

MUP Could Follow Waterfront: Consultants

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The next phase of Tofino's Multi-Use Path could follow the proposed Lighthouse Trail's waterfront route, say a group of consultants.

The consultants, in town for an open house on Tofino's Cycling Network Plan Thursday night, will also recommend in an upcoming report to council MUP crossing to MacKenzie Beach at Hellesen and MacKenzie Beach Roads, improved markings and signage and posted rules of etiquette.

"Tofino is going to make the right move by implementing a cycling plan," said Tim Richards, a consultant with Expert Access Ltd. "They're going to look real good when they want to park their cars because there is no gas."

The consultants developed the recommendations and have been studying the MUP for the Cycling Network Plan since November.

Richards, Danelle Laidlaw, of DPL Consulting, and Heidi Redman, of Lees + Associates Landscape Architects and Planners, have travelled the MUP on bike, conducted telephone surveys, surveyed the current route and held an open house attended by about 40 people.

Their report will go to council March 11.

Although it's just in the planning stages, the Lighthouse Trail is expected to follow the rugged coastline between MacKenzie, Middle and Tonquin Beaches and then connect to the downtown.

Laidlaw said extending the MUP along Highway 4 and onto Campbell Street would be problematic right now because of private property issues and the proposed Campbell Street upgrade.

Redman said local residents also wanted to see the MUP extended to Long Beach and improvements made to Gibson Street.

"The plan will be a really useful guiding document, and will assist us in applying for funds," said Sally Mole, director of parks and recreation. "I was really pleased with the turnout at the open house and the amount of information that came from the attendees." Mole said, however, the Lighthouse Trail hasn't been planned to accommodate cycling traffic.

"We do want them to include the Lighthouse Trail in the overall plan for cycling and pedestrian traffic, and we envision the plan supporting our applications for funding for the Lighthouse Trail."

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