



STAFF REPORT TO THE BOARD

DATE OF REPORT October 20, 2020
MEETING TYPE & DATE Board Meeting of October 28, 2020
FROM: General Manager
Community Services Department
SUBJECT: Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP)
FILE:

PURPOSE/INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to approve two project funding applications under the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP).

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

1. That a grant application in the amount of \$850,000 be submitted to the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program for the Kinsol Trestle Gateway Project.
2. That a grant application in the amount of \$550,000 be submitted to the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program for the South Cowichan Pickleball Complex.

BACKGROUND

The BC Government developed CERIP to help communities recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19, through small-scale infrastructure projects. Funding will not exceed \$1 million per project. The grant applications will be for 100% of the project costs. Deadline for applications is end of day, October 29, 2020. Further details on CERIP are outlined in Attachment A.

ANALYSIS

CVRD staff reviewed a number of potential projects, and recommend the following for approval:

1. **Kinsol Trestle Gateway Project** (under the Destination Development stream of CERIP funding)

The Historic Kinsol Trestle Revitalization Project, completed in 2011, instantly established the Kinsol Trestle as a premium tourist destination on Vancouver Island and a highlight experience of the Cowichan Valley Trail. The historical and cultural interest of the site, panoramic views overlooking the Koksilah River valley and day-trip accessibility from major urban centres on southern Vancouver Island makes visiting the Historic Kinsol Trestle a highly attractive destination for tourists and island residents.

Since its reopening, the Historic Kinsol Trestle has been featured in promotions through regional tourism agencies, by various media outlets, and nationally as a signature feature of The Great Trail (Trans Canada Trail). This exposure has certainly contributed to the trestle now featured as a “must see” destination, with tracked visitations to the site steadily increasing over the past decade; from 87,000 visits in 2012 to over 127,000 in 2019. This continued growth in visits, however, is having a negative spillover into the local Glen Eagles Road neighbourhood as the designated 35 vehicle parking lot is full on a regular basis with a similar number of vehicles or more parking along local roads that otherwise do not provide for street parking to this scale. Concerns from local residents include access and pedestrian safety issues. The trailhead to the Historic Kinsol Trestle also does not currently have a public washroom facility to accommodate the numbers showing up daily and feedback is increasingly noting the portable toilet units on location require more frequent servicing.

The CERIP grant funding program provides the opportunity to invest in major improvements to establish a new gateway to the Historic Kinsol Trestle and Cowichan Valley Trail that will address vehicle traffic visitations and user experience. The proposed project, highlighted as the Kinsol Trestle Gateway Project, will provide for a new 100 vehicle parking lot (inclusive of designated tour bus parking) through development of CVRD’s Taylor Park, which is accessed directly off of Renfrew Road, the main arterial road through North Shawnigan Lake. The park is located directly adjacent to the Cowichan Valley Trail and is a mere 300 metres south of the existing parking lot on Glen Eagles Road. An accessible public washroom featuring green technology, sustainable construction and landscaping features, along with expanded interpretation on local historical and cultural features is included as part of the gateway project. The existing parking lot on Glen Eagles Road would be closed to parking and converted to a passive day use area and efforts would be made with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to discourage roadside parking within the Glen Eagles Road community associated with Kinsol Trestle destined traffic.

The overall objectives of the gateway project are to appropriately accommodate destination-oriented traffic to the Historic Kinsol Trestle and reduce impacts of such traffic on local secondary roads within the vicinity of the trestle and Cowichan Valley Trail in Shawnigan Lake. Completion of the project would be through the CVRD’s Regional Parks & Trails Program, with ongoing annual costs to maintain a public washroom building and larger parking lot funded through budget function 280 – Regional Parks. The location and layout of the Kinsol Trestle Gateway Project aims to reduce existing trestle/trail visitor conflict with the local residential area and alleviate current use pressures on secondary neighbourhood roads.

The estimated value of the Kinsol Trestle Gateway Project is \$850,000. This includes detailed design, construction, site furnishings, and consultant fees.

Item	Description	Cost
Washroom Facilities	New accessible washroom inclusive of hydro, well and disposal field	\$345,000
New parking area and access off of Renfrew Road	Gravel parking for up to 100 vehicles, bus parking, landscaping	\$350,000
Trail connection to Cowichan Valley Trail and Interpretive Features	Accessible pathway from parking area and washroom facility to the Cowichan Valley Trail. Design/install heritage and cultural signage.	\$25,000
Existing parking lot conversion to day use area	Gravel and grassed area for passive picnic use with picnic tables and shade trees.	\$50,000
Project management, consultants, permit fees.	Design completion details for washroom, parking area, septic, well, hydro service	\$80,000
TOTAL PROJECT:		\$850,000

2. South Cowichan Pickleball Complex (under the Community Economic Resilience stream of CERIP funding)

A group of local residents have made presentations to the Kerry Park Recreation Centre (KPRC) Commission and the CVRD Electoral Area Services Committee to raise awareness of their sport, and advocate for a dedicated outdoor pickleball court complex to meet the growing needs of the community. The group has continued to build momentum in the community by creating a registered non-profit society called the South Cowichan Pickleball Club (SCPC), has had on-going conversations with the CVRD Parks and CVRD South Cowichan Recreation Division, local service clubs and local players within our community. Recent correspondence to the KPRC Commission in July 2020, asked the Commission to consider including the construction of a 6-court dedicated pickleball complex into next year’s budget. The KPRC Commission passed a motion to include this as a supplemental budget item for the Draft 2021 Budget for Function 411 – Kerry Park Recreation. Further, staff were directed to apply for grant opportunities between now and March 2021 to offset requisition required, and fundraising.

The CVRD Regional Recreation Strategic Plan states that “Recreation is continually evolving and requires providers to remain current on trends”, and that “Pickleball continues to emerge as an activity of choice” (pg.37). Pickleball is considered to be the fastest growing sport in North America and has been recognized as a low-impact exercise that fosters social connections. The sport is very popular amongst populations of 55+ in age. In the 2016 Census, 42% of the CVRD’s population fell into this age category and it’s anticipated this age group will grow by an additional 34% over the next 10 years.

The South Cowichan Pickleball Complex would consist of the following:

Item	Description	Cost
Newly Constructed Courts	6-free play pickleball courts with fencing	\$300,000
Trails/landscaping around complex	Connect trails with existing trails located behind complex to allow for easy pedestrian connectivity	\$50,000
Parking Area	Create gravel parking area to accommodate participants utilizing new complex as well as additional parking for current tennis courts	\$50,000
Washroom Facilities	New construction of washroom facilities onsite for easy access	\$150,000
TOTAL PROJECT:		\$550,000

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

100% of the project funding will come from the CERIP grant (if successful).

COMMUNICATION CONSIDERATIONS

20 working days' notice of publication of any formal communications materials or public events relating to the approved project must be provided to the appropriate CERIP contact.

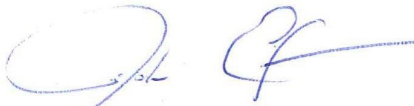
STRATEGIC/BUSINESS PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

Improvements to the Kinsol Trestle area are included in the Parks and Trails Master Plan. Development of Pickleball is included in the Regional Recreation Strategic Plan.

Referred to (upon completion):

- Communications & Engagement
- Community Services (*Cowichan Community Centre, Cowichan Lake Recreation, South Cowichan Recreation, Arts & Culture, Emergency Management, Facilities & Transit*)
- Corporate Services (*Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legislative Services, Procurement*)
- Engineering Services (*Environmental Services, Water Management, Recycling & Waste Management*)
- Land Use Services (*Community Planning, Development Services, Inspection & Enforcement, Economic Development, Parks & Trails*)

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Reviewed for form and content and approved for submission to the Committee:

Resolution:

Manager, Legislative Services

Financial Considerations:

Manager, Finance

Chief Administrative Officer's Comments / Concurrence



Brian Carruthers
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) – Guide / Information Overview