

# Memo



**Date:** August 17, 2011  
**File:** 0115-10  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** R.Cleveland, Director, Infrastructure Planning  
**Subject:** FCM Sustainable Communities Awards

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report regarding the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Sustainable Communities Awards from the Director, Infrastructure Planning, dated August 17, 2011;

AND THAT, Council directs staff to submit an application for the 2011 FCM Sustainable Communities Awards for Kelowna's Active Transportation Network.

## **Purpose:**

To secure Council's direction to apply for an FCM Sustainable Communities Award for the planning and partial implementation of a city-wide active transportation network.

## **Background:**

The FCM Sustainable Community Awards offer national recognition for municipally-led environmental projects that demonstrate leadership, innovation and excellence. The FCM Sustainable Community Awards are part of a suite of awards and honours within the FCM Awards of Excellence Program (see [www.fcm.ca/english/View.asp?mp=1510&x=1509](http://www.fcm.ca/english/View.asp?mp=1510&x=1509)).

The award criteria included the following:

Initiatives must take a holistic, systems approach to sustainable community development

Initiatives must demonstrate innovation and excellence in one of the following award categories:

- brownfields
- buildings
- energy
- integrated neighbourhood development
- planning
- residential development
- transportation
- waste
- water

It is suggested that the Active Transportation Network has built sufficient momentum and originality to warrant national recognition in the transportation category. The active transportation network:

- is a direct response to the 2030 Official Community Plan for increasing the use of non-SOV transportation options for commuting to employment, school and other primary destinations;
- has been approved as a distinct planning initiative mapped in the 2030-20-year Servicing Plan and Financing Strategy with secured financing provided through the recently approved Development Cost Charge Bylaw;

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- is a key strategy for the reduction of green-house gases in the achievement of commitments made by Council in signing the BC Climate Action Charter;
- has received support from the recent federal infrastructure stimulus funding initiatives and the provincial gas tax program, along with substantial taxation contributions;
- is a holistic systems approach to the movement of people through the integration of walking, biking, public transit, and vehicular trips.

The active transportation network plan is well on its way to implementation. Complete links are in place along Abbott Street from Harvey Avenue to the Strathcona Park, Lakeshore Road from Gyro Beach to Cook Road, Casorso-Barrera from Gordon Drive to Lakeshore Road, Cawston Avenue from the Art Walk to the Rails with Trails at High Road, Rails with Trails from Gordon Drive to Spall Avenue, Angel Way at PRC from Clement to Highway 97 including the Highway 97 multi-use overpass, the Glenmore Bypass from Snowsell cul-de-sac to Scenic Road, and Houghton Road from Nickel to Hollywood. Construction is underway or planned at Sutherland Road between Highway 97 and Burtch, UBCO underpass at Highway 97 to Bulman, Airport Way, and John Hindle Drive from Glenmore Road to the new landfill entrance facilities. Altogether over 15 km of the 100km system will be completed by the end of 2011. The substantial capital investment represents the resolve of City Council to develop an integrated multi-modal transportation system.

The new system will provide safe and continuous commuting and recreation options to people who are uncomfortable with on-road bike lane networks. Research shows that whereas 2-10% of the commuter population will brave on-road bike lanes, 60% of commuters may chose biking if separated and convenient bike paths are available. Observations of the completed pathways show that they are popular to all ages and a variety of transportation modes including bikes, tricycles, skate boards, wheel chairs, electric scooters, and pedestrians. The system also facilitates the first link from home to public transit for some longer commutes, especially when the active transportation network is currently incomplete.

The outcomes include better integration of land-use and transportation planning, the improvement of Kelowna's modal split relative to other mid-size cities, the reduction of GHG emissions, and the improvement of personal health through active living. The Kelowna plan is breaking new ground in establishing standards and criteria for the design of multi-use pathway links and multi-modal intersections.

The application must be submitted by September 8, 2011 and requires a supporting resolution from Council.

**Existing Policy:**

The Multiple Bottom Line Framework (MBL) of the Sustainable Infrastructure Policy #352 acknowledges that if communities are to remain resilient in adaptive management of modern challenges, they must have well-developed creative capacities. One measure of creativity is peer recognition for innovation and excellence. The MBL for sustainable infrastructure targets two (2) peer awards annually. The awards for 2011 include

1. Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC) Awards of Excellence (Honourable Mention) for the City of Kelowna's Parkland Acquisition Guidelines
2. Canadian Society of Landscape Architects National Awards (Regional Honour) for the City of Kelowna's Stuart Park Phase 1

Kelowna has been advised that it will receive a third award in late September 2011, which will be announced after its presentation.

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

- Internal Circulation:
- Legal/Statutory Authority:
- Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:
- Financial/Budgetary Considerations:
- Personnel Implications:
- External Agency/Public Comments:

Community & Media Relations Comments:  
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:



R. Cleveland, Director, Infrastructure Planning

Approved for inclusion:



J. Paterson, General Manager, Community Sustainability

cc: D. Graham, Director, Strategic Initiatives  
R. Westlake, Director, Regional Services  
B. Berry, Director, Infrastructure Planning  
C. Stephens, Director, Corporate & Community Relations