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# Village of Gold River

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

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Regular Council Meeting  
May 6, 2024

**Author:** Joe Doxey – Director of Operations

**Subject:** Active Transportation Plan

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### **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

THAT Council adopt the Active Transportation Plan.

### **ALTERNATIVE(S):**

THAT Council receive the Active Transportation Plan for information.

### **PURPOSE**

To present the Active Transportation Plan for adoption and to support grant applicants and guidance on future active transportation projects.

### **ATTACHMENT(S):**

Village of Gold River, Active Transportation Plan

### **DISCUSSION**

Active Transportation pertains to alternative modes of transportation that connect you to your destination and are generally considered to be human-powered. It can include provisions for devices that are aided by power such as electric bicycles, mobility scooters, and electric kick scooters. The roadway right-of-way is historically designed for car / truck transportation with pedestrian activities being an after-thought or amenity. An active transportation plan is a departure from that convention in that it considers a variety of transportation modes, uses, and spaces within the roadway right-of-way and lays out implementation plans and guidelines to facilitate these modes most safely.

October 3, 2022, Council motioned to support the submission of an Active Transportation, Network Planning Grant. The grant application was successful, and provided ~50% (\$20,000) of the estimated \$40,000 project cost. In accordance with the purchasing policy staff requested proposals from more than two qualified firms, and on January 16, 2023, Council awarded the project to create the Village's first Active Transportation Plan to Urban Systems for \$39,500.

Development of the Active Transportation Plan included substantial efforts in documenting background conditions, related / existing transportation assets, categorizing and mapping them. Contributors such as Strathcona Regional District, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Vancouver Island Health Authority, School District 84, Mowachaht / Muchalaht First Nation, and RCMP were invited to share input. Finally, the general public were engaged through “pop-up” conversations in the Village Square and online survey to help develop and refine a list of priority projects that support active transportation in Gold River.

Adoption of the plan helps the Village identify and coordinate the implementation while considering ongoing operations, maintenance, and capital renewal projects. Adoption also helps the Village identify and support grant applications for active transportation infrastructure.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications derived by adoption of the report. The report recommends approximately \$2.6 million dollars of priority projects; however, inclusion within the Active Transportation Master Plan helps to support future grant application and make advantage of economies of scale when the Village is undertaking related works.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

A traffic calming policy maybe developed as a result of implementation.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct legal implications anticipated as a result of adoption of this report.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

Inter-Governmental Relations: This project supported inter-governmental relations through its inclusion of the Mowachaht / Muchalaht First Nation through outreach to share input on the Active Transportation Plan, and also supports advocacy with senior levels of government by providing a clear path for active transportation affecting our community.

Financial Sustainability: The report helps to support financial sustainability in that it highlights areas of improvement with high level estimates to aid in the implementation through long range financial planning.

Community Livability: The Active Transportation Plan supports community livability by supporting safe streets for all users.

Economic Growth: There is no direct benefit to economic growth as a result of this report.

Community Pride: This report helps to support a diverse and vibrant community by including and encouraging more active modes of transportation.

Supported by CAO: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Doxey AScT, ENV SP  
Director of Operations  
Village of Gold River