

October 23, 2009

Airport Runway Extension Underway

At its October 20 meeting, City Council gave formal approval to issue a request for proposal (RFP) regarding the airport runway extension within the week.

The RFP will be posted on the City's website, and more information is available by contacting the City's Facilities and Supply Management Department.

Physical construction at the airport is expected to begin early in the new year and be completed within 16 months.

"The extension of the airport runway from 5,000 to 6,500 feet is a vital part of the City's economic diversification strategy," the Mayor emphasizes.

The increased runway length will allow fully loaded 737 service at the Campbell River airport. This will expand the airport's ability to fill corporate air travel needs and offer a larger inventory of aviation support industries and services – enhancing passenger and freight service for existing and future markets. The airport expansion is expected to significantly increase economic spinoff and the number of full-time jobs associated with the airport.

The combined Federal, Provincial and Municipal funds for infrastructure projects is \$8,331,250.

"The City is still actively pursuing other funding opportunities," explained Mayor Cornfield. *"We still have some irons in the fire in terms of funding applications, and while the Build Canada funding received to date will pay for two-thirds of the project cost, this Council is still hopeful that the City's one-third share can be further reduced."*

"These projects will enhance City infrastructure and provide an immediate and long-term boost to our local economy, and we continue to pursue additional funding to further reduce the impact on the City's budget," the Mayor concludes.

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