



# REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: FN-RBAC-048

From: Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer

Date: January 21, 2021

**Subject: Grant Request – Step Up ‘N’ Ride Society**

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## RECOMMENDATION:

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize a grant commitment in the amount of \$25,000 per year for three years beginning in 2021, payable from Electoral Area D Fair Share in the amount of \$18,750 and Electoral Area E Fair Share in the amount of \$6,250, to be issued to Step Up ‘N’ Ride Society for the purpose of operating the service in both areas; and further,

That the 2021 grant funds be payable upon the approval of the 2021 Annual Budget.

## BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Step Up ‘N’ Ride Society (SUNRS) is requesting financial assistance in the amount of \$25,000 per year for a period of three years (2021 to 2023), for a total grant contribution of \$75,000. The funding requested will be used to assist with the operational costs for providing the service to Electoral Area D and Electoral Area E.

SUNRS was established in 1981 and is a registered not-for-profit organization in good standing with the *Societies Act of BC*. The organization provides much needed transportation services to individuals in the South Peace who are not able to access public transit or have special needs. Ridership consists of children pre-school age to high school, adults and senior citizens. The main objective is to provide users with a means to get to and from appointments, school, and daycare or to pick up groceries. The service is also available to book for transportation to events, recreational and social activities. SUNRS operates on annual budget that ranges from \$280,000 to \$300,000. Details on the organization, ridership and a forecasted three year operating budget can be found in the attached grant application. SUNRS would like to note that the year-end financials for 2020 have not yet been finalized but will be forwarded to the PRRD upon completion in February.

Since 2010, a total of \$268,027.19 in grant contributions has been provided to SUNRS through a combination of funds from Electoral Area D (\$205,931.26) and Electoral Area E (\$62,095.93). Historically, funding has been split between Electoral Area D and E, using a 75% to 25% ratio.

The organization is in good standing with the *Societies Act of BC*.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize a grant commitment in the amount \$25,000 for 2021 only, payable from Electoral Area D Fair Share in the amount of \$18,750 and

Electoral Area E Fair Share in the amount of \$6,250, to be issued to Step Up ‘N’ Ride Society for the purpose of operating the service in both areas.

2. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee respectfully deny the grant application from Step Up ‘N’ Ride Society and provide no grant funding.
3. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

- As of December 31, 2020 the balance available after remaining commitments for Electoral Area D Fair Share was \$2,179,243.46
- As of December 31, 2020 the balance available after remaining commitments for Electoral Area E was 2,108,764.46

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

The applicant will be advised in writing of the Committee’s decision and, if funding is approved, will be asked to recognize the Regional District for its contribution.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

None.

**Attachments:**

1. Grant Application – Step Up ‘N’ Ride Society