

SUMMARY OF CRD CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS, TO DATE, SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

1. March 10, 2022

- Committee introductions
- Selection of Chair
- Mike Thomas of Tanex Engineering was in attendance to provide an overview of the Cariboo Regional District's Broadband Strategy and its recommendations.

Chair:

Maureen LeBourdais, Director, Area F

Members:

- Gerald Kirby Director Area J
- Margo Wagner Director Area H and CRD Chair
- Barb Bachmeier. Director Area B
- Rehan Siddiqui Targeted Regional Tourism Development Project Manager CCCTA
- Nirach Suapa Learning Commons and Students Support Coordinator, TRU
- Robin Hunt, Current Secretary, South Cariboo Farmers Market; Young Agrarians Regional Coordinator, Central BC

2. April 22, 2022

Discussion on Universal Broadband funding process and the role of local governments in approving funding applications.

- Joel McKay, Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Development Initiative Trust, was in attendance to discuss how Local Governments are engaging in connectivity strategies.

Possible Recommendation: That the CRD Board consider sending requests for UBF funding LOS to the Connectivity Committee for review and comment. Could it be a role for this committee to ensure requests align with CRD Connectivity Strategy goals?

3. May 25, 2022

- The committee reviewed governance options from the CRD Connectivity Strategy (see attached)
- **OPTION 3 - RD BECOMES ON ISP:** AN Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development, for the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako (RDBN), was be in attendance to discuss the RDBN's Connectivity service 3.2. 10:30 - Peace River Regional District
- **OPTION 4 – PARTNERSHIPS:** Trevor Oulette, Information Technology Manager and Crystal Brown Electoral Area Manager, from the Peace River Regional District (PRRD), will be in attendance to discuss Connectivity initiatives in the PRRD.

Possible Recommendation: OPTION 2: that the CRD Board consider establishing a connectivity service, in order to apply for funding and partner directly with service providers.

6.3.1 Summary of Residential Survey Results (from CRD Connectivity Strategy)

Survey question: I support CRD pursuing improved internet service through: (check all that apply):

1. " Internet service provider (like Telus) builds the infrastructure to provide service and owns it. All control and future responsibilities are the responsibility of the provider.
2. " CRD subsidizes the cost (through federal grants, ie. gas tax or other) and the service provider still owns the infrastructure. All control and future responsibilities are the responsibility of the provider.
3. " CRD builds, owns and maintains an internet utility (through federal grants, ie. gas tax or other). A new ongoing taxpayer funded CRD service would be established and control and future responsibilities are the responsibility of CRD.
4. " CRD partners with private industry partners and shares costs, control and responsibility.

Among respondents there was clear agreement with the notion that improved internet is needed in the CRD and that such improvements would have positive effects for the region such as attracting potential residents and businesses, improving economic activity, and other such benefits. Most respondents stated they would support the CRD providing support to service providers and subsidizing the cost.

- Most respondents – 60% – do not think the CRD should fully build, own, and operate an internet utility themselves.
- Other options included: Internet Service Provider builds and operates the infrastructure without financial assistance from the CRD – 41% support this option even though it may mean no improvement in service.
- While 60% support the idea of the CRD providing assistance to the service provider which might include financial support. ▪
- The CRD wholly owns, funds, and operates the infrastructure itself – 40% support this option. ▪
- The CRD partners with private industry partners to share costs, control, and responsibility of the infrastructure – 56% support this option