



**Riverland Recreational Trail Society**

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City of Cold Lake  
Attention: Mayor and Council  
5513 - 48 Avenue  
Col Lake, AB.  
T9M 1A1

August 11, 2020

**Re: Alberta's Iron Horse Trail 10 Year Strategic Development Plan**

Dear Mayor and Council,

Riverland Recreational Trail Society (RRTS) was successful with their grant application to the Trans Canada Trail to complete a 10-year strategic development plan on Alberta's Iron Horse Trail from Waskatenau to Heinsburg. Unfortunately, because this is funding from the TCT, we can only spend it on the Waskatenau to Heinsburg section. The trail from Abilene Junction to Cold Lake is not designated part of the TCT, therefore it is excluded from this project. We did submit another proposal through the Alberta Snowmobile Association to fund the section from Abilene Junction to Cold Lake as part of a larger trail development ask to Western Economic Development but there has been no response from the Federal Government indicating they are entertaining the request.

RRTS put out an RFP, received 7 responses and hired RC Strategies Inc. to complete the project. On July 12, 13 & 14<sup>th</sup> of this year, three members from RC, myself and Marianne Janke, N.E. Muni-Corr Ltd.'s Administrative Coordinator, were on the trail from Heinsburg to Waskatenau to do a complete assessment; trail conditions, surfacing issues, signage, maintenance, tourism and visitor opportunities and future development. As we were working our way down the trail, RC pointed out several times we would only be getting a partial picture at the end of the project because the Abilene to Cold Lake section is not included.

The more time we spent with RC discussing ideas and strategies, the more we realized how vital it is to the 10-year development plan to look at the trail as a whole. There are so many great development opportunities being missed including staging areas in both Cold Lake and Bonnyville, Anshaw Historic Site, the Beaver River Trestle and much more. We asked RC to provide us with a quote and they told us if they did it now as part of the current project, it would be \$35,000.00. If we waited and did it later, it would be \$53,000.00. RRTS feels they can come up with \$15,000.00 but would need to find funding for the other \$20,000.00 in order to proceed.

We sent a letter to MLA Dave Hanson asking if there was any chance of funding from the Alberta Government and he forwarded our request on to Maggie Low-On, Program Manager of the Community Grants Unit. After several discussions with Marianne, Maggie recommended RRTS submit a CIP grant application for the January 2021 uptake, but this means we would not find out until June/July of 2021 if the grant was approved. Maggie also told us to submit the grant application for the full \$53,000.00 and if we were getting a discount, we could use that amount as part of our 50% matching dollars.

Meanwhile, both myself and Marianne approached some of the councilors with the City of Cold Lake, M.D. of Bonnyville and the Town of Bonnyville to see if there was any interest in supporting a three way split of the \$20,000.00 which would be \$6,666.67 each. This would be a worst-case scenario and if RRTS was not successful with obtaining a CIP grant then each Municipality should be prepared to commit the full amount. If RRTS received the grant, then a portion of money would be refunded to the three Municipalities. Those we spoke to recommended we submit a letter of request to be added to the next council agendas.

As such, we are submitting this letter as a request to be added to the next City of Cold Lake council agenda for a contribution of \$6,666.67 towards completing the 10 Year Strategic Development Plan for Alberta's Iron Horse Trail from Abilene Junction to Cold Lake.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please give me a call or email.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Bjornstad". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Marvin Bjornstad  
President  
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