

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

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Geoff Garbutt	Jordan Wall	Michelle Mason
Chief Administrative Officer	Chief Administrative Officer	Chief Administrative Officer
City of Courtenay	Town of Comox	Village of Cumberland

Dear Chief Administrative Officers:

Re: Direct Action on Housing and Regional Transportation

Thank you for including the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) on your upcoming Council agenda. I look forward to introducing two important initiatives: Housing and Transportation.

Direct Action on Housing - Safe, affordable and inclusive housing is a critical component of healthy communities and housing affordability is one of the most significant challenges facing our community. It impacts the economy, social wellbeing and overall livability of the Comox Valley.

Population growth combined with significant price and rent increases in recent years have exacerbated housing affordability challenges. Specifically, there is a demonstrated need for affordable, non-market rental housing for families, seniors, and singles who cannot afford market rental housing.

The CVRD believes local government has a critical role to play in addressing the issue and is advancing a whole-of-community solution that grows affordable housing in a sustainable, collaborative and proactive manner. It includes:

- Creating an arm's length Housing Corporation to support the development and operation of new affordable non-market rental housing to complement the efforts of the non-profit and private sectors.
- Helping to build capacity of local organizations and provide strategic investments to strengthen and accelerate their efforts.
- Develop a Non-Market Housing Master Plan to unlock new development opportunities by connecting available lands with housing organizations.

The Comox Valley Regional District respectfully acknowledges the land on which it operates is on the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

Regional Transportation - A key goal of the Comox Valley's Regional Growth Strategy is to develop an efficient and affordable multi-modal transportation network that connects the Comox Valley as a whole. Plans for active transportation and community mobility set the stage for why having an integrated transportation system that works for getting around the region as a whole makes sense. While the CVRD manages public transit as a region, there is no regional service to prioritize and take action on other non-vehicle forms of regional transportation, like active transportation. Also, transportation planning is best undertaken as a system that considers all jurisdictions and doesn't stop at local government boundaries. We all travel across boundaries to get to work and school, do grocery shopping, and play.

The CVRD Board is looking to amend the existing Transit Service to become the Regional Transportation Service, allowing the CVRD to approach multimodal transportation on a regional scale.

I will speak to both of these topics at your upcoming Council meeting, and describe the next steps that include conducting an Alternative Approval Process to authorize the proposed bylaw changes needed.

Sincerely,



James Warren

Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Rachel Parker, Corporate Officer, Village of Cumberland
Adriana Proton, Manager of Legislative Services, City of Courtenay
Shelly Russwurm, Director of Corporate Services, Town of Comox