



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-548

From: Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee

Date: November 21, 2024

Subject: Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Recommendations from October 23, 2024

The following recommendations from the Broadband Internet and Mobility meeting held on October 23, 2024 are presented to the Regional Board for consideration:

RECOMMENDATION #1: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board acknowledge receipt of the Planetworks Consulting Corp. Regional Fibre-to-the-Premise and Cellular Connectivity Report 2024.

RECOMMENDATION #2: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize staff to identify which Electoral Areas and communities remain in need of Fibre to the Premise upgrades and identify priorities and strategies for service provision going forward.

RECOMMENDATION #3: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize staff to work with service providers, BC Hydro, and individual BC government departments (Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Ministry of Citizen’s Services, Crown Lands) to identify and reduce permitting delays for Fibre to the Premise infrastructure to advance rapid buildout.

RECOMMENDATION #4: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize staff to work with both Provincial and Federal Government departments (Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada in particular) to develop funding incentives – including both capex and opex subsidies for mobility service providers to extend highway service.

RECOMMENDATION #5: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize staff to work with Federal Government departments to develop roaming policies for mobility providers in the north.

RECOMMENDATION #6: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize staff to work with Service Providers to discuss the best approaches to In-Community coverage – microcells, towers, new technology.

RECOMMENDATION #7: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize staff to bring forward proposals for Regional District investment in broadband and connectivity infrastructure projects to lower operational cost of new cell sites to encourage improved cellular coverage in the region for consideration by the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee.

RECOMMENDATION #8: [Corporate Weighted]

That the Regional Board authorize staff to include funding up to a maximum of \$45,000, excluding tax, in the 2025 budget under Consulting Services 01-2-1000-5020-135 to update and capture new information for the 2025 Connectivity Plan.

RECOMMENDATION #9: [Corporate Weighted]

That the Regional Board establish a maximum cap of \$250,000 for allocations under General Grants (01-2-3350-5800-135), pending further direction from the Committee and/or future staff recommendations on how to utilize the allocated funds within this grant category.

RECOMMENDATION #10: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board invite Canadian Fibre Optics to present at a future Regional Board meeting.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The draft minutes of the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee meeting held on October 23, 2024 are provided on the Consent Calendar of this meeting agenda.

Recommendation #1-7

Please [click here](#) to access the Committee Agenda, please see [Item # 8.1 Recommendations 1-6, and 8](#) to review the report.

Recommendation #8

Please [click here](#) to access the Committee Agenda, please see [Item # 8.2](#) to review the report.

Recommendation #9

Please [click here](#) to access the Committee Agenda, please see [Item # 8.3](#) to review the report.

Recommendation #10

Please [click here](#) to access the Committee Agenda, please see [New Business Item #10](#). Additionally, as part of the booking process, staff will confirm with Canadian Fiber Optics whether the presentation will include any private information. This confirmation will determine any need for a closed meeting delegation and allow for appropriate arrangements.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Asset and Infrastructure Management
 - Identify Funding and Investment Strategies
- Collaboration and Cooperation with First Nations
 - Share PRRD Strategic Goals with First Nations to Identify Opportunities for Cooperation and Collaboration
- Interprovincial Collaboration

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Approved recommendations will be incorporated into the development of the proposed 2025 budget for Function 135 - Regional Connectivity.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None.