

DRAFT

CYCLE 16 TRAIL MAINTENANCE PLAN

September 2021



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This Smithers – Telkwa Cycle 16 Trail Maintenance Plan (the Plan) is a guiding document for management and maintenance of the Smithers – Telkwa Cycle 16 Trail (the Trail). The purpose of the Plan is to establish a consistent standard for the physical condition, intended function and environmental quality of the Trail. The Plan shall provide direction to the RDBN in planning annual operations, and budgeting. It may also help user groups, residents, and the business community understand and support trail operations and future Trail expansion. This Plan specifies standards for the inspection and maintenance regime required to ensure the adequate long-term operation of the Trail as envisioned by the Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.

1.2 TRAIL DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT REGIME

The idea of a commuter trail connecting the Town of Smithers and the Village of Telkwa was envisioned and brought to life by the Cycle 16 Trail Society. A Concept Design Report was prepared for the Cycle 16 Trail Society in 2017, a Preliminary Design of Phase 1 of the project (a 3.5 km section of the trail from the Smithers Bridge to Laidlaw Frontage Road) was completed in 2019. Detailed design work and construction drawings were completed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) in 2021.

The RDBN has responsibility for ownership and operation of the Trail as a local service funded by the Town of Smithers and Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural). Phase 1 of the Trail is located on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) road right of way secured under permit (or license of occupation) with MoTI, and on private property secured by statutory right of way.

Trail maintenance will be undertaken by a contractor reporting to the RDBN. The cost of maintenance shall be paid for by taxation from the Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) Parks and Trails Service area, which includes Electoral Area A (Smithers Rural) and the Town of Smithers. Maintenance costs are also covered by public and business financial contributions through the Cycle 16 Trail Society. Garbage and litter control may be addressed through volunteerism.

The Trail is not open for winter use and is not maintained during the winter.

1.3 INSPECTION

The RDBN and/or its approved agents will inspect, document, and maintain the Trail in accordance with the RDBN's Parks and Trails Inspection and Maintenance Policy. This document supplements the minimum standards identified in the Parks and Trails Inspection and Maintenance Policy.

2.0 TRAIL MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Trail maintenance is undertaken with the aim to provide the following standards.

2.1 ASPHALT TRAIL SURFACE

- 2.1.1 Conduct an annual visual review of the trail surface in the spring following snow melt.
- 2.1.2 Keep surface free of rocks, branches, debris and litter.
- 2.1.3 Seal cracks wider than 25mm with appropriate sealant immediately after frost leaves the ground. Clean and grout cracks beforehand if required.
- 2.1.4 Fill potholes and large cracks deeper than 25mm with asphalt patch or appropriate compound. Clean voids and grout or treat bonding edges as required.
- 2.1.5 Level heaved and protruding surfaces higher than 25mm, or remove and replace with asphalt.
- 2.1.6 Remove extensively damaged sections of asphalt and re-surface with new hot asphalt, laid and rolled to full thickness. If the cause of the condition is structural or geotechnical in nature, remove and/or repair the base aggregate and/or sub-grade as required first.
- 2.1.7 Maintain shoulders as required to provide a smooth transition off of the asphalt surface.
- 2.1.8 As a minimum, sweep, brush or otherwise remove debris from the trail surface each spring. Additionally, as required at other times of year, sweep, brush or otherwise remove sand, gravel, sticks and debris from the surface.
- 2.1.9 Apply or re-apply lines and text on asphalt surfaces as necessary to maintain the visibility and function of the markings.
- 2.1.10 Maintain a smooth transition to and from the trail surface for vehicle driveways and crossings of the rail trail.

2.2 DITCHES AND CULVERTS

- 2.2.1 Conduct an annual visual review of ditches and culverts. Additional, inspections may be necessary as a result of storm events and site specific conditions.
- 2.2.2 Conduct ditching and ditch clean-out as required to maintain a clean and effective route for the passage of drainage and storm water which may impact trail integrity.
- 2.2.3 Keep culverts free of branches, leaves, debris and depositions that may hinder water flow.
- 2.2.4 RDBN maintenance responsibility applies only to culverts under the Trail, and ditches built as part of the Trail project.

2.3 FENCES, BOLLARDS, BARRIERS AND GUARD RAILS

- 2.3.1 Conduct an annual visual review of fences, bollards, concrete roadside barriers, and guard rails.
- 2.3.2 Repair, reset, or replace fence posts, bollards, and guard rails as necessary.
- 2.3.3 Keep drainage holes in the concrete roadside barriers free of branches, leaves, debris, and depositions that may hinder drainage.
- 2.3.4 RDBN maintenance responsibility applies only to fences, bollards, concrete roadside barriers, and guard rails put in place as part of the Trail project.

2.4 SIGNS

- 2.4.1 Conduct an annual visual review of fences, bollards, concrete roadside barriers, and guard rails.
- 2.4.2 Update sign information as required to provide current information.
- 2.4.3 Conduct minor repairs (e.g. reset posts to vertical, re-fix loose sign panels) as required.
- 2.4.4 Replace missing signs and damaged signs that cannot be repaired.

2.5 VEGETATION

- 2.5.1 Conduct an annual visual review of corridor vegetation.
- 2.5.2 Vegetation along the Trail surface and shoulder shall be controlled. This includes mowing the Trail shoulder and vegetated surfaces a minimum of 0.5m from the

edge of the travel surface of the Trail, a minimum of once per year and brushing a minimum of 1.0m from the edge of the travel surface of the trail.

2.5.3 Vegetation adjacent to the trail at roadways and driveway crossings shall be maintained to provide unobstructed sight lines.

2.5.4 Cut and remove roots that impact the Trail surface or shoulder.

2.6 LITTER AND VANDALISM

2.6.1 Respond to reports of litter and vandalism and clean up as appropriate.

2.6.1 Empty trash and recycling containers as necessary.

3.0 TRAIL MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

This maintenance schedule is in addition to any necessary maintenance identified during the visual reviews referenced in Section 2.

Maintenance Task	Frequency	Notes
Hard Surface Maintenance		
asphalt sweeping	twice annually	in spring and mid summer
asphalt crack sealing	every 2 nd year	not required for 5 years after construction
asphalt patching and repair	every 2 nd year	not required for 5 years after construction
Shoulder Maintenance		
shoulder grading / compacting	once every 5 years	
shoulder mowing and brushing	three times annually	
vegetating intersections control	once every 5 years	
Signs, Lines, Bollards, Barriers and Guard Rails		
line painting	once every 5 years	
sign maintenance / replacement	as necessary	estimated replacement / repair frequency 1 sign per year
bollard re-painting	once every 5 years	
concrete barrier drainage hole cleanout	once annually	