

News Release

City of Castlegar Wins UBCM Community Excellence in Sustainability Award

September 25, 2019 — Last night, the City of Castlegar accepted the UBCM Community Excellence Award in Sustainability for its Columbia Avenue Complete Streets Project.

These awards are given to projects/programs that incorporate a long-term sustainability lens by considering cultural, social, economic and environmental issues in planning, policy and practice.

The \$8 million Columbia Avenue Complete Streets Project turned the city's main roadway into a complete street which includes:

- raised bike lanes traveling in both directions (separated from the main vehicular travel lanes by a roll-over concrete curve)
- a 3-meter wide sidewalk which improves the walking experience for pedestrians
- a modular, suspended pavement system which provides rainwater management through absorption, evapotranspiration, and interception. This system supports the health and growth of many trees that were planted as part of this project
- pre-serviced lots for future development
- public art in the form of sculptures, banners and concrete stamping
- benches and innovative amenities such as pet drinking fountains and charging stations at the bus shelters

“It was great to see Councillors Rye and MacLeod accept this award on behalf of the City,” says Mayor Bruno Tassone. “We want to extend a huge thank you to the previous Mayor and Council, staff, planners and contractors who made this project and award a reality.”

Planning is currently underway for the Columbia Avenue – Phase 2 project and a public information session will be held this fall. To sign up for project updates, visit: <https://castlegarconnects.ca/columbia-avenue-phase-2>.

More information on the UBCM Community Excellence Awards can be found [here](#).

The City of Castlegar is a service centre in the West Kootenay. The diversified and growing economy is focused on the forestry, energy and mining sectors in the Valley, and commercial services in the City. Quality of life features backcountry adventure and an increasingly dynamic urban culture, including the Millennium Park & Ponds and Sculpture Walk.

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