
City of Kelowna

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 13, 2004

FILE: 0917-20-054
0550-01

TO: City Manager

FROM: Manager Community Development & Real Estate

SUBJECT: "RUTLAND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS" INITIATIVE

REPORT PREPARED BY: HAZEL CHRISTY, SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council endorse the Rutland Community Connections initiative in principle;

AND THAT staff be directed to commence the planning process, and bring forward appropriate items for consideration in 2005 Budget discussions;

BACKGROUND:

The Community Development and Real Estate Division was created with a mandate to act as a catalyst for community revitalization and enhancement using City land assets where possible in support of Official Community Plan goals. Staff have been actively seeking opportunities in all areas of the City to achieve these objectives.

The Rutland Community Connections initiative provides an opportunity to connect the community of Rutland by means of pedestrian and bikeway links through the Town Centre. The overall vision would see the community connected to major greenway linkages along Mission and Mill Creeks, and provide internal pedestrian/bikeway connections to desirable nodes such as parks, school, the future transit center, the business district and areas of population density. The benefits of the strategy can be summed up as follows:

- Focus on Rutland
- Achieve OCP objectives
- Coordinate initiatives and budgets (Planning, Works and Utilities, Parks and other agencies)
- Encourage a more livable community
- Provide long term park connections

Indirect benefits of the strategy include increased attractiveness of the Town Centre and coordination with TDM objectives for Rutland.

The Rutland Community Connections Vision

Schedule 1 attached to this Report outlines the preliminary concept plan for the Community Connections initiative. Although preliminary, it contains key elements and showcases a major physical landform, the escarpment that runs north/south through the center of Rutland. Components of the overall plan include:

- Rutland Bluffs Trail (along the escarpment)
- Hwy 33 pedestrian crossing
- Hwy 33 streetscape improvements
- Connections to Rutland Transit Centre
- Bike and sidewalk linkages

Depending on location and adjacent land uses, the route may take on different characteristics. At various locations, the pedestrian/bike route may use road rights of way, or the contours of the escarpment to maximize views to the lake and surrounding hills. There are historical features within Rutland such as irrigation waterworks and flumes that may also be utilized to give portions of the Trail a unique flavour and authenticity. The Hwy. 33 land bridge, an integral part of the plan, is envisioned to be wide enough to be attractive and pedestrian friendly, possibly containing a landscaped strip, and using the Highway 33 grade change at Froelich and Valleyview to create a more natural pedestrian route across the Highway.

While the overall vision is a multi-year concept, staff have examined what might be an appropriate and achievable Phase 1. Certainly the area within the Rutland Town Centre, including the Hwy. 33 land bridge crossing should receive priority; however the opportunities presented by the sewer program in Spec. Area 23 in south Rutland are also being examined.

Proposed Process

The Rutland Community Connections initiative presents opportunities to coordinate with other City initiatives being carried out by departments such as Parks and Works and Utilities. By combining efforts and budgets, it is possible to achieve economies of scale or greater efficiencies to the overall benefit of the community. The initiative has already received support and cooperation at staff levels from all departments involved. It has also received encouragement from the Urban Centre Implementation Committee of Council and from initial discussions with community representatives.

Staff have asked the consultants designing the sewer for Spec. Area 23 to include preliminary plans for an enhanced pedestrian/bikeway connection along Hollywood Road between Perry and the Mission Creek Greenway. The intent is that this design be included in any open houses held in conjunction with the sewer program. Depending on the details identified, it may be possible to construct portions of the pedestrian/bike route along Hollywood as part of the sewer program or, at least ensure that the sewers are installed with allowances for the future urban trail. Once those details are available in early 2005, they can be brought to Council for consideration as to whether they can be included in the 2005 work program. A more detailed plan for the balance of the Connections initiative will be developed in 2005 that would include phasing and budgeting recommendations for future years.

CONCLUSION

The Community Connections initiative, of which the Rutland Bluffs Trail is a first phase is an exciting opportunity to combine civic and community initiatives for the benefit of an important sector

of our City. Experience with linear pathways elsewhere in our City show that they are heavily used by all age groups. This is an opportunity to create something unique to Rutland, and make connections within the Rutland community.

D.L. Shipclark



R.L. (Ron) Mattiussi, ACP, MCIP
Director of Planning & Corporate Services

HC/sh
Attachment



