

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Suncoaster Trail:

### Phase 2 Planning November 2018

Route planning is underway for Phase 2 of the Suncoaster Trail from Halfmoon Bay to Langdale.

#### WHAT IS THE VISION?

The vision for the Suncoaster Trail is to connect the communities of the Sunshine Coast with a trail from ferry to ferry (Earl's Cove to Langdale).

#### SUNCOASTER PHASE 1

Suncoaster Trail Phase 1 connects the communities of Egmont to Halfmoon Bay and has been open since 2010. The trail moves through rural communities and wilderness settings, providing opportunities for active transportation, recreation, and tourism while exploring the Sunshine Coast's natural and cultural history.

#### SUNCOASTER PHASE 2

Phase 2 proposes to extend the trail from Halfmoon Bay to Langdale, making use of existing trails and lightly used roads wherever possible.

#### WHAT ARE THE TRAIL DESIGN PRINCIPLES & CRITERIA FOR THIS PROJECT?

- Use existing trails and pathways wherever possible
- Design an inclusive, accessible trail
- Grades will be less than 10% wherever possible
- Make use of public property wherever possible
- Existing trail uses will be maintained
- Include points of natural, cultural and historic value
- Provide options for hiking and biking
- Pass through urban and rural centres and provide access to existing services

#### WHO WILL USE THE TRAIL?

Users of the trail will be local residents and visitors alike, with a variety of modes of travel.

Some sections of trail may be accessible only for some modes of travel such as hiking or cycling. A design principle for this project is that existing trail uses will not be changed. As formal trail authorizations are sought, uses would be confirmed. Way-finding tools would identify permitted modes of transportation on each section of trail.



## WHAT FEEDBACK HAS BEEN RECEIVED TO DATE?

In 2017 a draft route concept was shared with the community. Over the course of 2017, interested residents and groups were involved in dialogue regarding the route for Phase 2 of the Suncoaster Trail.

Feedback indicated a preference for a low elevation community connector trail to enable active transportation.

Trail users have also requested that existing trail uses not be changed.

## HOW ARE LAND MANAGERS, TRAIL GROUPS AND OTHERS INVOLVED?

SCRD staff and trail groups have been in regular contact since the 2017 Suncoaster Phase 2 Open House. In November and December 2018 SCRDR will host focus conversations with trail groups to gather additional feedback on the updated route concept.

SCRDR is in contact with land managers along the proposed route to understand needs, opportunities and the process for permits and authorizations the route concept would require.

SCRDR values and is seeking to build on partnerships with District of Sechelt, Town of Gibsons, shíshálh Nation and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Nation through this project.

## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Using the trail criteria, an updated route concept has been drafted. This fall, SCRDR is gathering feedback from land managers and trail users regarding the updated route concept. Focus conversations and land manager meetings are planned in November and December 2018.

With grant support from Vancouver Coastal Health, SCRDR has engaged Diamond Head consultants to assist with field assessment and planning for: trail standards, construction-costing, phasing and fundraising. The consultants' report will be presented to the SCRDR Board in early 2019.

The route would require a number of permits and authorizations, before considering construction. A construction budget has not been established at this time.

