



Date: 09/09/2021

To: Central Cariboo/City of Williams Lake Joint Committee

And To: John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services

Date of Meeting: Central Cariboo Joint Committee_Sep22_2021

File: 2360-20-7710

Short Summary:

Highway 20 Direct Road Access to the Esler Sports Complex – Crown Land Tenure

Voting:

Ratification Required by CRD

Memorandum:

After several years of process, the Cariboo Regional District has received the land tenure offer from the Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development that is required for construction of an access road into the Esler Sports Complex directly from Highway 20. The deadline for responding to the offer from the Province is October 11, 2021.

The proposed access road has been a business plan goal for the Central Cariboo Recreation service since a property development plan for the sports complex was completed in 2008 and the project is currently noted as a future goal for construction in 2024; however, this is dependent on acquiring grant funding support as well as all the required permits.

To date, a preliminary engineering design has been completed along with traffic studies on Hodgson Road and Highway 20, an environmental assessment, archeological assessment and a mule deer winter range regulation exemption. Permits remaining include a license-to-cut for timber removal and a highway connection design and permit. Once the Crown land tenure process is complete, the license-to-cut and highway connection should be straightforward.

The cost estimate for the full project is \$4.1 million, with about half of this amount required for construction of the 900-metre access road and the remaining for on-site works at the complex itself, such as road realignments and parking area reconfiguration.

In 2019, a federal provincial infrastructure grant was submitted for the project, but it was not successful. Having the project shovel-ready with the permits and tenures in place will strengthen any new grant applications that may be submitted.

If a large infrastructure grant is not obtained, phasing the construction may also be an option with initial land clearing and subgrade development supported by timber sales through the license-to-cut.

Completion of construction can then be made possible through grant funding or with appropriate cost allocation to the Central Cariboo Recreation financial plan or, most likely, a combination of both.

Attachments:

1. Road Access Location - Crown Tenure Application
2. Esler Road Access Project Overview preliminary map

Financial Implications:

None at this time as a direct result of acquiring the land tenure, but the project itself will be included as necessary in future Central Cariboo Recreation capital plans.

Policy Implications:

None. Project is included in the 2021 Central Cariboo Recreation business plan.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- Communication:** Facilitate communication strategies throughout the entire Cariboo Regional District that meet the needs of residents, community stakeholders, and other levels of government.
- Planning:** Intentionally plan services and activities of the CRD to prepare for future needs of residents and community stakeholders.
- Economic Sustainability:** Foster an environment to ensure the economic sustainability of CRD communities and the region.
- Governance:** Ensure that CRD governance policy and practices are intentional, transparent, and respectful.

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CAO Comments:

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Options:

1. Endorse the recommendation;
2. Receipt only;
3. Receipt and other action at the discretion of the Committee.

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services, dated September 9, 2021, regarding a Crown land tenure offer to enable construction of a direct

access road to the Esler Sports Complex from Highway 20, be received. Further, that the appropriate signatories be authorized to execute the tenure agreement.