



**District of  
North Saanich**

***STAFF REPORT***

To: Tim Tanton  
Chief Administrative Officer

Date: September 30, 2019

From: Eymond Toupin  
Director of Infrastructure Services

Re: **Scoter Trail North Rehabilitation Project – Additional Comments/Items from Public Consultation**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council direct staff to:

- 1) Install 3 to 4 benches along the trail as part of the construction contract; and
- 2) Purchase and install bike racks at the two extremities of the North Scoter Trail following the completion of the trail upgrade.

**STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS:**

This matter relates to the following Council strategic priorities:

***Protect and Enhance Rural, Agricultural, Heritage, Marine and Environmental Resources***

***Maintain a Safe and Healthy Community***

***Maintain a Strong Sense of Community***

***Ensure Strong Leadership, Fiscal Responsibility and Transparent Government***

**BACKGROUND:**

In relation to the Scoter Trail North Rehabilitation Project – Public Consultation Summary and Next Steps discussion at the August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Regular Meeting, Council resolved the following:

305 That Council direct staff to report back on costs of the following additional comments from the public consultation:

- Request for additional facilities such as benches, washrooms, bike racks, picnic tables, garbage bins and parking spaces;
- Request that project accommodate beach access for horse riding;
- Request that the natural shoreline, flora and fauna be preserved or restored as much as possible; and
- Request for easy beach access and parking facilities for kayakers.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Benches**

Benches could be incorporated at certain locations along the section of trail to be rehabilitated. The costs of supplying and installing benches along the trail would be in the order of \$5,000 to \$10,000 per bench. Staff would suggest the provision of 3 to 4 benches along this approximately 300 m long section would be appropriate (i.e. approximately 100 m apart).

### **Washrooms**

The District does not provide washroom facilities for most of its parks, trails and beach accesses due to the limited resources available to maintain them. Portable washroom facilities are already currently provided at Pat Bay Park which is located at the south end of the South Scoter Trail. Staff does not recommend providing additional washroom facilities for the north section of the trail due to the additional maintenance costs and the lack of a suitable location for their installation in the vicinity of the north section of the trail.

### **Bike Racks**

Bike racks are a relatively low cost item that could be added to the construction contract or later provided by the District near the two extremities of the North Scoter Trail. Staff recommend including their provision by the District following the completion of the trail rehabilitation.

### **Picnic Tables**

The provision of picnic tables would require sufficient areas of level ground for their installation and use. Due to the topography, there are few areas where these could be provided in the vicinity of the north section of the trail. The most likely location for their installation would be in the level areas already used for parking near the north end of the trail. As parking in this area is already limited, staff would recommend against the provision of picnic tables.

### **Garbage Bins**

Similar to washroom facilities, the provision of garbage receptacles presents a significant maintenance burden and cost to the District and is only provided in select locations. Staff would not recommend the provision of garbage receptacles for the north section of the trail.

### **Parking Spaces**

There are some limited areas available along West Saanich Road for parking in the vicinity of the north section of the trail primarily consisting of pullouts along the edge of the road and there are few means of providing additional parking spaces within the right-of-way in this area due to topography and existing trees. Some limited regrading may be possible in the vicinity of the north trail access to potentially provide additional parking area. This will be investigated as part of the design and incorporated to the extent practical. Parking is currently available at Pat Bay Park and at Jubilee Park near the south end of the trail. The development of parking facilities was not envisioned to be part of the trail rehabilitation project and is not proposed to be included at this time.

### Beach Access for Horse Riding

The north trail access will have a gentle grade to the beach which could accommodate access for a variety of uses including kayaking and horses. The shoreline rehabilitation option selected for the project (Option 1) will also generally make the shoreline more accessible than the other rehabilitation options considered.

### Preservation and restoration of the natural shoreline, fauna and flora

The overall intent is to preserve, to the extent possible, the natural flora and fauna along the trail and shoreline. This will include the preservation of as many trees as possible in the design and construction of the trail. Where appropriate and suitable, the trail design may need to be modified to minimize disturbance to the existing trees. The proposed shoreline restoration (Option 1) will involve the placement of suitably sized beach material to protect the shoreline and encourage its naturalization. Suitable vegetation (grasses) will be incorporated into the design and planted as part of the shoreline rehabilitation.

### Request for Additional Accesses along the South Scoter Trail

Although not included in Council motion 305, a few participants requested additional accesses to the south portion of the Scoter Trail. Specifically stairway or other access improvements at Tapping Road and at the trail extension of Sangster Road right-of-way. Residents have created informal accesses at these locations which are steeply graded. The development of formal accesses at these locations would involve significant expense as stairs would likely be required to provide safe access. These locations are also outside the proposed project limits for the North Scoter Trail.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

A budget of \$1.5 million has been set aside in 2019 for the trail and shoreline rehabilitation project. The addition of park benches and bike racks represents up to approximately \$30,000 in additional costs.

### **OPTIONS:**

Council can direct staff to:

- 1) Install 3 to 4 benches along the trail as part of the construction contract; and
- 2) Purchase and install bike racks at the two extremities of the North Scoter Trail following the completion of the trail upgrade.
- 3) Other.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

No legal implications are anticipated.

### **INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS:**

None anticipated.



**SUMMARY/CONCLUSION:**

One of Council's Strategic Priorities is the rehabilitation of Scoter Trail North. During the public consultation recently completed, the participants requested certain amenities be included a few of which can relatively easily be incorporated into the project. Staff submits the following recommendation.


**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council direct staff to:

- 1) Install 3 to 4 benches along the trail as part of the construction contract; and
- 2) Purchase and install bike racks at the two extremities of the North Scoter Trail following the completion of the trail upgrade.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

  
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Eymond Toupin  
Director of Infrastructure Services

  
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Tim Tanton  
Chief Administrative Officer