



- **E&N Trail Top Bridge Crossing to Despard Avenue Parksville Project**
- **2025 Biodiversity Plan**
- **Cowichan Valley Regional District Letter to Minister of Transportation and Transit**

March 18th, 2025

Follow Up to our March 11th Presentation

A ReCap:

- With gratitude that the Nanaimo Regional District Hospital Board discussions about the concern of tax payer abilities to pay that they reduced the planned tax acquisition increase from 28.2% to 21%;
- Hopes that the same mindset will carry over to the RDN Board's decision making when adopting the Amended 2025-2029 Financial Plan;
- That RDN Utilities Infrastructure Expansion and Renewal capital cost of \$295.9 million is a priority;
- The RDN Tax Base traditionally has carried \$250-300 million in Capital Spending over a 5 year period and currently \$599.9 million for the hospital and \$562.5 million for the RDN that non-essential capital expenditures need to be removed or delayed to beyond 2029;

E & N Trail Top Bridge Crossing to Despard Ave

1) Enhancement of Regional Park Lands

- The current Financial Plan identifies \$56,204,602 for Capital Expenditures for a number of projects and acquisitions for Regional Parks. The acquisition and enhancement of park lands that are not already **contractually committed** should be moved beyond 2025-2029.
- The proposed expansion of the E & N Trail Top Bridge Crossing to Despard Avenue Parksville Project Update is at a suggested expense of \$763,163. Though it does not seem to appear in the Financial Plan you are receiving a report on this today. It should not be considered prior to 2030.

2025 Parks Biodiversity Plan

- 2025 Parks Biodiversity Plan proposal is an example of how the RDN gets into spending problems. Do not proceed without knowing the crucial long-term costs over the 1-5 year window.
- Do Not put this into the plan to be discussed later because the odds are that it will not be discussed further and will be treated as already sanctioned.

Cowichan Valley Regional District Letter to Minister of Transportation and Transit

The letter as written may be interpreted by the Minister of Transportation and Transit that the RDN is in favor to expand transit services between the Capital Regional District, Cowichan Valley Regional District and the Regional District of Nanaimo by 2025 without being subject to reviewing financial implications and ensuring the project is financially feasible.

This is an example of how the RDN gets into spending problems. Do not proceed without knowing the crucial long-term costs over the 1-5 year window. Do not put it into the plan to be discussed later because there is the risk of it not being discussed further and may be interpreted as already being sanctioned.

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- The letter should be redrafted so it is not interpreted as the project will move forward without certain conditions, in particular all financial implications to your Taxpayers, up front and long term.

On Behalf of Your Taxpayers Thank You

- For allowing the time to present our concerns
- For starting to put **Your** Taxpayers' ability to pay in your minds
- For realizing the current Financial Plan is NOT Sustainable
- Acknowledging that our Sovereign Nation is in Economic Turmoil.
- And therefore are willing to make **substantial changes to the current Financial Plan** by delaying unnecessary projects and not inserting new ones.