

## E & N Corridor Water Transmission Main Installation

### Background

The concept of using the E&N corridor for a water supply transmission main originated in 2008 and was brought forward to the Arrowsmith Water Service board as the most efficient way to convey bulk water to each community. In June 2014, the final predesign report showing the transmission main along the E&N corridor connecting the water treatment plant to Springwood Reservoir was adopted by the Englishman River Water Service board. In 2015, the Island Corridor Foundation approved land use for the transmission main and future walking trail along the corridor.

In 2009, the RDN undertook an E&N rail trail feasibility study to assess potential trail development along the corridor within Electoral Areas A, E, F, G and H and the municipalities of Lantzville, Parksville and Qualicum Beach.

In 2006, the Island Corridor Foundation adopted the rail trail system plan and support for public use along the E&N corridor. Full plans, specifications and guidelines may be viewed here:

<http://www.islandrail.ca/trails/>

<http://www.islandrail.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/ICF-Trail-Guideline.pdf>

Link to the RDN rail trail webpage:

<http://www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=3195>

With knowledge of the RDN/ICF plans for a rail trail, ERWS identified this future concept on the transmission main drawings. This is the link to the ERWS website, posted in 2015, regarding water supply transmission mains:

<http://www.englishmanriverwaterservice.ca/mains.asp>

On April 18, Parksville Council unanimously supported the water transmission main alignment proposed by our consulting team. The most feasible and practical alignment option is on the north side of the E&N Railway as it best suits the City's infrastructure and avoids the fiber optic line on the south side. ICF agrees with this approach.

Alignment along the E&N also considered the following:

- E&N corridor acts as a fire break to protect the City from potential rural wildfire. The watermain will run along the corridor complete with fire hydrants at planned locations to assist with firefighting.
- The proposed trail on the north side of the E&N track is already established off Butler Road behind the existing multi-family development; residents feel this is a benefit as it links to established park areas.
- The Island Corridor Foundation (owner of the E&N Railway corridor) will not support a utility service which continuously crosses the corridor as it would impede additional utilities and future transportation options.

We will install the watermain first and until the subject of the future rail line is addressed, the trail alignment and construction will not be started. The trail way alignment has not been determined and concerns about use as a public trail are best suited as part of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan scheduled for 2017. The master plan update will incorporate the Regional District of Nanaimo's Vancouver Island and ICF rail trail plans and public engagement will be part of the process.

Council has not authorized a budget to construct the rail trail as plans for the formal rail trail adjacent to the City is not planned for several years providing sufficient time to work out details.

## Communications

An extensive communications strategy was implemented to provide an update of current plans for the future water supply project and to encourage public input. Despite communication efforts, new residents and developments were unaware of the City's watermain plans and RDN/ICF rail trail plans. Some of the communications methods included:

- City and ERWS website
- Media releases
- Many open houses (final one held on November 5, 2015)
- PBQ News two full page advertisements on May 12 and 14 and November 5 and 12, 2015
- Information pamphlets delivered to all City residents and business owners in October 2015.
- Public open house on the Vancouver Island rail trail plan was hosted by the RDN in October 2015.
- City staff has met with RDN to discuss trail plans, concepts and phasing.

ERWS also held five community working group sessions to engage feedback from core stakeholders:

Craig Bay Residents Association	Fairwinds Community Association
Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society	Island Timberlands
Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce	Parksville Downtown Business Association
Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism Association	Parksville Newcomers Association
Parksville Residents Association	Vancouver Island Real Estate Board
Oceanside Development and Construction Association	TimberWest Forest Corp
Northwest Nanoose Residents Association	Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation)
Oceanside Women's Business Network	

## Recent Updates

The City is in discussions with ICF for permission to install privacy screening adjacent to the watermain installation along Trill Drive and Corfield Glades, the new strata development east of Corfield Street. This will follow ICF guidelines and include provisions for drainage control, retaining walls and security/privacy fencing as warranted. If ICF approves this request, ERWS will direct the consulting team to design the privacy screening and provide an alternate/provisional price in the tender documents. Although there will be additional costs, this will help to address privacy concerns and also keep the project on schedule. Should the cost for the privacy screening be over budget, a report will be prepared for Council's consideration.

**Please note**, installation of the privacy screening and drainage control along with the watermain installation is premature as it is not known when and where the formal E&N rail trail will be installed. A road will not be installed. With these two projects, the future trail will also act as access for City staff to provide watermain maintenance using small vehicles. The access trail will also act as a fire break, providing access to firefighters in a rural wildfire event. No roads are being proposed and public motorized vehicles will not be allowed to enter on the trail.

The City does not have a formal budget identified in the financial plan for the E&N rail trail. This will be brought forward following discussions with the RDN's E&N rail trail plans and update to the Parks and Open Space Master Plan scheduled for 2017.

### For more information:

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