



The Trail Phase 2 – Owners Council Appointment Request

Electoral Division: 2/3

File: N/A

Date:	April 8, 2025
Presenter:	Keagan Andrew, Intergovernmental Advisor
Department:	Intergovernmental & Regional Services

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to consider a request from the Rotary Club of Canmore for the County to provide a senior member of Administration to join the Trail Owners Council for Phase 2 of the Trail project. This project seeks to connect the Town of Cochrane to the Town of Canmore by trail, extending the Trans Canada Trail project. The Trail Owners Council will provide decision-making authority on the development, approval, and coordination of the work required to build a trail connecting the two towns.

This report examines the resourcing requirements associated with appointing a senior member of Administration to this organization, and the potential precedent that this would set for County participation with similar organizations. The County received a similar request from the Rotary Club of Cochrane in 2022 to participate in the Ownership Council of Phase 1 of this project, Council reviewed this request in April 2022 and received it for information.

ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive the Trail Phase 2 – Owners Council Appointment Request report for information.

BACKGROUND

On January 30, 2025, Rocky View County Administration met with representatives from the Rotary Club of Cochrane regarding the development of the Trail Phase 2. This project looks to extend the TransCanada Trail from the Town of Cochrane to the Town of Canmore (Attachment A). At this meeting, the Rotary Club of Cochrane requested that the County appoint a senior member of Administration to the Trail Owners Council.

Leadership on this project is divided into two teams, the Core Team and the Trail Owners Council. The Core Team consists of voluntary representatives from local organizations and serves to chair the Trail Owners Council as stewards of the project. The Core Team does not have decision-making authority. The Trail Owners Council will hold decision-making authority on the development, approval, and coordination of the work required to complete this project. Other proposed members of Phase 2 of the Ownership Council include the M.D. of Big Horn, the Town of Cochrane, the Town of Canmore, Alberta Forestry, Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors, and the Stoney Nakoda Nation. External consultant Urban Systems has been retained by the Trail Owners Council to assist in managing the project.

There is currently no proposed route for Phase 2 of this project. The Trail Owners Council intends to work with local landowners and affected jurisdictions to identify the preferred route to achieve this goal.

The Trail Phase 2 – Owners Council Appointment Request

This request mirrors a 2022 request from the Rotary Club of Cochrane to participate in the Trail Phase 1 Owners Council. This request was reviewed by Council on April 26, 2022, and directed Administration to accept the request for information, electing to provide feedback to the proposed trail through technical reviews and ad-hoc meetings with stakeholder groups. The Trail Owners Council partnered with the Town of Cochrane and the City of Calgary to proceed with work on this project, identifying a route that connects the City of Calgary to the Town of Cochrane through the Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park. On February 18, 2025, Council provided a letter of support to the Town of Cochrane for its federal Active Transportation Fund grant application on behalf of the Trail Owners Council.

ANALYSIS

The Trail Owners Council will provide high-level guidance to the proposed project and would require a monthly time commitment of 1.5 hours from Administration, in addition to the time required to prepare for meetings. Participation in the Trail Owners Council will help ensure that the County's interests are considered, however, participation may also set a precedent of appointing a senior member of Administration to a stakeholder group. There are a number of other regional trail organizations in the region such as Airdrie Regional Trails, Meadowlark Trails Association, Bragg Creek Trails Association, Springbank Trails and Pathways Association, and the Trans Canada Trails Association that may seek Administration participation as a result of County involvement with the Trail Owners Council.

Administrative participation on the Trail Owners Council would result in the commitment of key County personnel to one project; if other regional trail organizations seek similar Administrative resources, there may be significant impacts on Administrative resources. Administration has other mechanisms to support projects occurring within the County, including technical reviews, ad-hoc meetings with stakeholder groups, and Intermunicipal Committee meetings. Using these existing mechanisms, Administration can provide the same high-level guidance to the Trail Owners Committee as needed, for this reason Administration recommends that Council take the approach used for Phase 1 of this project in 2022 and accept this report for information.

COMMUNICATIONS / ENGAGEMENT

No communication or engagement is required.

IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This matter does not align with the Key Performance Indicators identified within the County's Strategic Plan.

ALTERNATE DIRECTION

Alternate Direction 1:

THAT Council request that the Rotary Club of Canmore present the Public Participation Committee regarding the Trail Phase 2 Owners Council.

Alternate Direction 2:

THAT Council direct Administration to appoint a senior member of Administration to the Trail Phase 2 Ownership Council.

The Trail Phase 2 – Owners Council Appointment Request

Benefits

Appointing a senior member of Administration to the Trail Owners Council will ensure that the County is able to influence the development and alignment of this project.

Disadvantages

Appointing a senior member of Administration to the Trail Owners Council will create a precedent for other similar organizations to make similar requests, requiring significant commitment of County resources to these projects.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: The Trail Phase 2 Potential Jurisdictional Partners and Route Map

APPROVALS

Manager:	Amy Zaluski, Director, Intergovernmental & Regional Services
Executive Director/Director:	Amy Zaluski, Director, Intergovernmental & Regional Services
Chief Administrative Officer:	Reegan McCullough, Chief Administrative Officer