



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

Columbia Avenue scope increases to provide robust infrastructure foundation for the long-term

Date: November 22, 2017

Castlegar, BC – On November 20, 2017, Castlegar City Council voted in favour of increasing the scope of the Columbia Avenue redesign project, which will include a full replacement of underground water, sewer, and storm infrastructure from 17th Street to 11th Street.

When complete, this project will benefit all City residents and will meet many of the goals set forth in the Official Community Plan, Pedestrian and Cycling Plan, and Asset Management Plans.

“A full replacement of our underground infrastructure means that we are planning for the City’s future,” stated Mayor Lawrence Chernoff. “The improvement upgrades will address the current deteriorating condition of the pipes, the increased capacity required due to projected population and business growth, and will help our community adapt to future climate change pressures.”

Through public consultation on Columbia Avenue in May 2016, residents expressed concern over the double bike lanes in the proposed conceptual design. Staff brought forward new one-way bike lane recommendations to the public and to Council in June of 2017 and the changes, as suggested by the community, were adopted.

“The scope increase will not impact any of the above ground changes such as bike lanes and resurfacing,” stated Mayor Chernoff. “It will, however, improve what’s happening underground. These upgrades now will prevent the City from having to dig up Columbia Avenue in 5-10 years.”

Next steps will include the preparation of tender documents so construction can begin as soon as possible in the spring of 2018. The Columbia Avenue Complete Streets – Phase 1 project will be complete by the end of 2018.

To view the full report visit <http://www.castlegar.ca/notice.php?id=585>

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