

April 28, 2026

**REPORT TO:** K. KEHLER, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**FROM:** A. DEFOOR, MANAGER OF ENGINEERING

**SUBJECT:** ALBERNI HIGHWAY PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS TENDER AWARD

**PURPOSE:** *To award a contract for the construction of Alberni Highway pedestrian improvements.*

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Staff are seeking Council approval to award the contract for the construction of Alberni Highway pedestrian improvements. An invitation to tender was posted publicly and seven (7) proposals were received. Staff recommend awarding the contract to the lowest bidder. The design is consistent with accepted engineering standards and the project is within budget.

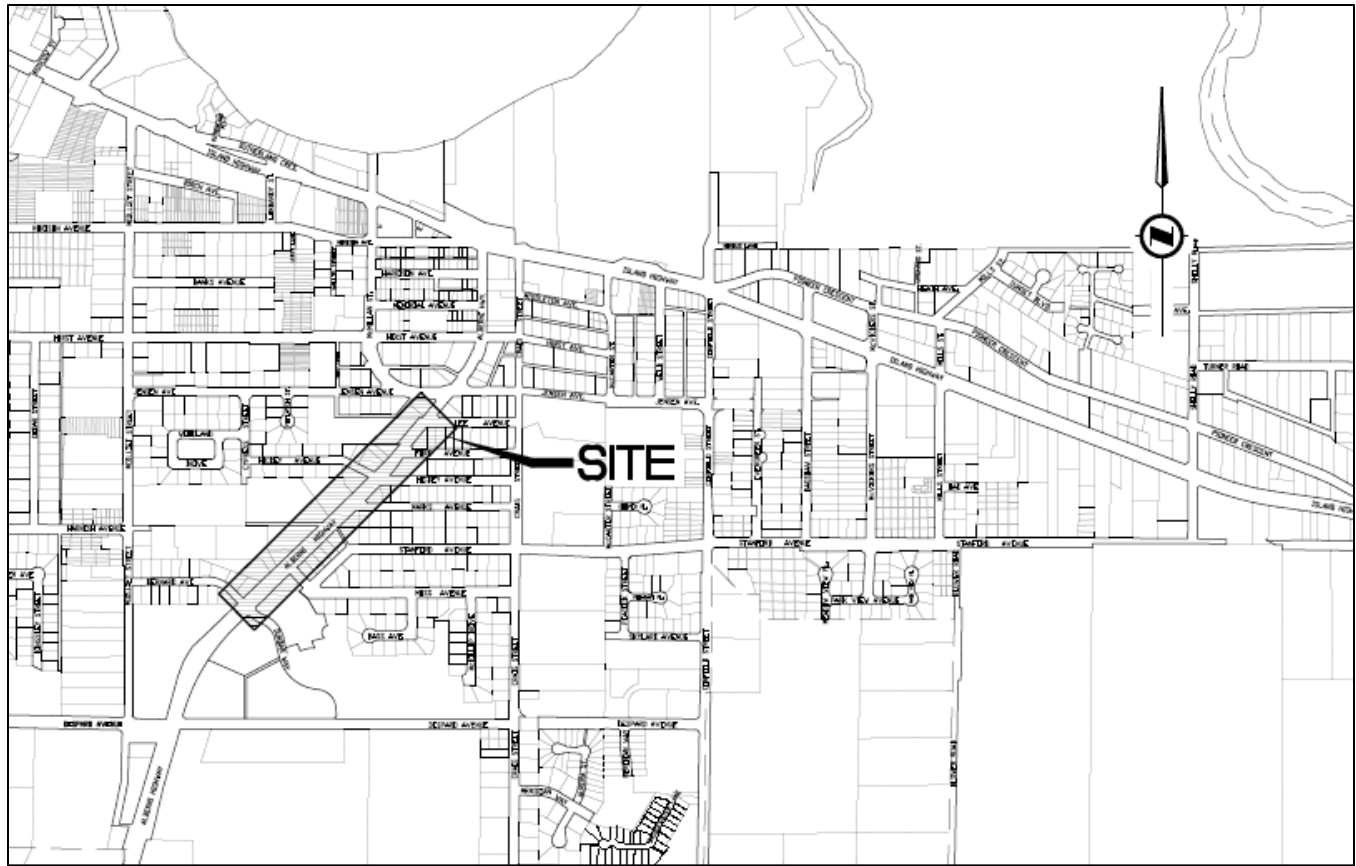
**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT the report from the Manager of Engineering dated April 28, 2026, entitled "Alberni Highway Pedestrian Improvements Tender Award" be received.
2. THAT staff be authorized to award a construction contract for the pedestrian path to In The Dirt Contracting Ltd. for \$1,251,305.00, plus GST.
3. THAT the Mayor and Corporate Officer be authorized to execute the subject contract on behalf of the City.

**BACKGROUND:**

This project was included in the 2025 Master Transportation Plan as a high priority pedestrian network improvement. The goal of this project is to improve the existing pedestrian experience along the Alberni Highway from Bernard Avenue to Lee Avenue. City staff have worked with Koers & Associates Engineering Ltd. since 2025 to develop detailed designs, including geotechnical and electrical components.

The following map depicts the project area for the Alberni Highway Pedestrian Improvements.

**OPTIONS:**

1. Award a construction contract for Alberni Highway pedestrian improvements to In The Dirt Contracting Ltd. for \$1,251,305.00 plus GST.
2. Provide staff with alternate direction.

**ANALYSIS:**

Awarding the contract to the lowest bidder follows the City's purchasing policy and will give staff authority to proceed with this project as approved in the 2026 - 2030 Financial Plan which has been given three readings by Council. Starting this project immediately will enable completion of the project in 2026. In The Dirt Contracting Ltd. is based in Qualicum Beach and has received favourable recommendations from references.

Any alternate direction provided by Council may impact the ability to have the project completed in 2026.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Council approved a 2026 capital budget of \$2,309,700 in the 2026 - 2030 Financial Plan for construction of Alberni Highway pedestrian improvements. An invitation to tender for the work was issued on March 19, 2026, and seven (7) compliant bids were received for the Alberni Highway pedestrian improvements project. Based on the project size and funds allocated within the 2026 capital budget, staff are recommending that Council award the contract to the lowest compliant bidder, In The Dirt Contracting Ltd, in the amount of \$1,251,305.00, plus GST.

Funding sources for this project are Development Cost Charges and General Fund Capital Reserves. Additional funding is expected through the ICBC Road Improvements Program.

The \$2,309,700 project budget was derived from staff and consultant cost estimates for the works and includes the estimated cost of constructed works, consultant engineering and construction services, and contingency. The public bidding process generated bids that were much lower than the Class A cost estimate; therefore, with a contract value of \$1,251,305.00, a contingency of \$105,000, and a construction services estimate of \$200,000, staff expect this project to be under budget by at least \$700,000 and will be completed as planned in 2026.

The consultant construction services are already approved as part of a current professional services agreement for design, tender support, and contract administration of the Alberni Highway pedestrian improvements.

Because the contract amount exceeds \$500,000, the City's purchasing policy requires Council approval of the award.

**ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:**

This project includes new sidewalk, crosswalks, a retaining wall, additional storm infrastructure, and streetlights. These will be added to the City's capital asset inventory. Construction of these pedestrian improvements will necessitate additional yearly operation and maintenance but is expected to be absorbed within current budgets. Asset lifecycle and material costs were considered in the design of the works to reduce overall asset lifecycle costs.

**STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS:**

**Advocacy** – There is no perceived direct impact on advocacy.

**Official Community Plan Review and Update** - There is no perceived direct impact on Official Community Plan review and update.

**Vibrant and Livable Downtown** - Completion of the project enhances pedestrian connectivity between the downtown core and areas to the south that are currently increasing in residential density.

**Water Use Planning and Management** - There is no perceived direct impact to water use planning and management.

**Community Engagement** - This project is a recommendation from the 2025 Transportation Master Plan which was supported by extensive public engagement.

**Investment in Recreation Amenities** - Completion of this project provides an amenity that benefits Parksville residents and visitors to the area. It addresses a high-usage and high-priority pedestrian improvement project from the 2025 Master Transportation Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

*Original signed by A. Defoor*

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A. DEFOOR, ASCT  
Manager of Engineering

**REVIEWED BY:**

*Original signed by S. Boven*

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S. BOVEN, MBA, ASCT  
Director of Engineering and IT

*Original signed by J. Holmes*

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J. HOLMES, CPA, CA  
Director of Finance

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER ENDORSEMENT:**

*Original signed by K. Kehler*

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K. KEHLER, MPA  
Chief Administrative Officer