

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: J. Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: October 17, 2024

RE: **Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program – Grant Application for KVR**

Administrative Recommendation:

THAT the Regional District submit a grant application under the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) for resurfacing an eight km section of the KVR trail above Naramata, between the Glenfir parking lot and Adra tunnel.

Purpose:

To secure up to \$600,000 to upgrade/resurface an eight-kilometer segment of the Kettle Valley Rail (KVR) trail. Grant funds may also be used for amenities (benches/tables/signage, etc.) along the trail.

Reference:

Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program: [Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program \(REDIP\) - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/redip/)

Background:

Supported by Rec, Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC), the RDOS has been upgrading segments of the KVR and Similkameen Rail trails to develop a Region-wide trail network. The section of the KVR trail from Penticton to the Glenfir trailhead north of Naramata is fully developed as a recreational trail and public use has grown significantly in the past 3 years. The next logical segment for upgrade/resurfacing is the 8km segment between the Glenfir parking and Adra tunnel then beyond to Chute Lake.

If completed, this newly upgraded rail trail segment will provide improved access to the Adra Tunnel, a centerpiece of the original Kettle Valley Railway. Adra tunnel is 486m in length and the largest tunnel on the KVR. It has been closed to the public for many years due to its poor condition. A dedicated group of volunteers has worked over the past 2 years to re-open the tunnel and make it safe and accessible for recreational users. The group has raised over \$575,000 in funding, along with over \$250,000 of in-kind labor, equipment, and services.

Financial Implications:

The grant will cover 80% of the cost of upgrades. The remaining 20% (up to \$120,000) may be covered by Regional Trail capital reserve funding which is considered in the 2024 budget allocation.

Alternatives:

THAT the Regional District does not submit a grant application under the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) for resurfacing an eight km section of the KVR trail above Naramata, between the Glenfir parking lot and Adra tunnel.

Respectfully submitted:

"J. Shuttleworth"

J. Shuttleworth, Parks & Facilities Manager