



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **PARKSVILLE-QUALICUM BEACH LINKS ROUTE TO GET WAY-MARKING SIGNS**

Four jurisdictions are working together this holiday season to promote active transportation in the Oceanside area.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI), the Regional District of Nanaimo, the City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum Beach are collaborating to provide way-marking signs for the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Links, a popular low-traffic road and trail route that connects Parksville and Qualicum Beach by way of French Creek.

“The Parksville-Qualicum Beach Links provides a convenient way for pedestrians and cyclists to travel between municipalities without having to use Highway 19A,” said RDN Chairperson Joe Stanhope. “We are pleased to add signage to this extremely popular part of our Regional Trail System.”

In partnership with the City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and MoTI, the RDN has now completed a plan to install about nine signs in each direction along the five-kilometer French Creek section.

“Once this popular recreational route is continuously-signed from Parksville city centre to Qualicum Beach town centre, the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Links will be even more user-friendly for cyclists and pedestrians,” said Parksville Mayor Chris Burger. “We look forward to completing the route map and signage in the spring.”

Parksville and Qualicum Beach will pay for and install the signage along their sections of the route, and MoTI will pay for and install the signs along the French Creek section. The City and the Town will each install a map showcasing the whole route, including transit stops and nearby parks, at their ends of the Links, and the RDN will install the same map at the Barclay Crescent Bridge. Signs will be completed in late March 2013, in time for the launch of Bike to Work Week.

Qualicum Beach Mayor Teunis Westbroek says the new signs will be of great benefit to those who use the route. “The Town supports active transportation, both in the Town and throughout the region,” said Westbroek. “The Parksville-Qualicum Beach Links is a pleasant, safe and convenient route for people to walk and cycle between Qualicum Beach and Parksville. Way-marking signs will increase public awareness and improve the experience for everyone using the route.”

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