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The District of North Vancouver INFORMATION REPORT TO COUNCIL

April 11, 2022

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SUBJECT: Livable Deep Cove Next Steps

REASON FOR REPORT:

This report provides Council with information about the next steps staff will take related to the Livable Deep Cove Project.

SUMMARY:

In response to feedback received during the Council Workshop on March 28th, 2022, staff is proceeding with a modest design for the renewal of lower Gallant Avenue as described in the March 15th, 2022 Report to Committee entitled *Livable Deep Cove Project Update*. The flexible design will allow the successful temporary outdoor seating and pedestrian areas in Lower Gallant to be made more permanent but reconfigurable to suit community needs. Proceeding with the design will support public engagement, including an open house, before the summer break. Staff has confirmed that the Province will not support an extension of the \$3.3M grant. In order to meet the grant program requirements of project completion by December 31st, 2023, public engagement and design must begin this spring.

BACKGROUND:

Staff is ready to develop a detailed project plan, initiate public engagement, and begin the design process for the renewal of lower Gallant Avenue in alignment with Council's comments from the July 2021 Regular Meeting of Council and the March 2022 Council Workshop, the goals of the grant program, the community's stated preferences, and Council priorities.

Before the 2022 summer break, the project team will present the preliminary design to residents and local businesses, using a mix of in-person (as permitted) and online engagement tools, including a public open house and/or neighbourhood pop-up displays. This public engagement will be used to ensure the community is aware of the plans, has access to project materials, and has an opportunity to provide feedback on the preliminary design before it is finalized. A key focus of this engagement is to demonstrate how public input to date helped to inform the design decisions on the project.

Staff will also present the project design to the North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (ACDI) and seek feedback to ensure accessibility is appropriately addressed during the project's detailed design phase.

As the design for this project progresses, staff plans to advance other initiatives in the area this year including planning for the eastern section of the Spirit Trail that terminates in Deep Cove, continuing needs-based updates to parking regulations in Deep Cove based on the on-street parking policy, and developing a priority list of pedestrian wayfinding and infrastructure improvements. Pay parking implementation in Panorama Park, which remains subject to Council approval, is currently resourced for design in 2023, public engagement in 2024, and implementation in 2025.

At the March 28th, 2022 Council Workshop, some Council members raised concern about accessibility issues, poor wayfinding and washroom access, and lack of laydown areas for personal watercraft such as kayaks in nearby Panorama and Deep Cove Parks. These types of peripheral issues will be noted as they come up and prioritized through regular capital works program planning.

ANALYSIS:

Timing/Approval Process:

At the March 28th, 2022 Council Workshop, Council indicated support for the project to move forward in order to meet the grant timeline and ensure the District benefits from the senior government grant. Some members of Council expressed concern about the grant-stipulated completion date of December 31st, 2023 (originally December 31st, 2021) and requested staff to seek a grant extension. Staff subsequently followed up with the Province and received confirmation that an additional extension would not be granted.

By initiating detailed design right away, staff intends to be in a position to present the preliminary design to the public and collect feedback before the summer break.

Staff aims to award a construction contract by the end of 2022, which provides the best opportunity to minimize construction impacts to residents and businesses during the summer 2023 peak season. Staff is exploring ways to focus construction in the shoulder seasons and to shorten the construction schedule as much as possible to minimize construction impacts and fatigue. Closing lower Gallant to vehicle traffic during construction by using the Naughton Avenue construction detour may shorten construction duration while also lowering construction costs.

Concurrence:

Project delivery staff is collaborating closely with Transportation, Communications, Properties, Utilities, Streets, Parks, Integrated Planning, Finance and Construction Traffic Management to ensure the Livable Deep Cove project and other planned works in the area are delivered with minimal impacts and in recognition of the unique challenges in the Deep Cove area.

Financial Impacts:

The current preliminary total estimated cost for the Livable Deep Cove project is \$3.6M. Of this amount, approximately \$0.3M is not recoverable under the federal grant. The remaining \$3.3M is fully recoverable under the grant.

Liability/Risk:

If design work and public engagement do not start right away, construction may be delayed which could jeopardize the grant funding.

Public Input:

As described in the March 15th, 2022 report by the Section Manager of Project Delivery, titled Livable Deep Cove Project Update, public engagement will be undertaken to ensure that the Deep Cove community is aware of the plans, and has opportunities to both review and provide feedback on the preliminary design.

Public engagement will occur in June and will use a mix of in-person and online engagement tools, such as a public open house and/or neighbourhood pop-ups, as public health recommendations permit. These activities will be promoted by a range of print and digital communications tactics such as signage, social media, advertising and postcards, to maximize awareness and promote participation in the engagement opportunities.

The public engagement will be at a “Listen and Learn” level on the Public Engagement Spectrum. We will report back to the community about the results of this engagement.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SPECTRUM
Adapted and used with permission from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2 Federation)

Inform	Listen & Learn	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
“We will keep you informed. We will provide information that is timely, accurate, balanced, objective, and easily understood. We will respond to questions for clarification and direct you to sources of additional information.”	“We will listen to you and learn about your plans, views, and issues; and work to understand your concerns, expectations, and ideas.”	“We will keep you informed, and listen to and acknowledge your concerns and aspirations in developing final solutions, and we will report back to you on how your input influenced the decision.”	“We will work with you to ensure your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed, and we will report back on how your input influenced the decision.”	“We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions, and we will incorporate your recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.”	“We will implement what you decide.”

Conclusion:

In response to feedback received during the Council Workshop on March 28th, 2022, staff are proceeding with the project design and will undertake public engagement before the summer break that will offer opportunities for residents, businesses, and the general public to review the design, understand how their input influenced the design and provide comments to the design team. Staff have confirmed that the Province will not support an extension of the \$3.3M grant. In order to meet the grant program requirements of project completion by December 31st, 2023, public engagement and design must begin this spring.

Respectfully submitted,



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GM Engineering, Parks and Facilities

REVIEWED WITH:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk's Office	_____	External Agencies:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Planning	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Library Board	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Engineering	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> NS Health	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Services	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> RCMP	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Operations	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ITS	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> NVRC	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Parks	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitor	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum & Arch.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Environment	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Facilities	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Bylaw Services	_____		
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