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**REPORT TO THE ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 05 MARCH 2008**

SUBJECT **COMMUNITY WORKS FUND - NORTH GANGES VILLAGE MULTI-USE
PATHWAY PROPOSAL**

PURPOSE/ISSUE

To approve a project proposal to be funded from the allocation of monies reserved for the Salt Spring Island (SSI) Electoral Area from the 2008 Community Works Fund (Federal Gas Tax Rebate program).

BACKGROUND

A Community Works Fund has been established to support the achievement of local priorities that are in alignment with the desired outcomes of greenhouse gas emission reduction, cleaner air and cleaner water. Included in the eligible project criteria are road system improvements that encourage a reduction in car dependency such as sidewalks, bike lanes and pathways. Part of the criteria for eligibility also includes capacity building through such initiatives as transportation plans. The Capital Regional District (CRD) has been allocated funds for the electoral areas including Salt Spring through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

The CRD Board approved Community Works funding in October, 2006 of the North Ganges Village Transportation Plan, which has now been completed. Public consultation undertaken by the consultant indicates strong public support for the proposed plan. Since completion of the North Ganges Plan, a CRD Transportation Commission has been established for Salt Spring, with responsibility for administration of public transit and a range of other transportation functions, including construction of walking and cycling infrastructure.

This current proposal is to provide \$50,000 of Community Works funding for the construction of a 1 km multi-use pathway within the Ministry of Transportation (MoT) right of way, extending from Wildwood Crescent to Blaine Road, in the North Ganges area. This project is consistent with the criteria required to allocate Community Works Funds as established through the UBCM. The pathway project will also be the first step in the implementation of the Ganges Transportation Management Plan, in particular the part of the plan to provide safe walking and cycling pathways on Lower Ganges Road from Atkins to Rainbow Road.

This pathway project was initiated by Island Pathways, a non-profit group whose primary aim is to facilitate development of cycling and pedestrian facilities on Salt Spring. Island Pathways has engaged professional consultants to design and provide cost estimates for the project in consultation with MoT, raised approximately half of the total project funding required, and secured the services of a project manager. Island Pathways has agreed to transfer its funds, cost estimates and design plans to the CRD, which will complete the project. Project cost is estimated at \$100,000, including a contingency of \$10,000. Island Pathways has also been able to secure donations of some aggregate and other construction materials which may reduce the project cost or mitigate against cost overruns.

The pathway will be undertaken under the auspices of the SSI Transportation Commission (SSTC), but since this is an advisory body only, CRD Planning and Protective Services will assume administrative authority for the project, including the signing of a 10 year license of

occupation for the MoT right of way. The project manager, a civil engineer who has been involved in pathway planning from the early stages, will be hired under the SSI Transportation Service on a sole source basis, at a cost of up to \$2,000. Planning and Protective Services will assist in the tendering process for a construction contractor, and provide technical support and guidance to the project manager and the SSI Transportation committee, throughout the project. Planning and Protective Services will also assist in any coordination, as required, with MoT and Islands Trust.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1) That the Board approve the project proposal to construct a 1 km multi-use pathway in the North Ganges area, with an allocation of \$50,000 from the SSI Electoral Area Community Works Fund.
- 2) That the Board not approve funding for the project proposal from the SSI Electoral Area Community Works Fund.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding required for pathway project totals to \$90,000, including a contingency allowance. Island Pathways will provide approximately half of the funds required, as well as additional donated materials. The remaining funds required of \$50,000 are proposed to be allocated from the 2008 Community Works Fund received from the Federal Gas Tax Rebate program through the UBCM.

PROJECT IMPLICATIONS

This project is the first step in the implementation of the now completed transportation plan for Ganges Village and its major approaches. The project will help to establish the administrative framework and working relationships between the SSI Transportation Commission, CRD Planning and Protective Services, MoT, Islands Trust, and non-government groups such as Island Pathways. In the near future, the SSI Transportation Commission will be making recommendations to the CRD Board with respect to future implementation of the Ganges transportation plan and associated gas tax funding requirements.

The Fulford-Ganges Road portion of the Ganges transportation plan is also the route established for the CRD Regional Trail on Salt Spring. CRD Board support of the CRD Parks committee recommendation to contribute funds for right of way survey and design of the regional trail in the Ganges area will also be an important step in furthering the Ganges Transportation Plan.

LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This project proposal can be completed under the current legislative authority of the SSI Transportation Service that was recently established by alternative approval process.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The multi-use pathway project is an eligible cost under the Community Works Fund agreement. It is also consistent with the recommendations of the Ganges Transportation Plan completed in 2007. The \$50,000 portion of the funding required for this project is on hand and the project will not proceed until the balance of the funding is transferred to the CRD by Island Pathways.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Board approve the project proposal to construct a 1 km multi-use pathway in the North Ganges area, with an allocation of \$50,000 from the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area Community Works Fund.

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