



RESORT VILLAGE OF CANDLE LAKE – REPORT TO COUNCIL

TO: Council

FROM: Brent Lutz, CAO

DATE: August 25, 2026

SUBJECT: Simon Lehne Trail Extension

Recommendation

THAT Council receive this report as information and authorize Administration to proceed with tendering the crusher-dust trail extension from Main Street to Holiday Drive;

AND THAT Administration report back to Council following receipt of the tenders with the project cost and available funding, including options for completing any additional portion of the trail in 2026 or deferring the remaining work to 2027.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the funding approved through the 2026 SGI Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant and to outline a proposed phased approach to completing the Simon Lehne Drive trail extension.

Background

The Resort Village of Candle Lake applied for \$100,000 through the 2026 SGI Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant to support the extension of the walking trail along Simon Lehne Drive from Main Street to Ford Road. The Resort Village has been advised that the application was successful; however, the approved grant is \$50,000 rather than the \$100,000 requested.

The total project cost was initially estimated at approximately \$200,000. The preliminary funding plan included \$80,000 from municipal reserves, with the balance to be funded through anticipated grants. As the SGI grant approval is \$50,000 less than requested, the currently identified funding is not expected to be sufficient to complete the entire project in 2026.

Project Description

The proposed trail extension consists of two sections with different construction requirements:

1. **Main Street to White Pine Place:** A crusher-dust surfaced trail constructed along the backslope of the Simon Lehne Drive ditch. A land developer is currently constructing a connecting section of trail from Holiday Drive to White Pine Place as part of the adjacent development. Completing the municipal trail from Main Street to Holiday Drive would connect the existing Main Street trail system to this new section.

2. **White Pine Place to Ford Road:** A paved trail constructed along the shoulder of Simon Lehne Drive, with delineators similar to those used for the trail along Main Street. This section will require widening the existing roadway shoulder and paving the trail surface.

Analysis

The reduction in grant funding requires the project to be reconsidered and potentially completed in phases. As a result, Administration has issued a tender for the crusher-dust trail section from Main Street to Holiday Drive. This portion represents a practical first phase because it would provide a direct connection between the existing trail at Main Street and the trail currently being constructed by the adjacent land developer.

The cost of the first phase will not be known until the tender closes. Once the tender results are received, Administration will be able to confirm:

- the cost of completing the Main Street-to-Holiday Drive section;
- the amount of funding remaining within the approved project budget;
- whether any additional portion of the trail can be completed in 2026; and
- whether the remainder of the project should be deferred to the 2027 construction season.

The section from White Pine Place to Ford Road is expected to be more expensive because it requires widening and paving along the roadway shoulder. However, since this work would occur primarily along the road shoulder, it may be possible to tender and complete it early in the 2027 construction season, before the higher-traffic summer period beginning in July.

Proceeding with the first phase allows the Resort Village to make effective use of the approved SGI grant, complete a functional connection within the trail network and avoid committing to the more costly roadway section until tendered costs and available funding are confirmed.

Financial Implications

The preliminary project estimate was \$200,000 and was to be funded from \$80,000 in reserve funds and a Federal Active Transportation Grant applied for in 2024 for the remaining \$120,000. Federal funding has not been forthcoming and Council decided to proceed with an application to SGI for \$100,000 in 2026. SGI has approved \$50,000 towards the project in 2026. The resulting shortfall would require an additional \$70,000.

Conclusion

The approved SGI grant provides an opportunity to proceed with a meaningful portion of the Simon Lehne Drive trail extension, but the reduced grant amount is not expected to support completion of the entire project as originally proposed.