



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: CS-BRD-401

From: Community Services Department

Date: April 10, 2025

Subject: Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning Grant

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize submission of a grant application on behalf of the Peace River Regional District to the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Public Notification & Evacuation Route Planning grant program in the amount of \$40,000 to be used towards the cost of notification and evacuation route planning.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

With the trending increase in evacuation events over the past few years, staff has identified opportunities in the BC Emergency Management Program, specifically regarding public notification and routes for evacuation.

This grant will enhance the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Emergency Management Program by providing the means to create communication strategies and plans and identify routes and methods of effective evacuations. The PRRD developed and implemented the current Rural Emergency Response Plan in 2014. However, advancements in industry, an ever-changing environment, and growth in populations as well as the increased considerations when evacuating vulnerable populations has created the need for enhanced emergency planning. Most notably, comprehensive evacuation route planning has become essential to ensure that impacted individuals can safely evacuate impacted areas, minimizing congestion and preventing confusion during an emergency. Developing these plans will enhance the region's overall emergency response capabilities; protect lives, and ensure a coordinated effort among local authorities, emergency services, and residents and ensure compliance with the regulations as outlined in the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Emergency Management

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

If the application is successful, this grant would provide approximately \$40,000 to engage subject matter experts to complete the required quantitative modelling to develop informed evacuation route planning and individualized emergency communication plans for communities.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Completion of this project will pave the way for stronger emergency communication which will benefit the PRRDs current Emergency Management Plan.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

If the PRRD is unsuccessful in their grant application to UBCM, staff plan to include in-depth evacuation planning within the region for 2026.