

District of Barriere

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Request for Decision

Date: May 26, 2025	File: 530.20/Rpts
To: Council	From: Chief Administrative Officer
Re: Proposed Trails Action Items	
Recommendations: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. THAT Council instruct Staff to not pursue a trail from Power Road to AG Foods until the Trails Society has received written permission from the Armour Mountain mobile home park owner to proceed.2. THAT Council instructs Staff, in preparation for a potential trail, to discuss the District's road right of way from Barriere Town Road to Dunsmuir Road with the affected property owners, and FURTHER THAT Staff obtain information from Simpcw First Nation about potential species impacts.3. THAT Council instructs Staff to initiate a lease agreement with School District No. 73 regarding a potential trail by the school bus garage.	

Purpose

To seek Council direction and/or approval for various trail development and maintenance initiatives as outlined by the District of Barriere and the Trails Society.

Background

The District of Barriere, in collaboration with the Trails Society, is pursuing several trail development and improvement projects. These initiatives aim to enhance community connectivity, improve safety, and address stakeholder concerns. Council support is required to proceed with key action items.

Proposed Action Items

1. Power Rd to AG Foods Trail

- Obtain written approval from the Armour Mountain Trailer Park owner after addressing tenant concerns. (Lead: Trails Society)
- Facilitate communication between the property owner and tenants to resolve trespassing concerns. (Lead: Trails Society)
- Contingent on written approval above, assess hazard trees along the current and proposed trail. (Lead: DOB)

2. Dunsmuir to BTR Trail

- Initiate discussions with the property owner, pending Council approval (see Resolution #2). (Lead: DOB)
- Obtain a quote from a surveyor (estimated at \$2,500) and determine funding responsibility. The Trails Society has indicated a willingness to fund the cost. (Lead: Trails Society)

3. School Bus Trail

- Seek Council direction to authorize staff to pursue the project. (see Resolution #3) (Lead: DOB)
- Explore a lease agreement with SD73, with the northern portion behind the bus garage suggested as a safer alternative. (Lead: DOB)
- Complete GPS mapping of the trail. (Lead: Trails Society)

4. Downtown Trails Maintenance

- Recommend gravel upgrades and signage for the unofficial trail behind the credit union, SAWRC, and BBC. (Lead: DOB & Trails Society)
- Develop trail maintenance and improvement work plan options with input from the Trails Society.

Benefits or Impact

General

Continue partnership with the Trails Society

Finances

Potential survey cost of \$2,500 to be confirmed and potentially covered by the Trails Society.

Strategic Impact

Partnership with Trails Society

Risk Assessment

Compliance:

Legal and Regulatory Requirements

- Landowner Permissions: Risk of proceeding without explicit written consent from private landowners (e.g., Armour Mountain Trailer Park, Dunsmuir Trail).
- Lease Agreements: Potential non-compliance with school district (SD73) land-use requirements if no formal lease or agreement is secured.

Risk Impact:

Operational Risks

- Delays due to unresolved landowner/tenant concerns.
- Increased maintenance costs for unofficial or underdeveloped trails.
- Safety incidents if hazard trees are not promptly assessed and addressed.

Financial Risks

- Budget Overruns: Unforeseen costs from surveys, legal consultations, or repairs.
- Liability Claims: Injuries or property damage could expose the District or Trails Society to liability.

Reputational Risks

- Public opposition if stakeholder engagement is inadequate.
- Loss of community trust if the project appears rushed or poorly managed.

Internal Control Process:

- Ensure written agreements are in place before any trail development.
- Ensure lease or rights of use agreements are in place with SD73
- Clearly define scope and budget responsibilities in advance (e.g. Trails Society survey cost).
- Prioritize public and tenant communication to avoid conflict.
- Use GPS mapping and flagging to reduce ambiguity and misrouting of trails.
- Develop and approve a work plan for trail improvements in advance.

Next Steps / Communication

- Inform Trails Society of council decisions
 - Obtain project schedule and timeline from Trails Society
 - Co-ordinate site visits and meetings with affected property owners
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Attachments

- Trail maps
- Trail Society and District Staff Meeting minutes

Recommendations:

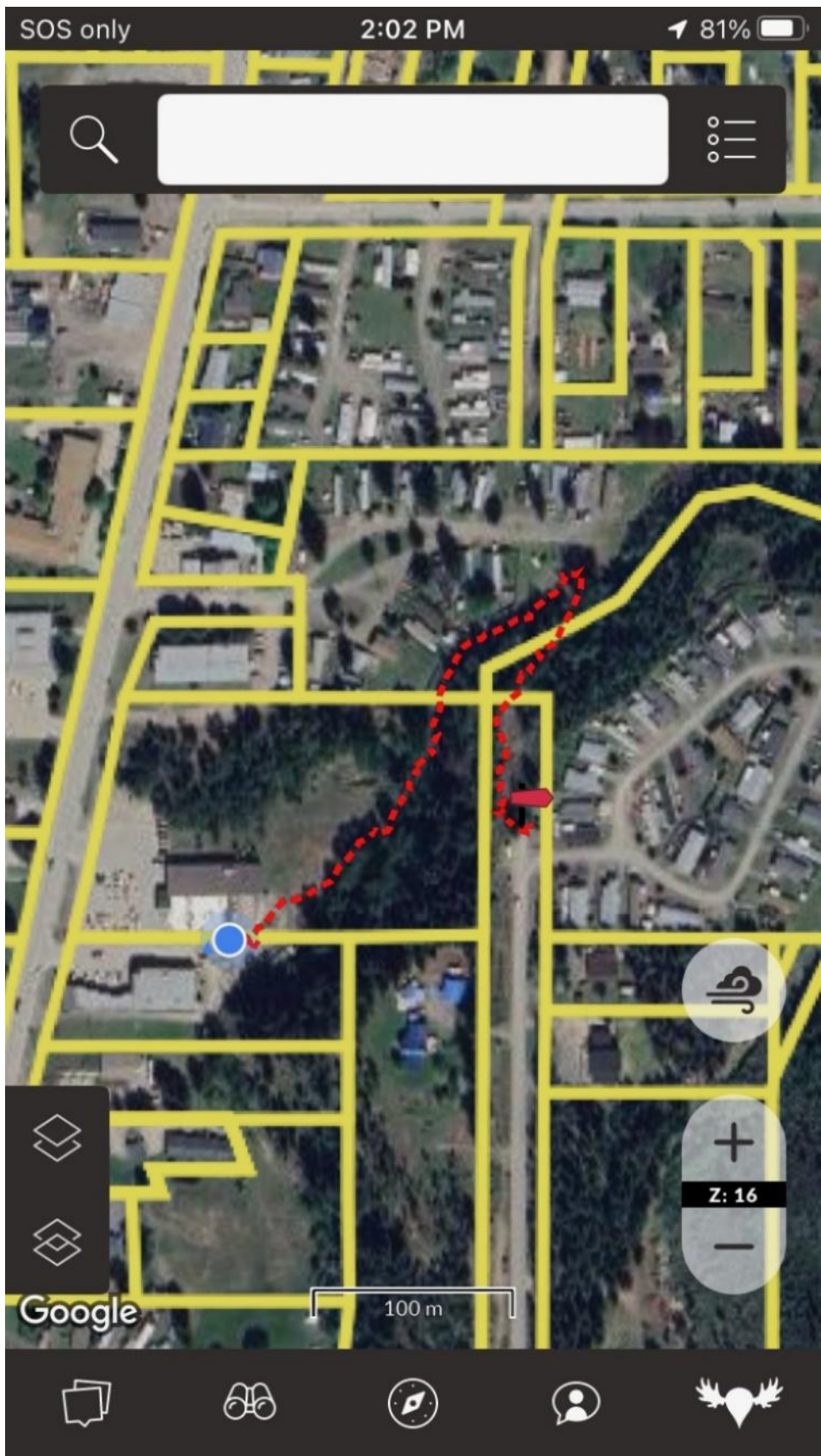
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2. **THAT Council instructs Staff, in preparation for a potential trail, to discuss the District's road right of way from Barriere Town Road to Dunsmuir Road with the affected property owners, and FURTHER THAT Staff obtain information from Simpcw First Nation about potential species impacts.**
3. **THAT Council instructs Staff to initiate a lease agreement with School District No. 73 regarding a potential trail by the school bus garage.**

Alternative Options

1. Council could choose not to go ahead with any or all the proposed action items.
2. Council could choose to proceed without the assistance of the Trails Society.

Prepared by: C. Matthews, Public Works Manager

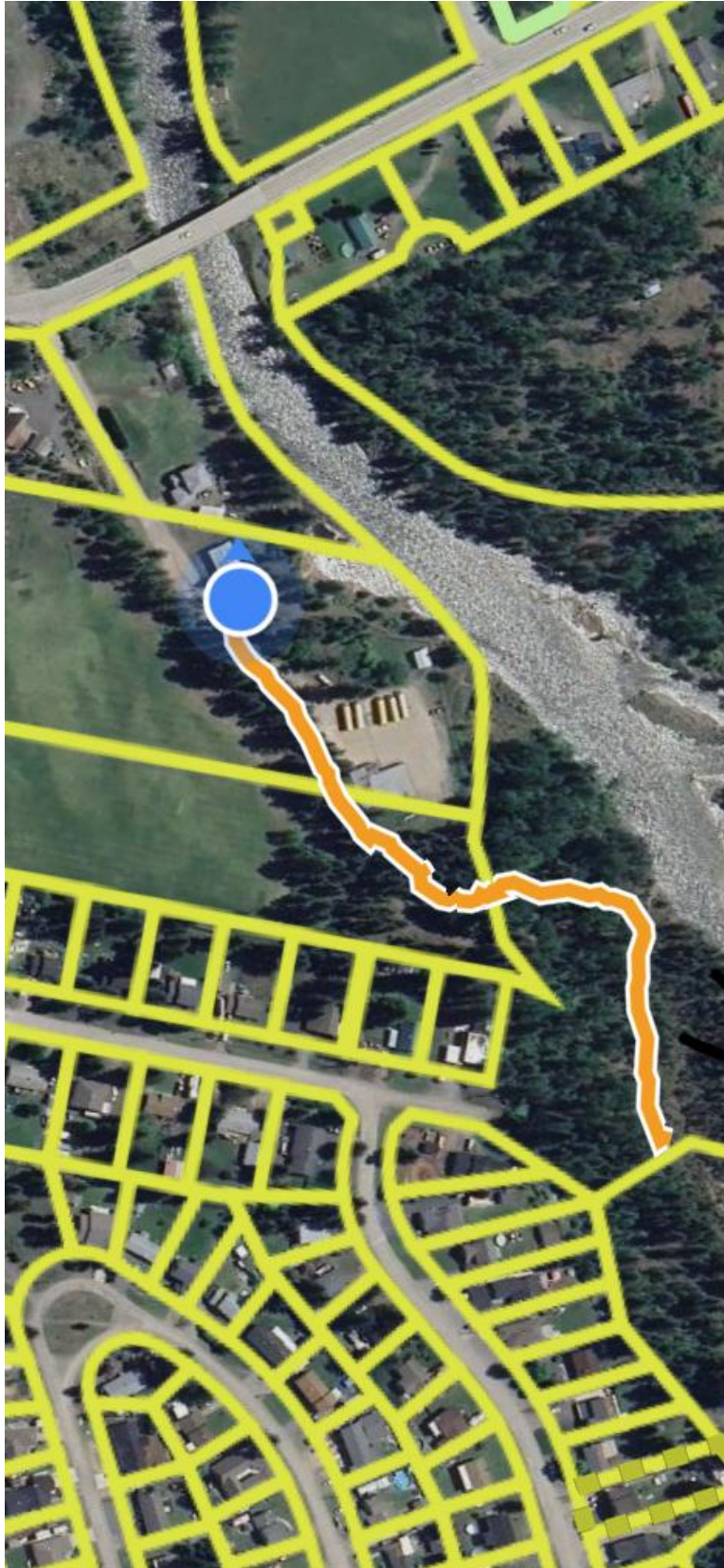
Reviewed by: D. Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer



Power Road to AG Foods Trail

Dunsmuir to Barriere Town Road





Proposed Bus Garage Trail

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE
MINUTES OF A STAFF and TRAIL SOCIETY MEETING

Held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 10:30pm in the Council Chambers at Municipal Hall
4936 Barriere Town Road, Barriere, B.C.

*"We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples of Simpcw First Nation
within whose lands we are meeting today."*

Present: Daniel Drexler, CAO
Chris Matthews, Public Works Manager

Harry Waldron, Barriere Trails Society President
John Cleland
Willy Jenson
John Peterson

Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer

PROPOSED TRAILS

- Power Rd to AG Foods
 - Next Steps:
 - *Has approval from Property Owner(s) all been received?* No written approval from Armour Mnt. Trailer Park Owner yet obtained. Communication has increased, however. The owner has suggested fencing however, he wishes to ensure his tenants are on board with the proposition before granting formal approval. Trails Society is seeking open line of communication with the owner to help facilitate addressing the concerns of the park's tenants. Property owner wants to wait a bit and let his tenants "cool off" first.
 - *How to address trespassing accusations/concerns going forward?* In a few months, sitting down with the property owner on how to best communicate with the concerned tenants so that approval can be granted to facilitate site inspection and planning of the trail which is necessary in order to move forward in determining the viability of the project.
 - *Would the Society consider a possible reposition of the trail?* AG Foods owner says 'no' due to slope. The proposed trail is what the Society feels is the most logical option due to topography.

Someone who is experienced with hazard trees should assess the current and proposed trail but again, not until written authorization from property owners are obtained.

- Dunsmuir to BTR
 - Next Steps:
 - Flagging for ideal trail – upper part has been flagged. Society feels it is DoB's jurisdiction to address the lower portion with the property owner. Council will need to grant permission for staff to pursue this project. Staff would initiate discussions with that property owner if Council is supportive.

- Surveyor – quote – The property owner’s driveway that they are currently using may be the main issue. The cost anticipated for the survey is approximately \$2,500 if there hasn’t been one done already. Who would be responsible for covering this cost? The Society indicated that it should be in a position to cover this cost.
- School Bus Trail
 - Next Steps:
 - Lease of lot – SD73 – DoB

Gradual grade – archeological issue along the riverbank. Society would like to utilize the current landscape waste type storage area to mitigate having to use the arch site.

Potential lease agreement with SD73 for this project was discussed. Suggesting the northern portion behind the bus garage was noted as a potentially safer option and one that may address some of SD73’s concerns about directing the public to water from their property.

Caution about cutting branches to facilitate easier pass through on SD73 property without permission was voiced by DoB. Staff will seek direction from Council at an upcoming meeting, likely later in May, to authorize staff to pursue this project.
 - Finish GPS to be provided by the Society.

Society is working on various grant applications.

- Downtown Trails Maintenance

DoB is planting trees this year. Approximately 30 shade trees along side the path will be planted in the coming weeks in Community Park.

Gravel upgrades and sign addition were suggested on the unofficial trail behind the bank, SAWRC and BBC. Staff will bring suggested work plan options to Council. It was noted that staff’s work plans are currently tight, but with the Society’s assistance, some of the items may be doable.

The \$500 proposed budget from the District to the Society to facilitate action items agreed to within the Stewardship agreement is expected to be given final approval at the next Council Meeting in May.

NEXT SOCIETY / STAFF MEETING - Wednesday May 28th at 9:30am

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.