

[00:03:43.27] - Mayor Maja Tait
As a point of order, did we lose Councillor Beddows?

[00:03:49.16] - Councillor Jeff Bateman
Yes, we did, Mayor.

[00:03:51.04] - Mayor Maja Tait
Okay, thank you.

[00:03:56.23] - Chief Administrative Officer Ms. Grey
Hey, Maya. I think we need to wait 15 minutes to confirm if Council Beddows can rejoin us.

[00:04:03.10] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
If Council Beddows has not rejoined us in 15, we'll have to attend the meeting for lack of quorum, as I understand it.

[00:04:10.08] - Mayor Maja Tait
That is correct.

[00:04:12.14] - Chief Administrative Officer Ms. Grey
Okay. I'm not 100% sure what that means for in-camera after. If we can get him back for in camera. No, the entire meeting would be adjourned.

[00:04:58.01] - Mayor Maja Tait
Sorry, is Has anyone heard from Councillor McMath?

[00:05:04.08] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Councillor McMath sent an email around 3: 00. She's unavailable due to work.

[00:05:09.07] - Mayor Maja Tait
Okay, so, yeah, we do need Councillor Beddows. Thank you. He just texted me. He's trying to get back on.

[00:06:14.26] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
For all those who are watching at this point in time, we are having some technical delays with capturing Councillor Beddows in Mexico. Unfortunately, without Council Beddows, we do not have quorum. There will be a delay for approximately, at this point, I think 12 or 13 minutes. If after that time, Council Beddows is not able to join us, unfortunately, the meeting will have to be adjour for lack of quorum. So stay tuned. Councillor Beddows, can you hear me?

[00:07:23.16] - Councillor Al Beddows
I'm here again. Sorry. I don't know what I was doing, but I had to got back in.

[00:07:29.13] - Councillor Jeff Bateman
Okay. I recommend Councillor Bettles, just leave your camera off just to say something.

[00:07:33.11] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
My camera is off.

[00:07:35.10] - Director of Finance
We just use the mic.

[00:07:38.10] - Councillor Al Beddows
We just had a hell of a thunderstorm here, so I don't know what that has to do with it.

[00:07:46.15] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
All right, then. It's now 6: 04, and I'd like to call this meeting to order. The first thing I'd like to start with

is that I acknowledge we're on the sacred ancestral territories of the Coastsailish people, particularly the Sauk, who are traditional stewards and protection of this land and its generous resources. These territories are now home to many people. Our work does not start and end with this land acknowledgement. It is one important action towards reconciliation, owning the lands and indigenous heritage, which dates back since time immemorial. And now I'd like to ask for the approval of the agenda. Now, I can't actually see anyone except for Councillor Bates. So if either Councillor Bates or may-Second. Thank That's great. I'd like to call the question. For those that are virtually here, call it if you're opposed to the motion. Otherwise, I'll assume that you're in favour. Okay, all in favour?

[00:08:44.17] - Councillor Al Beddows
All in favour? Aye. Okay. Beddows.

[00:08:47.02] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Motion passes. Thank you. I'd like to see if adopting the minutes. Could I have someone to move the motion? Thank you, Council Bateman. Anyone else? Second.

[00:08:55.20] - Mayor Maja Tait
Tait

[00:08:56.16] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Thank you. Mayor Tate. All in favour? And the motion passes.

[00:09:01.07] - Councillor Al Beddows
Aye, Dettos.

[00:09:02.22] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
You're too late. Sorry. You're lagging. All right. Now we move on to item number 5, report of the Chief Administrative Officer, Ms. Grey.

[00:09:16.25] - Chief Administrative Officer Ms. Grey
Thank you, your worship. I just wanted to highlight one of the main points in this CIO update for this week, as we did a more fulsome one last week, is the ShopSuk first campaign. This is an initiative that is in alignment with the district strategic priorities and our emphasis on community economic development. Really excited staff worked very closely with the chamber of commerce and other partners to pull off this campaign, put this campaign together, and have some flyers. There's a hashtag created. So looking forward to watching this initiative spread over the next few months here.

[00:09:55.13] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Lovely. I'm with your buttons and tattoos. Thank you. So Moving on. Question. Council Bateman.

[00:10:03.05] - Councillor Jeff Bateman
Yeah, I had a question, and it relates to that earthquake we had. Was that Thursday or Friday? I think it was. And so many people are talking about it. Many of us felt it. I'm wondering if this is an opportunity for the district to really bear down on earthquake preparedness education.

[00:10:25.26] - Chief Administrative Officer Ms. Grey
For sure. Through your worship to Council Bateman. Definitely, that's something we look to do when there is a natural event that occurs is to ramp up the communications and messaging and future outputs of our newsletters and stuff of like, Hey, here's where you find something about information to this. Similar to what we did with the old man fires, we provided a bit more refresher information on be prepared for 72 hours conversations. So same idea with earthquakes. And so for sure, I'll get Ms. Mog is off sick today, but I will confirm with her next So we, if this is going to be flushing out in the next few newsletters, but I anticipate in talking with the fire department, they will repackage some of that information up and just recirculate it out through our distribution channels.

[00:11:12.11] - Councillor Jeff Bateman
Just note that we've had here in the district test activations of the Emergency Operations Centre for a

fire at Erinan Estates and the tsunami event. So perhaps we might take a run with an earthquake event at some point.

[00:11:30.02] - Chief Administrative Officer Ms. Grey

Just an idea. For sure. Yeah. No, I'll talk to Mr. Bennett, our emergency programmes manager, and just throw an idea because we definitely, to your point, have done some mock EOCs. Earthquake is not one I don't think we've done here yet.

[00:11:46.10] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you, Council Bateman. It's now time. Item number 6, public question and comment- Point of order. Yes, mayor.

[00:11:58.02] - Mayor Maja Tait

I would like to move receipt and then speak to the motion. Move receipt of the CAL report and then speak.

[00:12:05.02] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Okay. So do we have a seconder? Council Bate in seconds. All in favour? Oh, you wish to speak to the motion first.

[00:12:10.22] - Mayor Maja Tait

Yes? Yes. Just in comment back to Council Bateman and our CAO is in the past, the district did do a lot of work around the great shakeout day, which includes drills within the office. I know it's on October the 16th, and that day has passed, but perhaps rather than doing something after every event, it could be easier for staff to coordinate on these annual events where we work with the schools and the rest of the community around shakeout BC. There is an established date, and I know in the past we did a lot around that. So there could be There are things that would go out. And then if we plan for that, it'll just make it easier, I think, rather than every time there's something. Just a thought. Thank you.

[00:12:55.15] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you, mayor. Any further comments or questions? Should have asked. Seeing none, we will call the question. All in favour of accepting the report. The motion passes. Thank you. Moving on to item number 6, public question and comment period. This is it. You have your opportunity to speak, I believe, for two minutes on anything that's on the agenda. If you wish to, please step up and push the little button and the light will blink red and you've got your time. Please provide your name and basically not exactly where you live, but roughly.

[00:13:59.25] - Dawny Eve

Oh, there we go. Hi, everyone. Dawny Eve, President, Southa Region Historical Society. I'm here because the society operates the Southa Region Museum and Visitor Centre and owns the land at the corner of Southa and Phillips Road and the wetlands beside it. I'm speaking to agenda item 8. 1. Priority item number 1, the Throop and Phillips Road Connector. The agenda report notes the district requested support from several organisations, including the Southa Region Museum. We received that request only a few days ago and responded that we need more information about the project and potential impacts on the museum. We were not informed that this was coming to council tonight. The only reason I found out is because Councillor Bateman had it on his Facebook. So thank you, Councillor Bateman, for that. As residents of this community, our board is well aware of the traffic congestion issue. I personally command staff and council for working towards and bringing forward ideas for solutions, but I'm very concerned that plans are moving ahead without any consultation with the museum board. The plans, as shown in the agenda report, have a picture of a road right now that cuts through part of the museum main building, cuts off the lighthouse, and we don't really know if that's what the impact will be.

[00:15:22.27] - Dawny Eve

I don't want to speculate, but we've received no information, so we aren't even able to look at what might what those impacts might be. The Sook region Museum and Visitor Centre is a protector and

promoter of our community's culture and heritage for the region from East Sook to Port Renfrew, Shianu, Sook, and Pachita. It's a critical community hub and focal point, gateway to services, amenities, and attractions for the entire region. For many visitors, the museum is the first point of contact, and we take great care to make the best first impression we can for our visitors. 40,000 people enter the Visitor Centre Museum every year, and the night market adds another 10,000 over the season. Okay, I'm just about done. Sorry. Staff promote theories, economies, and answer questions about where to eat or stay and where to buy gas or get groceries and where to find an item they might suddenly need, like a bicycle, tyre, pump or camping gear. The museum provides a critical service to residents and visitors all year long, and maintains maintaining this access is crucial. We're beginning work on plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the museum for 2027, which coincides, according to the report, with planned construction.

[00:16:43.17] - Dawny Eve

At no time has anyone from the district approach the museum to consult with us on this project, which, as the report notes, has been underway since mid-December. It also notes the project's at a 75% functional design, implying it's already known how the property along Phillips Road will impacted. And we ask that this information be shared with us so we can plan accordingly and ask that we are consulted so council knows what those impacts might be and can make an informed decision. We know how important this project is, and our goal is not to impede it. We'd like to be part of the conversation about what might be the impacts to the museum and visitor centre and work together with you on a solution in the best interests of the community. And thank you.

[00:17:36.08] - Nick Dickinson-Wild
nick Dickinson-Wild, East Sioux.

[00:17:44.14] - Nick Dickinson-Wild
I'm just I'm going to be wanting to talk on 8.

[00:17:46.17] - Nick Dickinson-Wild
2 agenda item, long term boring referendum. I would just like to encourage Council to choose one of the options that has an exact date involved rather than returning it back to staff or receiving it for information.

[00:18:03.14] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter
Thank you.

[00:18:04.11] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Thank you. Any other members of the public? Calling once, twice. All right. We'll move on to item number 7, which is the consent agenda. I'm looking for a motion to move the consent agenda.

[00:18:33.07] - Mayor Maja Tait
Move for a seat.

[00:18:34.15] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
For a seat. That's moved by Councillor Bateman, seconded by...

[00:18:38.20] - Mayor Maja Tait
Tait, second.

[00:18:39.29] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
By Mayor Tatit Anything? No. Okay. Would anyone like to pull anything from the consent agenda? Okay. None. Then I'm going to call for a vote. All in favour? None opposed. Motion carries. Thank you very much. Okay. Moving on to 8. 1, Housing Infrastructure and Communities Canada Active Transpiration Fund grant opportunities. On your staff.

[00:19:10.09] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter
Perfect. Thank you. And through your worship to Council. So this report, the Housing Infrastructure

and Communities Canada opened a federal active transportation funding stream around the middle of December 2024. Deadlines for this application were very short, and they closed the application deadline as of February 26, 2025. This funding stream provides the opportunity for multiple project application submissions, up to \$50 million eligible projects to fund 60% of active transportation eligible components of the project. Accordingly, staff have prepared four priority-based project applications for council's consideration. The first project is the Throop Connector that extends from Highway 14 along Phillips to a new roundabout that's located at the north side of Sea Park and all the way through connecting through to the Road roundabout. The second project is Little River Active Transportation Trail, and it's the access point coming down from Sun River onto the trail to reduce the substantial grading challenges they have there of over 30% reducing them down to 8 %. The third project is Otter Point Active Transportation Corridor Continuation, which is basically completing the frontage improvements to the municipal hall in alignment with their suburban collector standard that matches the property next door at 2,197 Otter Point.

[00:20:31.01] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

These project improvements would continue all the way up to Rodanite Drive, connecting the Broome Hill area and filling in that gap with getting them down to the Stickleback Trail and then into the town centre. The fourth project is Highway 14 Active Transportation Continuation, which basically continues from where the Ministry has left off the sidewalk construction around Ed McGregor Park, and we continue with sidewalks along both sides of the highway down to Whiff and Spit Road. This project contains the designs to include bike lanes that are shoulders as well as sidewalks that are separated by curb. The design is completed within the extents of the land right away that the Ministry owns right now. As development was to occur following this project, staff would work with the Ministry to have frontage improvements, expand one of the sidewalks into a multi-use trail so that you'd have more separation for bikes on the highway. Project costs, benefits, as well as project descriptions are provided within the report, and I'm happy to answer any additional questions regarding these projects or any aspects of the design following my presentation. All project estimates and project funding applications were prepared following all the grant requirements as well as best engineering practises to ensure grant opportunities are maximised and that the worst case project costs are accounted for in the years that these projects are proposed to be realised for construction.

[00:21:54.29] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

For clarification, I'm going to provide a bit of a project breakdown for the Priority 1 for the Phillips Road Connector that goes from Highway 14 all the way to the Church Road roundabout. This project does have a substantial estimated total project cost of approximately \$49.8 million. Basically, the contingencies in the allowances that are put into this project and included in that cost do follow best engineering practises, and they are requirements of the grant. To highlight the main four of them, there is a 20% project contingency on this project, which is equivalent to \$10 million. There's allowances that are built into unit rates that follow best engineering practises accounting for construction, primary construction of this project in '28 and '29, which is a 10% inflation, based on the worst cases we've seen over the last five years, we're hoping this to be a lot less. This is a \$5 million price tag at 10 %. There's 50 % of the soils on the project based on the new legislation for contaminated soils. Soils, meaning they have to be disposed of differently for exported materials and projects. We've accounted for 50 % of the soils to be contaminated, which is built in another \$2 million contingency to this project cost.

[00:23:11.26] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

It's not expected that any more than 25 % at a maximum would possibly be contaminated, maybe on Phillips Road and parts of Throop Road, but the connector should have no sources of contaminants in the soils. There's also a very standard for when the projects get realised, all engineering quality control, inspection inspections, construction inspections, the contract administration of the project, as well as the project management. It's typically required in best engineering practises as well as grants to put in the 12% allowance for these services. That equates to about \$6 million. There's a large economies of scale on projects of this magnitude, and we're only expecting that to cost a couple of million dollars. So due to the magnitude of the project, we're expecting competitive bids when this project gets realised for tendering, and we anticipate utilising an approximate 10 % contingency during project implementation. We've also conservatively estimated an account over 50

% of the soils being contaminated, 10 % construction cost inflation, as well as 12 % for project management, contract administration, quality control. We anticipate being able to work within a 10 % project contingency, construction inflation only being realised at 2 to 4 %, not 10 % when the project gets realised, and maybe zero to 25 % of the soil is actually being contaminated.

[00:24:30.24] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

With only having approximately up to 4 % being utilised for contract administration and project management. That is a lot of information, but with that, the actual construction cost of this project may be realised at approximately \$35 to \$40 million in a \$10 million reduction from the total estimated project cost. It's reasonable to anticipate that the actual project construction cost may be \$10 million less than the estimated cost. However, we need to anticipate the worst-case scenarios for these projects of this magnitude so we can, one, maximise grant opportunities and ensure that if we are going out to seeking funding, that the appropriate amount of funding is in place to cover a worst-case scenario. Based on this Worst case scenario, \$49. 8 million. If the district is successful with our ATF funding application, the district's project contribution, which is anticipated to be funded by a referendum in this report is approximately \$32 million, but based on what the district can fund, knowing today, we would be at approximately \$28 million for the district's portion of the cost, which would be funded via a potential referendum. At the time that the project is realised through construction, the actual project costs may still be reduced by another \$10 million as I've previously gone over.

[00:25:56.05] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

As the project is not anticipated for construction until late through 2029, there are potentially more grant opportunities that will come available, and stacking is allowed under this funding opportunity, as well as other financial means of funding through asset management reserves that council may consider over the next couple of years and would allow for another option for council consideration to reduce potential borrowing amounts when the referendum and borrowing was actually realised. As the ATF Funding Programme facilitates multiple project applications, it's very strategic positioning to support applications and for the district to commit to their share of the project costs based on the worst case scenarios and to see if one or more of the applications even get approved by the federal government for funding. When the project funding applications are announced, which is anticipated in early 2026, I will be working in unison with the district's finance director, Ms. Lou, to present Council with any options for Council to consider for funding the district's contribution for any of the projects under this ATF stream. We have the following resolutions. There is a lot of them in blocks for Council's consideration, and we'll have those put up on the screen, and I'm very happy to answer any questions related to the project's designs or consultation.

[00:27:17.13] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you very much, Mr. Carter. Ms. Grey or Ms. Lou, this would be a question from Ms. Bagnol, but can we move all these as a block, or do we need to do them individually?

[00:27:29.07] - Chief Administrative Officer Ms. Grey

Through the chair to council, you can move them all as a block or individually based on council's preference.

[00:27:37.29] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you very much. All right, then if... Actually, I guess I got to decide. I'm going to read them all out and then ask if someone is willing to move them so we can then discuss. Sorry.

[00:27:49.29] - Mayor Maja Tait

Point of order. Use your microphone, please.

[00:27:52.28] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

I believe I am. Can you hear me?

[00:27:55.10] - Mayor Maja Tait

I can hear you, Councillor St. Pierre. I cannot hear who you're speaking with.

[00:28:00.05] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Okay.

[00:28:01.17] - Mayor Maja Tait
There's Councillor Bateman. Thank you.

[00:28:04.09] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
No, I think it was actually... Anyway. All right, everyone, remember to use your mics.

[00:28:10.01] - Director of Finance
Thank you.

[00:28:11.29] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Okay, so tonight we're going to read out all motions to discuss after having read out the motion and move the motion. Thank you very much. This motion is that Council support the Throop Road and Phillips Road Connector Active Transportation Project and confirms that this project will be tender ready in 2026 for anticipated construction in 2027 through at a total project cost of \$49,791,200. And that Council supports the funding application in the amount of \$16,901,991 based on the eligible project cost of \$28,169,985 to the Housing Infrastructure and Communities Canada Active Transportation Fund. The Council commits to its share of the total remaining project cost in the amount of \$32,889,209, as well as any project cost overruns. The Council supports the Little River Active Transportation Sun River Access Project and confirms that this project will be tender ready in 2026 for anticipated construction in 2027 at a total project cost of \$2,000,763,441. And that Council supports the funding application amount of \$1,658,64 based on the eligible project cost of \$2,763,441 to the housing Infrastructure and Communities Canada Active Transportation Fund. And that Council commits to its share of the total remaining project cost in the amount of \$1,105,377, as well as any project cost overruns.

[00:29:43.01] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
That Council support the Otter Point Road Active Transportation Continuation Project and confirms that this project will be tender ready in 2026 for anticipated construction in 2027 at a total project cost of \$2,096,602, and that Council support the funding application, the amount \$884,930, based on the eligible project cost of \$1,474,884 to the Housing Infrastructure and Communities Canada Active Transportation Fund. Last one, I think. No. Okay. The Council supports the Highway 14 Active Transpiration Corp. Continuation Project and confirms that this project will be tender ready in 2027 for anticipated construction in 2028 at a total project cost of \$10,089,17. The Council support the funding application, the amount of \$5,801,769 based on the eligible project cost of \$9,669,615 to the Housing Infrastructure Committee's Canada Active Transpiration Fund. And the Council commit to its share the total remaining project cost in the amount of \$4,987,248, as well as any project cost overruns. I'm looking for a mover.

[00:31:00.16] - Mayor Maja Tait
Move, Tate. Move by Council Tate.

[00:31:07.00] - Councillor Jeff Bateman
Seconded for discussion.

[00:31:08.07] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Seconded for discussion. Thank you very much. All right. Open the floor for questions.

[00:31:15.21] - Mayor Maja Tait
Thank you, Chair. Can I proceed as the mover?

[00:31:18.16] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Please.

[00:31:19.06] - Mayor Maja Tait

Okay, so I have a question first off. This is a significant amount of funds, and there's four separate applications. So is it one application with four... Sorry if this isn't clear, I'm not well. Is it four applications going into one stream, or is it one application with four different components? And the reason why I'm asking that is we may find that we get some of the funding, in which case, and then going to referendum, there There may be residents that support some of these, but not all of them. So that's the part I don't understand. Or let's say we apply for the 49 million and we receive only 20 million, then how is that allocated? Or is it four separate applications in which we could get one or two or all of them? And then the need to borrow may or may not be necessary, or I'm thinking we go to referendum and that fails, but we still know that we need to advance sidewalks along the highway or up our auto Point Road. So I'm just trying to untangle that in my head, please.

[00:32:51.16] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Application staff, thank you for the question.

[00:32:56.09] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

Thank you. And through the chair to mayor Tate, it is the latter of your interpretations on that. So these are four separate applications under this funding stream, and they're priority-based applications, meaning in the order that they are presented, one through four, is the priorities that are presented to the funding partner, meaning that application one for the critical TMP components is our number one application priority, and then consecutively going down through projects two to four. So what we are anticipating is that they would look at, and if successful under this, we would either have just application one funded under this funding stream, or it may be application one in unison with application two, three, and four, potentially.

[00:33:47.02] - Mayor Maja Tait

So we may not get one, but they could do three and four, though.

[00:33:52.07] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

No, incorrect. We're priority-based in the applications, meaning number one is SUKs 100% priority over all other application considerations.

[00:34:04.14] - Mayor Maja Tait

Okay, but what I wonder, though, is... I see what you mean there, but having not, and I know that the referendum question will follow, is it may be perceived that we deem this to be priority number one, but the community may say no. It isn't because the referendum could fail and there would be more support for the other elements. But we won't know any of this. Sorry, I'm not articulating that well. Right now, we're advancing that as priority one is the transportation master plan, but it's contingent upon residents paying significant amount of additional taxes for a long time and thereby paralyzing the district for anything else. So it may not be... The public may or may not agree with that. So then that throws out everything because that's our first... We put the weight into one. Does that make sense?

[00:35:13.05] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

I think at this point, what I'd like to maybe do is ask Councillor Bateman and Councillor Beddows if they have any questions, but also see if our staff can provide any further clarification.

[00:35:27.07] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

Yeah, through the chair to mayor Tate. So We have inquired with the funding partners, and they asked us to prioritise the applications. However, if they deemed for some reason that our project one priority application was not eligible or did not meet some of their main criteria, but the other applications did, they would not not consider our additional applications. So there would be a possibility that if for some reason the partners deemed our application one not eligible for some criteria, which it is very eligible and it meets a lot of the criteria, they wouldn't just throw out our other applications. They would still consider them, but there's a chance that they would fund our priority application first, and then they would be considering the other ones after funding the first one.

[00:36:17.20] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Carter. Council, do you have any questions?

[00:36:20.29] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

I think Council Beddows had his hand up, so he's next in line. I can't see that.

[00:36:25.19] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Council Beddows, do you have any questions?

[00:36:27.02] - Councillor Al Beddows

Yes. Thank you, Chair. I had very very similar questions to Mayor Tate. That depends on what they come back with. But my understanding is that we can get up to \$50 million. So we're asking for the whole enchilada and see what shakes out. In the interim, we're going to be striving to find other funding sources. So thanks, Mayor Tate, for bringing that up. That clarified some of my questions. The last question I had at this point in time was the Highway 14 sidewalks down to Whiff and Spit Road. I believe that's where it goes. I thought that was covered by the Ministry of Transport and transit. That's a question to staff.

[00:37:20.07] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

Yeah, thank you. And through the chair to Councillor Beddows, I alluded to this a little bit in the report, but ultimately on the Ministry's Highway, they will not typically fund any sidewalk construction. They will literally just fund their laning construction. It was a bit of a once off when the project got funded in 2020 to complete the sidewalks from Otter Point down to McGregor Park. But typically how it goes is any municipality that highways go through, the municipality will be the funders and responsible for the maintenance of any sidewalk and active transportation construction along the highway, where the highway will maintain lane to lane as well as the shoulders. And the shoulders in this project are to be considered as bike lanes.

[00:38:06.12] - Councillor Al Beddows

Okay, certainly how I didn't understand it that way, but thank you for the clarification. Just on this, I know it sounds like a terrible amount of money for people, and it is, but we've had some clear direction from the public that they want us to do something about the traffic situation. And this is the one major step in heading that way. I hate to say, hopefully, anticipating that we won't need to borrow that much money, but we have to put this application in a good faith to the federal government, which could possibly cough up \$50 million for these projects. So I'm in favour of this motion reluctantly, and God knows we'll probably get a lot of feedback on it, but we have to start somewhere. If it gets too expensive or the citizens will have the opportunity to vote it down, that certainly is their right. But we were told to jump into action, and I commend staff, done a great deal of work on this, both in the engineering side and the financial side, to put this before us so we can at least see what's required and where we need to go in order to move our community forward board.

[00:39:30.19] - Councillor Al Beddows

Again, it's a scary, scary time, but it also takes some bold people to make some bold decisions, and I think this is one of them. Thank you.

[00:39:40.16] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you, Council Beddows. Council Bateman. Okay.

[00:39:44.15] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

Thank you for this report and the big vision here. I'm glad. Thank you for the clarity as well around the priorities, because I think it's worth noting that it's highly unlikely we'll get all four, given that our ask of 25 million is about 5% of the total national available grant funding. There's 500 million in this current first of subsequent windows. I guess you're setting the table for letting the Ottawa know that these are our priority projects, and nonetheless, the Thruway connector piece is the top priority. Just going through some of the questions I have here, you've noted in the report that these projects are supported by the Ministry of Transportation, the CRD, BC Transits School district 62, Ministry of Environment and Parks, as well as our MLA Lajones. I know the Ministry, of course, through the

Memorandum of Understanding, this particular route is baked into that Memorandum of Understanding. But do you have support in writing from these other parties, or are you seeking that support?

[00:41:01.29] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

Through the Chair of Council, Bateman, everyone you have alluded to there, I have reached out for. I've provided them the project maps as well. As of today, I've received written support letters on the letter heads from all those organisations supporting the district's priority-based applications.

[00:41:18.25] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

That is fantastic.

[00:41:19.26] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

In terms of the economic development ones, as it was alluded to earlier in the public, I worked with Ms. Scott, our economic development officer, very similarly at a high level to support these active transportation projects in principle. She has reached out to several nonprofit community groups within the district of Sook, and we just had a very short window to do that and reach out and gain support. We have received support with half the organisations that she has reached out to, and we'll be following up directly with others.

[00:41:51.25] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

So these institutional letters of support will go as part of your application package?

[00:41:57.29] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

Yes, that's correct. Yes. Okay.

[00:42:00.05] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

I hope we can see those in a supplemental agenda at some point. And yes, there are 14 groups I see that Ms. Scott has reached out to. I'm curious, does staff have plans to share with us a comprehensive cost benefits analysis of this bypass? There was in 2014, a business case was presented. I think Mayor Milne commissioned one for the charters to fill it section. I think that that will be very critical in helping us reach a community decision on this.

[00:42:39.14] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

Yeah, thank you. Through the Charter Council, Bateman. The next steps with this project, we are at a 75% functional design, determining the exact extent and any potential land discussions will be presented with an update to Council in a closed meeting. With the design to advance to final design is scheduled to go through following Council's consideration and budget deliberations this year. We are planning to advance to final design in the summer of 2025. Prior to going into the final detailed design, Our next step is basically finalising the continuity of the surface infrastructure components, which is basically your continuity between sidewalks, bike lanes, your separated bike lanes, and how they intertwine in between the projects going from the round out all the way to the entrance to Sea Park and through past the museum. When we're at the point of with a finalised plan for the surface infrastructure continuity, at that point is when we will be reaching out to adjacent property owners such as the museum. We are just not there yet. We will be there over the next few months and consultation with those adjacent property owners will take place prior to us advancing to final design.

[00:43:56.02] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

Once we advance to final design in the summer, that's when, like I said, if there are any potential land discussions, council will be made aware of those in a closed meeting in the coming months.

[00:44:09.27] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

Okay. Again, the need for a public-facing cost benefit analysis document of some kind will be part of the district strategy in bringing this referendum forward?

[00:44:21.21] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

Yes. As part of the referendum, there will be a full package provided that show exact details of the

entire project. It would also have appendices Appendices to it that would basically have every single traffic study that we have done in relation to all the projects that have been completed so far to date in alignment with the Transportation Master Plan, as well as all the analysis that have been done for these components of the project. All that information, project details, the costs of the project, all the supporting documents from consultants would be available and presented. So it would be available to the public prior to them making a decision on a referendum vote to finance a project of this magnitude.

[00:45:05.11] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

Good to know. Thank you. Can you, can I give Ms. Eve and her colleagues at the Society and the Museum some peace of mind that the route is not going directly through their property?

[00:45:18.10] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

It is not going directly through their property. Right now, designs are working within the constraints of the Districts Road right away. But like I said, we're working on surface infrastructure, finalising the continuity between separated bike lanes as well as sidewalks and multi-use paths. Once we have that down and fixed is when we're going to consult further with adjacent property owners, be in the museum, as well as further consultation with CPARC.

[00:45:45.12] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

Okay. Thank you very much for these answers.

[00:45:52.23] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

I have a few questions I'd like to ask you. Yeah, please go ahead. Okay. So In terms of what's happening here, as I understand it, staff has now enough numbers that we can actually ask the federal government for help with paying for some of this. And this is the first step towards asking for help. Is that correct?

[00:46:12.22] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

That is correct.

[00:46:14.07] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Okay. And as I understand it in this type of situation, if the district was not actually to guarantee the funding, the application would not go forward, and we basically are unable to move forward with our transformation plan or solving any of these issues. Is that correct?

[00:46:30.00] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

That's correct. Unless council considered putting out to the public to fund the project costs completely without any funding opportunities.

[00:46:37.23] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

In other words, if we do not move forward with this particular motion, we're looking at a referendum for the entire amount.

[00:46:44.10] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

Correct.

[00:46:44.27] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Sorry, I'm just trying to translate that a bit. Okay, so as I understand it, the referendum question is also based on moving forward this application so we can actually get more accurate numbers in terms of what the referendum ask would be. Is that correct?

[00:47:00.00] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

That's correct. Ms. Lou will allude to more details on that in her coming report.

[00:47:04.05] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

As such, if we don't move forward this motion, we can't really move forward the next motion or the

next discussion, which would be the referendum question. Is that correct?

[00:47:11.13] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

It would depend on what direction Council wanted to go, whether to try and fund the project without a funding opportunity or with a funding opportunity.

[00:47:18.23] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you very much. Now, as I understand it, what you were saying before, due to engineering best practises in terms of the ask, and because it's best to ask for more and not needed rather than not enough, you're expecting that the amount would be potentially, and it won't hold you to this, \$10 million less on the full project cost. Not on the amount that the district is responsible for, but on the full project cost, correct?

[00:47:49.17] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

Correct.

[00:47:50.16] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Okay. What does that actually represent for the district's portion?

[00:47:54.05] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

Where that represents is the district's portion, as I alluded to. If the full project costs of the project came into play and the project ended up costing \$50 million, the district's referendum amount would be \$28 million. We are very hopeful, and this will not get determined until the project is tendered out and completed, which is at the time that the loan would be taken out, that the project will come in at a \$10 million reduced cost from the total project cost, which would then potentially reduce a major loan amount down to the ballpark of \$18 million. However, However, that will not be known until the project is tendered and realised for construction. So the ultimate ask on the referendum, as is, would be \$28 million if we were successful with the grant opportunity.

[00:48:43.09] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

All right. And just to confirm my understanding, if we were to receive, I believe it was, is it 16 or 18 from the grant? For the four?

[00:48:53.22] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

It's approximately 16. 8 million, I believe, and details are in the report.

[00:48:58.01] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

If we were to realise substantial savings on the project, those savings are passed directly to the district or are they passed on to the granting agency as well?

[00:49:08.20] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

They would be both. It's how the projects are determined. It's a \$50 million project. Of that \$50 million, there's approximately \$28 million that's the eligible component. So yes, if there was a project reduction, it wouldn't be a direct reduction in that amount. But for the eligible available components that were reduced in costs, that amount would be reduced by the ground. But overall, what we are saying is right now at full project costs, the referendum amount will be \$28 million. However, we're anticipating that that amount for the district's portion should be able to come down about \$10 million for a total of \$18 million.

[00:49:53.05] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you. As I understand it, based on the report, we also have DCCs that would figure into this, and I believe that was on the order of five million?

[00:50:03.22] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

Yes, that's correct. Based on the total project costs as presented in the report and as per the resolutions, the district share is \$32. 8 million, approximately. But as we presented that our cost, based on grant success, would only be \$28 million. It's because Ms. Lou has looked at funding

portions of our share with money that we is available today, meaning DCC have covered some of the costs of that to offset that amount from \$32 million district share to \$28 million of the district share. That is all we know today. As of 2025, that's what we can fund. But from 2025 through 2029, more DCC's become available. We'll be able to offset that cost even more by funding more of the projects through DCC's. Additionally, over the next four years, prior to the actual loan being taken out, which happens at the end of the project, council will be provided by myself and Ms. Lou other opportunities to potentially reduce the borrowing amount even more. If future grant opportunities come up, which we know there will be a couple because we've been very successful with half a million dollar active transportation applications on an annual basis, plus in council's decision during budget deliberations, If asset management is continuously funded at 2 % to 3 % a year, there could be additional revenues coming in with asset management funds that could also further offset the loan amount.

[00:51:42.21] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

The ultimate referendum amount would still have to be at \$28 million, but we're hoping to do whatever we can to bring forward any additional opportunities of funding through grants, through district reserve funds, asset management funds as best we can up until when the projects are complete.

[00:52:00.00] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you very much. Any further questions from Councillor Beddows and Mayor Tate?

[00:52:07.13] - Councillor Al Beddows

Yeah, Councillor Beddows here. I was pleased to hear that we would have to commit the 28 million, but we're likely, hopefully, I know it's a bit of a pig and a pou, come in at much lower than that, and I'm pleased to hear that. Just as a question to staff, when it comes to funding streams, have we heard from the province? The province gave us a great deal of difficulty saying our traffic on Highway 14 was our problem. And so have we heard from the MLA or have we heard from the province? Is this a funding stream for us to help out here?

[00:52:51.07] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you, Council Beddows. I'll pass the question to Ms. Grey.

[00:52:53.26] - Chief Administrative Officer Ms. Grey

Sure. Council Bedos, through Deputy Mayor Saint Pierre to Council Beddows. Yeah, my staff's plan is, depending on Council's resolutions passed for the grant report as well as the next long term borrowing referendum, is to send follow up correspondence to Minister Callon, because in his letter, in regards to Bill 44, he also indicated that we need to move on the Throop Connector. So my plan was to provide a draught back or to provide response back to Mr. Callon based on council's direction today, potentially, and let him know next steps, and then as well encourage him and our MLA Lajones to help us out here because as we can see- All right, good.

[00:53:42.08] - Councillor Al Beddows

Well, thank you for that to the Chair, that's great. That's encouraging signs, especially when the minister has reached out in advance that indicated that there may be some help there, and we could sure use it. So thank you. That's all my questions for now.

[00:54:04.08] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you, Council Batews for your question. Mayor Tate?

[00:54:07.16] - Mayor Maja Tait

Yes, thank you. Just one last piece. As this item progresses, and I'm aware that Mr. Carter had shared the materials that will be available for the public for their review. I highly recommend, as per Councillor Bateman stated, that any and all support letters that are received also form part of that package so that the community can see that engagement as well as any concerns that have been brought forward and how we've addressed them. Just taking note of Ms. Eve's comments that were in the earlier public input session that we are hearing those concerns and how we're addressing them. So whether that's an FAQ and then listing out those letters, I think that's important. Thank you. Thank you, Mary Tate. It's not really a question, just something I think we should do. Thank you.

[00:55:04.02] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Council Beatman?

[00:55:05.26] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

Okay, so a few more questions. Speaking of FAQs, I saw on the Active Transportation Grant FAQ, there is one question, is a municipal attestation or endorsement from council required for a municipal applicant? The answer is, municipal applicants do not require municipal council endorsement, resolution, or other form of attestation at the time of application. Should the project funding be approved, such an attestation may be required as a condition of the funding agreement. My question is, through you to Mr. Carter, is this resolution tonight give us an even better chance at getting this funding? I assume that's why it's here for us.

[00:55:50.10] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

Through the chair to Councillor Bateman, I worked with Ms. Mugen, and she added some FAQs to my report. But as far as I understand it, the requirement is to have a council resolution, exactly how I've presented them for council's consideration, to form part of the grant applications, and it's very standard for any provincial or federal applications.

[00:56:14.08] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

Okay, I've I misread that document. Okay. I'm curious. Maybe, Councillor Deputy Mayor, just bear with me for just a There's a couple more quick ones here. The relationship between the district and the Ministry at this point in time, that's off topic, isn't it? Okay.

[00:56:42.26] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Any other questions, Councillor Beatman? Okay. All right. Any other comments or questions, Council Beddows, Mayor Tate?

[00:56:54.16] - Mayor Maja Tait
No.

[00:56:55.14] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
All right. Thank you.

[00:56:56.13] - Councillor Al Beddows
No.

[00:56:59.10] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Hearing At this point in time, I think I'm just going to call the question. All in favour? Hearing none opposed, the motion carries. Thank you very much. Moving on to item 8. 2. Long-term Boring Referendum Update.

[00:57:28.24] - Director of Finance

Good evening, everyone. Through the Chair to Council and members of the public, I'm here tonight to talk about the preparation for a referendum. This is for the long term borrowing on some key capital projects in our community, what it means to Council and SUP residents, and how the process is conducted. A referendum is very similar process to a local election where you vote for your councillor. It's by paper ballots, and the ballot typically contains a yes or no question. In order for the referendum to pass, it requires a majority of the vote cast to be yes. Within the next two years, it's highly likely that the district will have a by-election and a general election take place. The combination of the referendum with an election will save \$39,000, which is the cost of holding one election. Obviously, when the two events are held at the same time, the work is done once instead of twice. Staff have provided three options regarding the referendum schedule in alignment with the election and grant application timeline. Council needs to weigh the pros and cons of each option and provide direction to staff. So when preparing for the referendum, there are five factors to consider.

[00:58:49.12] - Director of Finance

Let's look at the long term borrowing process first. This slide provides a high level summary of the long term borrowing process. Municipalities in BC are required to finance long term borrowings through the regional district and the municipal finance authority with approval of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The CRD and the MFA have two long-term borrowing intakes per year in spring and fall. With all relevant deadlines included, the entire long-term borrowing process may take up to one year. A bill of random is required before the loan authorisation by law can be approved by council. The by law can only be adopted while a majority of the votes are in favour of the by law. A typical question on the ballot related to a long term borrowing would sound like this. Are you in favour of the district adopting the loan authorisation by law to authorise the borrowing of up to X amount for the purpose of building roads at X location. The ballot states a specific borrowing amount, which is also the maximum amount to be borrowed. We may borrow less than that amount, but we cannot exceed the maximum. If the final project costs are lower, only the actual cost will be borrowed.

[01:00:20.11] - Director of Finance

And this would, of course, reduce the cost to each property owner. We may use temporary borrowing while the project is being built, And after the construction is finished, convert the temporary borrowing into a long-term loan when we know exactly how much to borrow. The district is planning multimodal transportation capital projects as Throop Road and Phillips that will require debt financing. The current total budget submitted for the grant application exceeds \$49 million. The district will contribute about \$5 million from DCC CASH, Lufans, and other grants. The housing infrastructure and the Communities Canada's active transportation grant opened at 2024 year end. We are currently applying for the grant totaling \$16. 9 million. This leaves roughly \$28 million to borrow. The grant funder will only announced the successful applicants between late 2025 and early 2026. This outcome is a critical factor in scheduling and framing the borrowing amount on the referendum question. The grant money will reduce the borrowing by 38 %. Another factor that will impact the loan payment is the interest rate. Bank of Canada's policy rate has been falling from 5 % to 3 %. It's difficult to predict future rate based on past trends.

[01:01:59.04] - Director of Finance

The big question The thing that many people always want to know is, what is this going to cost me? Over a 30-year amortisation period, a loan of \$28 million with the grant funding based on the 2024 property tax data The average home in Sook would pay \$146 to \$169 from \$146 to \$169 each year. A loan of \$45 million without a grant, this The payment will increase to \$235 to \$272 per year. A range is given to account for interest rate variances. If the borrowing amount is further reduced by 10 million, the payment per household could be under \$100 per year. This is achievable by having a reduced contingency amount, more grants available, a healthy asset management reserve contribution, and competitive bids when we tender out the project. Any of these conditions could reduce the taxpayers's burden on loan payment. Looking at the three options related to the referendum schedule. Under option one, if the referendum is held this spring in 2025, together with the by-election, we'll save the cost but will not know the grant status. If option one goes ahead, we would need to state the full borrowing amount of \$45 million on the ballot question because the grant status has not been confirmed.

[01:03:43.15] - Director of Finance

If a referendum to be held independent from an election immediately after knowing the grant status, option two will cost additional \$39,000 to the taxpayers. Option three is to combine the referendum with a general to be held in October 2026 after knowing the grant application status. So only under option two or three will the grant application status be known. If successful with the grant, we can state the lower borrowing amount of 28 million. To summarise, the advantage of an early referendum under option one before the grant approval is that the borrowing process and construction could start sooner if the majority of the votes are in favour of the borrowing in full amount. Option two, having a stand-alone referendum makes expensive. If council prefer to know the grant outcome before holding a referendum and save cost, the district would need to align the referendum with the 2026 January election. The downside of option three is the delay in receiving confirmation of public support for the project borrowing. So just to add the public comments at the beginning of this meeting, public prefer to have a specific date of the referendum. So far, the only specific knowing to me is the option three, the general election date is October 17th, 2026.

[01:05:17.10] - Director of Finance

So for the other two options, option one and two, I don't have a specific date. So all three options will give us enough time to secure the funding by the fall of 2027. Tender out the project by the end of 2027, carry out construction work in '28 to '2019, and complete the project in 2030. So that's the timeline required by the grand founder. This is a quick overview of the options related to the long term borrowing referendum. I will take questions now. Thank you.

[01:05:55.19] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you very much, Ms. Hieu. Any questions from Councillor Bateman and Mayor Tate? Since I can't see you. I'll start with you.

[01:06:06.15] - Mayor Maja Tait

I'm still... No, I'm fine. Thank you, Chair.

[01:06:09.15] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you. Council Beddows.

[01:06:13.09] - Councillor Al Beddows

Just a second, here. Yeah, that's a lot to digest. So option two, we would have to ask for the whole pile of money. Option one, I mean. Option two, we would have a better understanding of exactly what we're asking. And the downside is we might have to spend \$39,000, which considering we're dealing with \$48 million, I guess I don't really have a question that was just rambling, but I was just rolling those things around in my head. You get a lot of information in such a short time. But yeah, I think we need more information. But option two, to me, sounds like the better way to go.

[01:07:00.08] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you, Council Beddows. Council Bateman?

[01:07:03.23] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

Yeah, thanks for such a thorough report and a nice breakdown of the options. I saw in your breakdown of with or without the grant, the costs, you also had a 3. 5% interest rate, which would take it down further. I guess trends in interest rates currently are dropping. So potentially by October 26, it will be reduced further.

[01:07:35.01] - Director of Finance

It's difficult to predict future interest rate. Even experts, famous economists, get it wrong all the time. Just report to Council, actually, the 3. 5% is a very realistic rate as of today. Actually, MFA, they could obtain 3. 5%, rate right now. But when they let us calculate the cost of the loan for long-term loan, they want us to use the 4. 8% because they go to the market, sell bonds. They don't know exactly what rate they will get for that day, really. They don't want us to underestimate the cost. They want us to use the 4. 8 or 4. 6%. Actually, they could get 3. 5. It's a very realistic rate. Yeah.

[01:08:30.00] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

So I've dived into the weeds a little bit, and I know that the MFA will lock in a percentage for 10 years, and then you must renegotiate based on the current rates at that time. So that's a bit of a mystery as well. Do you have a total cost of this loan with interest over its 30-year lifespan? Was that in the report or did I miss that?

[01:09:00.00] - Director of Finance

I didn't give the full amortisation schedule. I can email to you later. I only have a five-year, the first five-year payments on my appendix.

[01:09:10.08] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

I assume that'll be part of the public package as we move forward. Okay, great work. Thank you. Yeah.

[01:09:20.01] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Okay, so I have a few questions and comments myself. First one is a curiosity. If we were to ask for \$49 million, what's left of our actual spending limit with the MFA?

[01:09:33.01] - Director of Finance

I believe through the chair to council, I believe you're asking our maximum debt servicing limit. That is correct. I calculated, based on last year's financial statements, Each year, I believe our maximum is around \$3. 7, \$3. 8 million per year. Right now, we're under that limit.

[01:09:55.00] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Okay, that didn't quite answer my question. I believe that based on what we actually have in terms of revenues, we have a certain amount of a spending limit. With the MFA, we can only borrow a certain amount. How much of that amount does 49 million represent? What would be left? If we were to wish, if WNDYR buy Parkland, if we wanted to invest in anything at all, what's left after we put potentially \$49 million into this?

[01:10:28.09] - Director of Finance

I believe we're at roughly 70%.

[01:10:31.02] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

70%, so theoretically another 20 million or so. Okay. Yeah. Thank you very much for that. The next question I have is, \$49 million, of course, is a huge amount. It's likely to have major sticker shock. Having said that, it's not the actual ask, I believe. The actual ask is \$28 million, I believe. Okay. Let's say we ask for \$28 million, and that still has huge sticker shock, and our community Everybody says no. At that point, what happens in terms of the grants if we have received them? That'd be a question, I guess, from Mr. Carter.

[01:11:13.01] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

If the district cannot come up with their share of the project contribution, the grant partners would be notified, and we would basically walk away from the opportunity. Because as we would be committing to the funding on paper, they're also committing to the funding on paper and not actually paying us for it until we realised the project. So we would just be walking away from the opportunity.

[01:11:38.24] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Okay. So essentially, we would leave the \$16. 8 million on the table and say, We can't use it right now. Thank you very much. Now, if we were to have a referendum that did not, that failed, do we have an option of coming back with a second referendum with a different amount? As I understand it, circumstances might change We might be looking at reductions in interest rates, additional savings through staff, so on and so forth. Do we have an option to add a second referendum or having made one referendum ask, are we done on that one question?

[01:12:14.04] - Director of Finance

Through the Charitor Council, I believe we do have a second chance. I would think it's logical the second referendum, we put a lower amount on the ballot question. Yeah, that is the option.

[01:12:28.13] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you very much. I'm going to go back to Council Beddows and Mayor Tate. Any further questions?

[01:12:35.04] - Mayor Maja Tait

Yes, thank you, Chair. I have one. And we may not know this, but the concern is, what is the impact of the tariffs going to be on the costs. It's difficult to see that there's going to be saving or lower rates given what's coming at us in the news. So part of me wants to lock the interest rate when it's at a reasonable price as opposed to waiting and that big unknown. And I guess it's a crystal ball, but that is a reality that we're staring at right now. Is there any comment on that?

[01:13:17.14] - Director of Finance

Thank you for the question through the chair to mayor Tate. I can only comment on the locking down the interest rate. I will leave the territory part to Mr. Carter. I don't know if the project material involved anything import from the states or not. But regarding locking down the interest rate, we only want to commit to 100% of the long term borrowing after the project is complete because we don't want to over borrow. We want to borrow exactly how much we need. So we'll use temporary borrowing in the interim. For example, if the lowest interest rate I have ever seen on MFA's website is 0.9 %. If the interest rate ever hits all time low, we can always borrow 50 or 80 % of the total cost. I have two issues. The first issue is borrow 50 or 80 %, and then the second issue to borrow the remainder just to mitigate the risk on the interest going up and down. But the key is you don't want to borrow 100 % before the project even complete. You don't know how much exactly to borrow.

[01:14:33.11] - Mayor Maja Tait

Okay, I understand. Thank you. Mr. Carter, any thoughts on potential cost escalations or increases?

[01:14:44.18] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

Through the chair of mayor Tate, we should not see anything too substantial for that. There's not a lot of imported materials in these projects from the state. A lot of it is built with resources, construction equipment, and stuff like that. There may be minor effects due to some minor import materials related to wall construction. If there was some stuff that came out of the States, but nothing substantial that should not be already covered in the 10% we've accounted for for inflation within the unit rates.

[01:15:16.29] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you very much. I just realised something. We're actually discussing this without a motion at this point in time. I already broke my rule. Very sorry about that. I'm going to move or I'm going to ask perhaps Council Bateman to move. That Council received this report for information.

[01:15:30.00] - Mayor Maja Tait

Second.

[01:15:31.01] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

The Council received this report for information. Do you have a preference? Yeah.

[01:15:36.00] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

Please. That Council direct staff to prepare for long term borrowing a cent voting opportunity, to be conducted in combination with the 2026 general local election.

[01:15:47.09] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you very much, Council.

[01:15:48.24] - Mayor Maja Tait

Second, Tate.

[01:15:50.14] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Seconded by Mayor Tate. Okay, any further comments on the motion on the floor?

[01:15:58.08] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

Well, as the mover, I'll just I just want to reiterate that we have seen a really good case for waiting until 2026. All the logic is right there in the staff report, and I think There's still a lot of process ahead of us, particularly as groups organise for both yes and very likely no. We need to go through this really significant process. This is indeed our second opportunity to get the funding to build out this project. We said no in 2006, and I really look forward to a lively debate as we lead up to the next general election. Thank you.

[01:16:47.20] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Council Bateman, I don't know if you have any answer to this question. Do you know what the cost was in 2008?

[01:16:54.27] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

I don't have that number, but I do have the 2014 number in that business case study, and it indicated then, I think it was around \$3 million. That was just for the charters to Phillips component. But I think it's further evidence that unless... Costs are going nowhere but up.

[01:17:17.16] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you very much. All right. At this point in time, I'd like to make just a very quick comment.

[01:17:24.01] - Mayor Maja Tait

Sorry, Councillor. Point of order, Councillor Chair St. Pierre. I was a seconder to that, so do I want to get to speak next?

[01:17:33.03] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Please go ahead.

[01:17:34.09] - Mayor Maja Tait

Can I clarify? What I heard Councillor Bateman say was option three, the referendum to be held in October 26 in combination with the general local election, but I'm looking at... Okay, the screen just changed. Okay, that's correct, right? It had... Maybe I'm losing my mind. I thought I saw option two on the screen, so that's why I was confused. It is option three with the general election. And yeah, I really appreciate the staff report, just listing out the options, the pros and the cons. I did have a concern, though, that without indicating that we have funding, and I guess this is a question back to Mr. Carter on the first part is we're applying for the grant, we've made that resolution, but we cannot indicate to the funder that we actually have our share. So would that hamper or hinder our ability to actually be successful with the grant because it would be contingent on this referendum? We don't have that share yet.

[01:18:48.27] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you, Mayor Tate. To staff?

[01:18:51.16] - Director of Engineering Mr. Carter

Yeah, through the chair to Mayor Tate, it will not make an impact because the resolution for council to commit to their share of the project, including cost overruns is indicated for when the project is realised, which is earmarked for the end of 2027. So the referendum answer and our commitment to the share of the project would be known prior to us actually having to commit the funds.

[01:19:16.07] - Mayor Maja Tait

Okay. Thank you for that clarity. Okay. So in that case, October 2026, it is. And further to what Councillor Bateman said, there are some more knowns that will be available by that time. As well as public feedback. And I guess the only concern is that everything seems to increase in price over time, but it is what it is. Thank you.

[01:19:43.13] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you, Mayor Tate. Councillor Any further comments?

[01:19:47.21] - Councillor Al Beddows

Yeah, I was a little confused there why we're on option three, because I was leaning towards option two, which was it does cost an extra \$39,000. But as soon as we know what the grant outcome is, to me, it would be best to go sooner than later to wring it out another year. It may be that long anyways, but that option, too, was for talking about saving 39,000, which I understand is still a substantial amount of money, but I think it'd be important for us to move sooner than that if we knew the outcome of what the federal government is going to kick our way.

[01:20:38.01] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

I have a further question for staff based on Council Beto's question or comment. Based on the timelines that we're anticipating in terms of getting information back on the grant, what would be the

delay? What would be the difference between holding a referenda immediately following the receipt of the information and waiting for the general election? What is the time span? Are we looking at six months, a year?

[01:21:03.21] - Director of Finance

Through the chair to council, for example, we find out the grant status January, around this time, 2026, will be just in time for the spring '27 issue. So it takes just about one year. So if we wait October, 2026, to do the referendum, so that means probably we'll secure the finding the fall issue, 2027. So 6-9 months difference.

[01:21:44.08] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Yeah. Thank you. It's a 6-9 month difference if we call a referendum on its own? Yeah. Thank you. I just hope that helps a little bit for everyone.

[01:21:55.17] - Director of Finance

Just to add, just to make things clear. The timing difference between the two options, either early 2026 or October 2026, is the same year, right?

[01:22:08.10] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Still the same year?

[01:22:09.01] - Director of Finance

Yeah, a few months difference.

[01:22:12.07] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Okay. Further question for staff. My understanding was that there's a number of different factors. One is that the public needs to have a chance to think about this, look at the information, receive information, basically have some input into this question because we're asking them to pay. That's one thing. To some degree, the sooner the better on that. But I've also heard from staff, and this is why I think I'm leaning a little bit towards the option that Councillor Baten has suggested, but I want to clarify things, that the further we get into the project, the more likelihood of receiving other grants, potentially additional DCC, potentially other revenues besides. Am I understanding this correctly? Which means that we would have potentially a more exact referendum question that would more clearly reflect our actual reality? Am I understanding correctly?

[01:23:08.29] - Chief Administrative Officer Ms. Grey

Maybe I'll start, Councillor St. Pierre, Deputy Mayor St. Pierre. For sure, I think that was the idea with not all the grants let you stack. The fact that this grant stream allows you to stack potentially other grants, and with the pending federal election happening, usually they do issue grant streams as part of their We've just been elected and we want to make people happy. So I'm not unconvinced that there won't be other applicable grant streams and potentially even other grant streams. I have to say, active transportation is the priority for granting money. But as we know, sometimes other monies come up, it'll allow us more time to negotiate with the province and confirm if they have any grant streams that we're potentially eligible for. So yeah, the more time that passes, obviously, the more knowns and the more realistic and transparent we can be with the public when it comes time to click yes or no on that ballot.

[01:24:06.25] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you for that. Any further comments, Council Beddows, Mayor Tate?

[01:24:15.07] - Councillor Al Beddows

Hearing none, Council. Thanks for that comment from staff. That has cleared it up quite a bit. I'm leaning more towards this option three, but I understand we're just directing council to start the process, so I'm okay with what's before us on the screen.

[01:24:36.01] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Any further comments, Council Bateman? No? Okay, then I'll call the...

[01:24:39.17] - Chief Administrative Officer Ms. Grey

Sorry, just one point of clarification. If there's nothing to stop Council from a on the road later on this year, if information changes to potentially provide different directions to staff, I guess, just to throw that out there as a caution, is if something does change between now and October as we're prepping for the referendum. As you see, there's a lot of moving pieces There's a lot of layers to this. The public information piece is going to be a huge part of this to make sure public fully understands the pros and the cons and all of that. So as that's changing, there always could be opportunities for council to provide an updated direction to staff. Just throwing that out there.

[01:25:15.26] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you very much for that. And before I call the question, I'm just going to mention that the numbers in terms of what it will actually cost residents, as opposed to the millions of dollars, is probably much more useful, much more real. Millions of dollars scares the hell out of most people. \$100 or \$150 to have better transportation through our roads might be more appealing. I don't believe it's... We're not lying to anyone here. We're just trying to be very clear what's actually going to cost them, specifically. I think that's where our attention should be focused, because otherwise, they're just very scary numbers, \$49 million. Come on. Anyway, I will now call the question all in favour. Hearing none opposed. The motion carries. Thank you very much. Moving on to... Well, we're never getting out of this, are we? 9. 1. Revenue Anticipation Boring Bylaw number 921-2025. This is that Council give first, second, and third reading to bylaw cited as Revenue Anticipation Boring Bylaw number 921-2025. I'm looking for a mover.

[01:26:22.11] - Mayor Maja Tait

Move, Tate.

[01:26:23.19] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Move by Mayor Tate, second by Council Bateman. Anything to say, Mayor Tate?

[01:26:30.14] - Mayor Maja Tait

No, we do this every year.

[01:26:33.12] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

I know.

[01:26:35.03] - Mayor Maja Tait

Thank you.

[01:26:37.08] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Council Bateman?

[01:26:38.17] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

Yeah.

[01:26:39.05] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Okay. It's calling the question. All in favour? None opposed. Motion carries. Thank you very much. On to new business. Any new business?

[01:26:49.01] - Mayor Maja Tait

Yes, please. Chair St. Pierre. Thank you. I have a item with a request to waive notice that I've put on the screen here. Process-wise, I'll just read it out, a request to waive notice tonight, and that is whereas the Edward Milne Community School Wolverines have made it to the 3A Boys Basketball provincial Championship for the first time in SUK history, and whereas the upcoming tournament will take place on March fourth to eighth, 2025 in Langley, BC. Therefore, due to the In our time frame, this leaves the team with limited means to fundraise and no available funding from the school district to be available. Therefore, be it resolved that the council direct staff to provide a sponsorship to the MCS will raise the amount of \$1,000 for this event with the funds to come from Council contingency.

[01:27:45.28] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Okay, so I'm looking for a seconder. Council Bateman, thank you very much. Mayor Tate, would you like to speak to the motion further?

[01:27:54.04] - Mayor Maja Tait

I guess I just need clarity from our corporate officer. Do you need a motion to waive notice first Or have I done that in both? Thank you. I reviewed the procedure by law, and I'm happy to essentially take task of consent that no council member has any issues with this motion being presented. So I'm happy for you to go forward. Okay, thank you. I know that we have a grant procedure in place as well as sponsorship, but the timing of this, it just doesn't align with the group. It is a historic moment. We're very proud of the MCS teams. They've been working very hard to get to this point in time. So it's just because of the tight turnaround and their ability, they've never asked as far as I know, for funding, but they have a very short window of time to pull this all together. And the team that travels will incur some costs for the tournament, hotel and everything in the like. So that's why I'm bringing this forward. It will help offset some We love that. And we don't do this all the time, but we do do it when our youth make milestone achievements like this.

[01:29:07.26] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you very much. Council Bateman as a seconder, anything further?

[01:29:12.10] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

No, it's one of those feel good moments. Feel good? All right.

[01:29:15.29] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Go, Wolverines. All in favour? Seeing none opposed, the motion carries. Thank you very much.

[01:29:21.14] - Mayor Maja Tait

Thank you.

[01:29:23.10] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

All right. Just one quick question for IT. My screen's gone dead, so I can no longer see Council Beddows and Mayor Tate. If there's anything you'd be That would be great. Thank you. Moving on to Correspondence Requiring Action. We have Town of view, royal letter in Opposition to Ministry changes the BC Building Code. This was a request for discussion by Mayor Tate. Mayor Tate?

[01:29:45.10] - Mayor Maja Tait

This is an item here that I thought we could receive and maybe forward to the land use committee once it forms. So maybe just a motion to receive and to forward to the land use committee for discussion.

[01:30:00.16] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Thank you. So I'm looking for a seconder. Seconded by Council Bateman. All in favour? Seeing none opposed, the motion carries. Thank you. Okay, and now we have Communities in Bloom request to register, also requested by Mayor Tate. Mayor Tate.

[01:30:14.20] - Mayor Maja Tait

Yes, thank you. We have in the past been a solid participant in Community in Blooms. Council may recall seeing banners where we have the Five Bloom status. It's While I would desire us to participate in this, the intention of Community in Blooms is that it's a community-led initiative. And in the past several years, it's fallen on our staff to do all that work. So it's one thing to do that to get it up and rolling, but it should be handed over to a community group. So I guess I'm speaking out of turn, but the same motion would be that we receive for information and forward to the community Economic Development Committee for consideration to participate in a future year. So not this year, but in a future year, pending that committee discussion.

[01:31:14.01] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

You. Do I have a second Council Bateman, thank you very much. I'll comment myself before we move any further that I smell a service agreement on this one. I think it would be appropriate to find a community group that was willing to take this on, but they may need additional capacity to take it on. And this is where the district could potentially help out without necessarily be full in. But any other comments, Council Beddows and Mayor Tate?

[01:31:39.22] - Mayor Maja Tait

No, it is a lot of work, but it's a lot of fun. It's a great way to showcase the community. But I think that's likely why we haven't had anyone step forward yet, because there is a lot of work involved, but it's a lot of fun and it's something to really consider. Thank you.

[01:31:54.20] - Councillor Al Beddows

We all support this motion, Council Beddows.

[01:31:58.04] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Okay, so I believe the motion is to receive for information and pass on to the Act Debt Committee?

[01:32:03.08] - Mayor Maja Tait

Yes.

[01:32:04.11] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Okay. All in favour? Seeing none opposed, the motion carries. Thank you very much.

[01:32:09.17] - Mayor Maja Tait

Thank you.

[01:32:10.18] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

Okay, so the National Farmers Union, Region 8 BC, supports the Foodlands Access Service Initiative of the Capital Region district, requested by Council Saint Pierre. The reason that I brought this forward was because we had a lot of correspondence in opposition, and it was from one source, But I thought that this was a good thing to actually make sure everybody heard because it's actually from a larger group that supports farmers across BC. Good morning to all who may be interested, please find attached the NFUBC letter of Support for the Foodlands Access Service Initiative. The NFU is an organisation of and for farmers and farmworkers in Canada, working together to democratically achieve agricultural policies that ensure dignity and income security for farmers and farmworkers while protecting and enhancing rural environments for future generations. The NFU advocates for a food system on the principles of food sovereignty, which calls for a food system that values farmers and what they grow, rebuild relationships between food producers and those who eat, reclaims local decision making about food production and environmental protection, and strengthens connexions between people on land and empowering communities and citizens to make intentional decisions based on local needs and conditions to ensure a resilient and sustainable future.

[01:33:21.25] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

The NFU collaborates locally, nationally, and internationally to research, educate, and share effective solutions that lead to a better world for farm families and the local communities. Thank you and congratulations on the great work being done in your community. Just a strong endorsement, but there was a lot of other information out there. Council Bateman.

[01:33:40.10] - Councillor Jeff Bateman

Yeah, well, I'll be happy to share. Again, I did this last week that At the CRD board meeting on February 12th, the Foodland Access Service was approved. It had gone through an alternate approval process. There were only 29 votes against. What this means for SUC residents is an addition of \$1. 43 per resident on their 2026 tax bills. That works out to about \$320,000 to launch the service annually, and it will stay at that amount for the first five years with the opportunity in year five, I believe it is, for another property to come online. They're starting with Bear Hill Regional Park, which is a CRD-owned piece of land land, and they're creating, I think, 14, 16 plots and getting young farmers or new farmers, I should say, onto that land to learn and educate and move forward. The programme will also include,

I'll add here, that when that next piece of property is to be identified, the CRD will canvas municipalities to explore potential sites, so Sook might be able to get in on that. Sook Farmers will be able to participate in a landmatch programme through the BC Landmatching Organisation. It's an interesting service, and it's very much rooted in a whole series of documents dating back to 2016, the Regional Food and Agricultural Strategy, Regional Growth Strategy, Regional Foodlands Access Programme, feasibility Study, and business case have all been proud of that.

[01:35:26.29] - Councillor Jeff Bateman
It's great news for food security in And CRD.

[01:35:31.11] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Thank you, Council Beatman. Moving on. Sorry. For discussion, I don't think we need to receive this information or anything. I just really wanted it out there. So that's that. So item 11. 4, Daniel Tsai, request for merging lane on Highway 14, request for discussion by Council Bateman. Council Bateman.

[01:35:51.21] - Councillor Jeff Bateman
Okay. So this is Mr. Tsai is the owner of Daniel's Market in in Sassinos. He has shared with us his correspondence with the former Minister of Transportation, Rob Fleming. He launched a bit of a campaign last summer to get a merge lane added in front of his business. Across the street is Mrs. Luehr's Farmhouse, of course. The feeling there is that that's a bit of a safety issue. A centre merging lane in front of those two businesses might be significant. Mr. Tsai has made a number of arguments in favour of the merge lane. He claims it is low cost. Major safety improvement for everyone. I know from personal experience, a bit of an adventure turning into Daniels market from the westbound lane, and it's a It's challenging to move back into traffic out of the market. I'll just add that, since I do take my time going through these things, don't I? Minister Fleming responded with a statement that Such project would involve a significant financial commitment for the property acquisition and drainage improvements to widen the highway. We have no plans right now, but I have shared your suggestion with Ministry staff. He also suggests that Mr. Tsai share his feedback the district.

[01:37:31.05] - Councillor Jeff Bateman
I have brought this forward tonight with the hope that through the MOU meetings with district ministry staff, that our district staff can add this particular item to the rather long list of wishes and wants for Highway 14, and that it may... Yeah, just that it be part of this wishlist, if indeed it isn't already.

[01:37:57.13] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Just to confirm, would this be a request for this to Is that part of the future ?

[01:38:01.13] - Councillor Jeff Bateman
No, it's to be received for information with the knowledge that Mr. Carter and his team have heard and read this letter.

[01:38:09.29] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Thank you very much. Do we get a motion for that one? Seventh. Okay. Seconded by myself. All in favour? Seeing none opposed, the motion carries. Okay. 11. 5. Caroline Bateman, request that the district of Sook leave social media platform X, a request of her discussion by myself.

[01:38:32.26] - Councillor Jeff Bateman
Now, I'm going to have to recuse myself, which, of course, means we won't have quorum.

[01:38:40.13] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Perhaps we can discuss this at a later time, because I believe that Ms. Moog had answers to this particular question and would be the staff person most involved, and she's not able to be with us.

[01:38:54.27] - Mayor Maja Tait
I would just suggest a motion to postpone this to a future council meeting.

[01:39:02.15] - Councillor Jeff Bateman
If I may.

[01:39:04.02] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
If we don't have quorum, we can't do a motion.

[01:39:06.19] - Mayor Maja Tait
So staff will just bring this forward to an upcoming agenda. Right, of course.

[01:39:11.12] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Thank you. Moving on to 11. 6. Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, response to South Island municipalities regarding Ecom police dispatch costs. Mayor Tate, take it away.

[01:39:27.02] - Mayor Maja Tait
Thank you, everyone. As you know, we've been following this item for several years now. As you may know, the 10 impacted communities mayors have been gathered to do as much advocacy on this as possible, including a media Scrum at the legislature, letters and meetings, so forth. And this is the response that we've received. So unfortunately, it seems that this year, at least, we're going to need to find those costs and allocate it within our budget. So this is just the letter came. So I just pulled it here. It's disappointing given the rising costs of everything and how they're handling this. But I just felt it deserves some attention here, and that's why I brought it. So reluctantly, motion to receive, please.

[01:40:24.09] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Motion to receive, seconded by Councillor Bateman. I'll make a comment just now, and that's But I don't know if I should or not. Well, we'll see if... Okay, let's put it that way. Council Bateman?

[01:40:42.20] - Councillor Jeff Bateman
Yeah, I'd just like to note that you did bring forward a strong motion last week that we approved. Do you plan to carry forward with that to get it through AVEC and UBCN?

[01:40:55.20] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Absolutely. That'll be moving forward.

[01:40:57.10] - Councillor Jeff Bateman
Okay, good news.

[01:40:59.07] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
The work continues. Ms. Grey?

[01:41:01.26] - Chief Administrative Officer Ms. Grey
Thank you, Deputy Mayor St. Pierre. Just wanted to add, from the staff perspective, I was on a call today with the CIOs for the 10 municipalities because we're also working together in conjunction with the mayors on any communications. We're just circling back and sending, crafting up one more letter to Premier Eby, which will be circulated to the mayor and Deputy Mayor before it goes out, hopefully next week. Again, just highlighting our four as of the review, the fairness, transition funding until the review is complete, and the cell phone levy to actually explore that and do meaningful consultation with the municipalities affected here. More to come on that. But as far as having to include it in the budget, also the other 10 communities. We're all just in the stages of comparing notes right now of how we're going to approach this and obtaining some legal advice on how this could work. To Mayor's point, some municipalities are either putting in the budget and taxing for it, or others are considering using surplus, which is very risky. More information to come from the staff perspective.

[01:42:15.29] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre
Thank you, Ms. Grey. All in favour of receiving for information? Seeing none opposed. Motion carries. Thank you. Nothing was removed from consent. Council Verbal Reports. If it's okay, I think we might hold off on those for tonight just because we're missing so many people, and we were quite thorough last meeting. Okay, so at this point, item 14, our journey to close meeting. This is the Council closed

the meeting to the public pursuant to the following subsection of the committee charter The time being 7: 39. Go on, 7: 39. Okay, and it's being that 91. 1. A. Personal information about an identified individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employer agent of the municipality, or another position appointed by the municipality, C, labour relations or other employee relations, E, the acquisition, disposition, or expropriation of land improvements. If the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality, and M, a matter that under another enactment is such that the public may be excluded from the meeting. And Council Bateman has moved, and I'll second it. All in favour?

[01:43:34.29] - Councillor Al Beddows

A point of order. Do I have to come in another Zoom or do I use this one?

[01:43:40.15] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

I think you should stay on.

[01:43:41.22] - Chief Administrative Officer Ms. Grey

Yeah, please stay on the line.

[01:43:43.11] - Councillor Al Beddows

Okay.

[01:43:44.29] - Deputy Mayor St. Pierre

So I'm going to call the question again. All in favour?