

AGENDA INFORMATION	
☐ Regular Meeting	Date: _____
☐ Other:	Date: _____

	PC	
Dept. Manager	GM/ Director	CAO

The District of North Vancouver

REPORT TO COUNCIL

May 19, 2026
File: ENGIPG-964173360-173476

AUTHOR: Peter Cohen – General Manager, Engineering Infrastructure Services

SUBJECT: Access to Deep Cove – near-term active transportation considerations

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) THAT Council receive the Report for information;
- (ii) AND THAT Council endorse staff undertaking limited, preliminary work to explore potential low-cost, interim active transportation improvements between Parkgate Village and Deep Cove, that can be delivered in the near-term without prejudice to the long-term Spirit Trail Eastern Extension vision or alignment.

REASON FOR REPORT:

Completing the Spirit Trail to Deep Cove continues to be a priority; however, until senior government funding is secured, Council is being asked whether staff should explore modest, cost-conscious ways to improve active transportation connections in the area.

SUMMARY:

The Spirit Trail Eastern Extension remains a long-term, Council-supported vision to create a safe and comfortable active transportation corridor across the North Shore. Staff continue to recognize the importance of completing the Spirit Trail to Deep Cove; however, progress further east of its current terminus at Berkley Road remains constrained by the continued absence of senior government funding availability – a critical project requirement as directed by Council (i.e. minimum 50% externally funded). This fiscal reality limits the ability to advance further discussions with Council and the community on matters such as route option selection, timelines, treatments, and impacts until greater funding certainty is achieved.

At the same time, staff continue to hear consistent concerns regarding limited transportation choices to Deep Cove, particularly during the peak summer season when congestion is highest. While a meaningful alternative of driving to Deep Cove may not be fully addressed without delivery of the Spirit Trail, there may be opportunities to explore modest, low-cost, interim measures that could improve comfort and safety for a portion of users and contribute to incremental congestion relief.

This Report seeks Council's direction on whether staff should undertake preliminary work to explore such interim options, recognizing that any future Spirit Trail alignment, scope, and delivery would continue to be subject to separate Council decisions, external funding availability, and comprehensive public engagement.

BACKGROUND:

Council has consistently supported the Spirit Trail as a cornerstone of the District's active transportation network over many years. The eastern extension to Deep Cove remains a key component of this vision; however, delivery of this portion is dependent on securing a significant level of senior government funding and aligning the project with broader fiscal priorities. As reported previously, the current funding environment continues to present challenges to advancing the project in the near term given the funding requirement that a minimum of 50% must be funded from external sources.

EXISTING POLICY:

The recommendation to pursue an interim connection is supported by several long-standing District frameworks, including the OCP, the OCP Action Plan, the Community Energy and Emissions Plan, the Transportation Plan and the Bicycle Master Plan.

ANALYSIS:Current context

Despite ongoing advocacy, there has been no material improvement in the availability or timing of senior government funding opportunities sufficient to advance the Spirit Trail Eastern Extension in the near-term. At the same time, traffic congestion, safety concerns, and limited travel choices between Parkgate Village and Deep Cove persist, particularly during summer months when recreational travel peaks.

Staff recognize that the Spirit Trail, once completed, would best address these issues; however, its implementation will take time and remains contingent on external funding. As such, schedule certainty on delivering the Spirit Trail Eastern Extension vision is challenging to predict at this time based on Council's established project criteria. In the interim, there may be value in examining whether smaller-scale, lower-cost measures could modestly improve conditions for some users, without foreclosing future Spirit Trail delivery.

Interim options – seeking Council direction to explore options and report back

The purpose of this Report is not to identify or advance a specific solution, design concept, or routing for the Spirit Trail Eastern Extension. Rather, staff are seeking Council's support to undertake limited preliminary work to understand whether any feasible, low-cost interim improvements may exist and warrant further consideration to identify a nearer-term connection to Deep Cove. Any options explored by staff, if brought back to Council, would be illustrative in nature and may include considerations such as:

- Substantial use of existing trails, connections or road segments – possibly with localized spot improvements;
- A recognition that the interim connections may not meet a 'comfortable for all' condition (a goal of the Spirit Trail Eastern Extension), which would restrict use for some users; and

- Low cost to the District.

Any potential options identified through this work would be brought back to Council for further consideration and potential endorsement. This short-term exploratory work is expected to be accommodated within existing Engineering Infrastructure Services resources and current work planning.

Financial Impacts:

This Report has no direct financial implications to the District. Exploratory work will be undertaken by existing resources within Engineering Infrastructure Services, within approved work programs. The future report-back to Council, once options have been explored, will include estimated costs and funding approach.

Conclusion:

Staff remain committed to Council's long-term vision of improving active transportation access to Deep Cove; however, current fiscal conditions and funding uncertainties limit the ability to advance major projects such as the Spirit Trail Eastern Extension in the near term. This Report seeks Council's direction on whether limited staff resources should be allocated to explore potential low-cost, interim measures that could modestly improve access and choice for some users to Deep Cove, with any findings to be reported back to Council without prejudice to long-term plans for the Spirit Trail.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Cohen – General Manager, Engineering Infrastructure Services

REVIEWED WITH:					
☐ Business and Economic	_____	☐ Finance	_____	External Agencies:	
☐ Bylaw Services	_____	☐ Fire Services	_____	☐ Library Board	_____
☐ Clerk's Office	_____	☐ GIS	_____	☐ Museum and Archives	_____
☐ Climate and Biodiversity	_____	☐ Human Resources	_____	☐ NSEM	_____
☐ Communications	_____	☐ Integrated Planning	_____	☐ NS Health	_____
☐ Community Planning	_____	☐ ITS	_____	☐ NVRC	_____
☐ Development Engineering	_____	☐ Parks	_____	☐ RCMP	_____
☐ Development Planning	_____	☐ Real Estate	_____	☐ Other:	_____
☐ Engineering Operations	_____	☐ Review and Compliance	_____		
☐ Environment	_____	☐ Solicitor	_____		
☐ Facilities	_____	☐ Utilities	_____		

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