



## **Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release  
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### **Honourable Mention for Excellence in Service Delivery at UBCM Community Excellence Awards**

**Burns Lake, B.C.** – The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako is pleased to have been awarded an Honourable Mention in the Excellence in Service Delivery category of the Union of BC Municipalities' Community Excellence Awards for Phase 1 of the Cycle 16 Trail Project.

The Cycle 16 Trail project is an initiative to establish a three-meter wide, paved, multi-use pathway between the Town of Smithers and the Village of Telkwa. Phase 1 of this three-phase project is now complete, with other Phases currently under construction. The Excellence in Service Delivery award recognizes that the project demonstrates the RDBN's commitment in responding to a community need by transforming an underutilized transportation corridor into a safe, accessible, and sustainable multi-use trail.

The project advances planning standards and best practices by integrating active transportation infrastructure in a rural context within a provincial highway right-of-way, and demonstrates multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration balancing the needs of residents, community groups, municipal governments, adjacent landowners, provincial agencies, and utility companies in collaboration with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en.

The project provides a planning and engineering framework for rural active transportation projects, including design solutions to address property owner concerns, agricultural interests, accessibility, and safety and public engagement over a large geography.

The RDBN is honoured that the UBCM recognizes that the project exemplifies excellence in collaborative planning and public engagement, and the development of innovative solutions to jurisdictional issues.

-30 -

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RDBN Board Chair, Mark Parker, Mayor of Smithers, Gladys Atrill, and Area C (Fort St. James Rural) Director, Judy Greenaway receive the Honourable Mention in Excellence in Service Delivery for the Cycle 16 Trail Project from Chad Carlstrom from Urban Systems, and Councillor Cori Ramsay, UBCM First Vice President, at the UBCM Community Excellence Awards Ceremony in Victoria on September 23, 2025.