



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO and CYCLE 16 TRAIL SOCIETY NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Smithers-Telkwa Multi-use Trail Receives Full Funding

Smithers, B.C. – The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) and Cycle 16 Trail Society are thrilled by today's announcement from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure that the remaining phases of the Smithers-Telkwa multi-use trail are fully funded through the Ministry's Active Transportation Capital Fund. [Find the announcement from the Province here.](#)

The Cycle 16 Trail Society has undertaken years of community consultation, fundraising, and advocacy to ensure the success of the trail. The RDBN is proud to partner with Cycle 16 and support trail development through design consultation and construction of the existing section of the project. This unique and successful partnership has paved the way for today's exciting investment announcement from the Province of BC. Additional stages of the project will, once complete, connect the Town of Smithers and the Village of Telkwa, through the surrounding rural Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural), with one continuous, multi-use, 10.5 km-long commuter trail.

Phase 1 of the project, from Smithers to Laidlaw Road, was completed in June of 2023. That project was made possible through notable support from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, as well as a \$1,465,940 grant from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream.

'A safe commuter trail connecting the rural areas around the municipalities of Smithers and Telkwa has long been recognised as a need. This trail will not only increase safety, but also encourage active lifestyles and add to the availability of safe, accessible outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. We are so pleased to see the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's support for the project expanded in such a significant way'

- Mark Parker, RDBN Board Chair

'The dedicated members of Cycle 16 Trail Society, with great community support, the RDBN and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure have been working on the development of this trail for many years. This commitment from the Ministry is a great success for everyone involved and we are so pleased to see this investment in active transportation in the Bulkley Valley.'

- Stoney Stoltenberg, RDBN Director, Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

"We celebrate the possible that comes from working together!"

- Allan Cormier, President, Cycle 16 Trail Society

Media Contact:

Mark Parker, Chair

Stoney Stoltenberg, Director, Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer

250-692-3195