levels have been meeting regularly since our dialogue on October 4, 2021, and March 31, 2022. Through these exchanges, progress has been achieved on the following points:

- All parties agree there is strong alignment between our respective goals and objectives, as captured in the Regional Transportation Strategy, Regional Transportation Priorities, BC's Active Transportation Strategy, CleanBC targets and the South Island Transportation Strategy.
- The BC Transportation Financing Authority, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), and CRD agreed to collaborate on the Regional Trail Widening & Lighting & Trestle Replacement project. This project will see the renewal of the Province's critical assets and the widening and lighting of priority sections of the Galloping Goose and Lochside Regional Trails. In particular, it was agreed that parties would work together on scoping, planning, designing, implementing and identifying funding sources for the project. This commitment was captured in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in late 2021.
- There is a recognized need to revisit the lease agreements between the CRD and the Province for the Galloping Goose Regional Trail and the Lochside Regional Trail. The CRD has invested \$4.4 million into replacing assets owned by the Province. Refreshing the lease will strengthen the partnership language, clarify the CRD's role is to maintain and enhance the assets as well as provide long term certainty regarding the use of these vital regional corridors.



- Earlier in 2023, the Province provided grant funding to a number of stakeholders, including the CRD, to develop a joint vision for the future of the Island Rail Corridor. This work will be undertaken in close consultation with local governments, First Nations, regional districts, and other key partners in the South Island.

The CRD Board considered funding options for the Regional Trails Widening & Lighting project on August 9, 2023, and directed staff to accelerate the project and secure funding by way of debt. Staff were also directed to pursue other funding opportunities, including grants and additional options to generate non-tax revenue.

Through the MOU, MOTI provided a one-time payment of \$70,000 to commence work on a geotechnical review and to facilitate engagement with First Nations. Unfortunately, despite submitting three grant applications worth up to \$16.2 million for this project, the CRD has not been successful in securing additional funding to implement the project.

BC Budget 2023 identifies \$100 million in capital funding over three years to support active transportation investments across BC. Working with your staff, we have identified two funding streams through which the Province could increase its investment on active transportation projects in our region:

1. BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Programs
2. Capital funding for provincial infrastructure improvements in MOTI's South Coast region.

The CRD has, to date, not been able to access these streams.

I would like to request a further meeting with you to discuss what actions the CRD can take to secure investment dollars from these funding streams, to further advance our mutual goals through the Regional Trail Widening & Lighting and Trestle replacement project, among other projects.

Sincerely,



Colin Plant  
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board  
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD  
Larisa Hutcheson, General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services, CRD

