

**Gibsons, December 1, 2015:** With improved access to a scenic trail that connects upper and lower Gibsons, thanks to the efforts of community volunteers and a BikeBC grant, the town once more holds true to its vision of "a welcoming, sustainable community that offers residents and visitors an outstanding quality of life in a spectacular natural environment" (OCP, 2015).

"We truly appreciate the work volunteers devoted this year to roughing in the trail," said Gibsons Mayor Wayne Rowe. "Their work has made the trail suitable for casual hiking and mountain bikes; we look forward to supplementing this work in 2016 by widening the trail, and adding a gravel surface to increase accessibility for a broader range of users, from road bikers to those who rely on scooters for the mobility challenged."

In this waterfront town of 4,500 people on the Sunshine Coast, municipal leaders have prioritized the development of a continuous, integrated bicycle network to promote both recreation and transportation cycling, and the trail now welcomes casual hikers and mountain bikers who relish the opportunity to enter deep into nature, at the heart of their town. The Town has received a \$75,000 BikeBC grant for a Cycling Connector, a 1.8km shared roadway and trail cycling route that connects upper and lower Gibsons, linking the shops, schools and seniors facilities in upper Gibsons with the residential and tourist-oriented waterfront of lower Gibsons. The grant amount represents 50% of the estimated \$150,000 project cost; the balance of funding will be provided by the Town.

The project has three distinct segments: Stewart Road, which will be widened to accommodate a bike lane uphill and shared lane downhill; the Shaw/Stewart trail link, a minimal grade trail to be surfaced with fine crushed gravel; and Shaw Rd, a traffic calmed shared roadway which will be suitable for cyclists of all ages and abilities, and in fact, through slower vehicle speeds will enhance safety for all road users.

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**For further information:**

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