



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-499

From: Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee

Date: May 2, 2024

Subject: Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Recommendation to the Regional Board

The following recommendation from the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee meeting held on April 24, 2024 is presented to the Regional Board for consideration:

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Weighted]

That the Regional Board award the contract for “Regional Connectivity Strategy Report RFP 12-2024” to Planetworks Consulting Corp. at the cost of \$92,740 (excluding taxes); further that the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the contract on behalf of the Peace River Regional District.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On February 22, 2024, the Regional Board approved the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,

That the Regional Board authorize staff to initiate a public procurement to source external expertise to collaborate with stakeholders to collect, revise and update data and develop a high-level design for the Peace River Regional District 2024 Regional Connectivity Strategy Report.

On March 11, 2024, the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking qualified consulting companies to submit proposals to complete an update of the Regional Connectivity Strategy. The RFP sought to identify a consulting firm able to undertake a comprehensive research and engagement initiative aimed at producing an updated Regional Connectivity Strategy Report. This revised report will assess the present connectivity landscape within the region, identify service deficiencies, propose remedial measures, and establish connectivity benchmarks and objectives for each Electoral Area, member municipality, and First Nation entity. Moreover, the report will outline specific technological solutions and potential funding frameworks geared towards enhancing services for underserved communities

For further details, click [here](#) to access the Broadband and Internet Mobility Committee Agenda, please see [Item 8.1](#) to review the report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Collaboration and Cooperation with First Nations
 - ☒ Share PRRD Strategic Goals with First Nations to Identify Opportunities for Cooperation and Collaboration

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Funding was included in the 2024 budget for Function 135 – Regional Connectivity for this project.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

The consultant, with assistance from staff, will actively collaborate with identified stakeholders through online and in-person meetings and workshops. The connectivity consultant engages with stakeholders, actively listening to their diverse perspectives on Internet connectivity issues in their region. Using interviews, they will gather comprehensive data on connectivity needs, challenges, and desired improvements from PRRD Directors, local businesses, First Nation communities and PRRD residents.

This data will be included in a detailed report outlining stakeholder input, key insights, and specific recommendations for enhancing internet connectivity. The report may include proposed strategies to support stakeholders in collaboratively achieving improved connectivity in their region.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The successful and unsuccessful proponents will be notified.

External Links:

1. [Report ADM-BIMC-023 Contract Award, Planetworks Consulting](#) - April 24, 2024 BIMC Meeting Agenda, Item 8.1
2. [Report ADM-BIMC-021, Update Connectivity Strategy Report – 2024](#) - January 26, 2024 BIMC Meeting Agenda, Item 8.1