

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: J. Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: March 6, 2025

RE: **Acceptance of Grant Funds from the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA) and Accompanying Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Adra Tunnel amenities and improvements.**

Administrative Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Directors accept the grant funds from the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA) in the amount of \$271,893.83 and approve the accompanying Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate trail improvements and amenities at Adra Tunnel along the KVR.

Purpose:

To enhance the visitor experience at the Adra Tunnel along the KVR by implementing various trail improvements. These enhancements will include, but are not limited to, upgrades to the trail, installation of picnic tables and benches, placement of garbage bins, the addition of wayfinding signage, and the potential installation of a pit toilet, pending Provincial approval.

Reference:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Business Plan Objective:

Key Success Driver 3.0: Build a Sustainable Region

- Goals 3.1 To develop a healthy and socially sustainable region
- Goals 3.2 To develop an economically sustainable region

Background:

On December 19, 2024, the Board passed a resolution in support of applying for a 30-year lease of District Lot 2125S, which includes the Adra Tunnel. The RDOS has been actively involved in the rehabilitation efforts of the Adra Tunnel, which have been successfully completed through donations.

This next phase of funding aims to enhance the exterior of the tunnel, ensuring visitors can fully enjoy the site. Improvements will include trail infrastructure upgrades and the addition of amenities to support increased public use and accessibility.

Financial Implications:

- The grant funds will cover the cost of construction only.
- Staff time will be required to execute the project and will be covered through Regional Trails Salaries and Wages.
- Increased operational staff time will be necessary for ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the new amenities.

Alternatives:

The Board may choose not to accept the grant funds.

Communication Strategy:

A communication plan is currently being developed to manage the opening of the tunnel. Staff will integrate these improvements into the existing communication plan, which will include public information releases celebrating the tunnel, wayfinding details, and historical context.

Respectfully submitted:

Kyle Gabelhei

K. Gabelhei, Projects Supervisor

Endorsed by:

"Mark Koch"

M. Koch, Managing Director