

DATE OF MEETING March 14, 2018

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**SUBJECT BOWEN ROAD CORRIDOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL COORDINATION –
ICBC ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council's approval to include in the 2018 – 2022 Financial Plan a project to implement a traffic signal coordination plan on Bowen Road/Comox Road between Highway 19A and Terminal Avenue with project funding from ICBC's Road Improvement Program.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to allocate \$22,000 of ICBC's Road Improvement Funding to the Bowen Road Traffic Signal Coordination plan..

BACKGROUND

The Bowen Road and Comox Road corridor, between Highway 19A and Terminal Avenue is one of the most heavily travelled roads within the City of Nanaimo, carrying upwards of 20,000 vehicles per day. The fourteen traffic signals along the corridor, currently operate independent of each other. This allows the signals to provide quicker service to side streets, but does not support efficient traffic flow on Bowen or Comox Road.

In 2017, Staff undertook a review of the corridor to determine if operational efficiencies could be gained by revising the traffic signal plans to establish coordination between the signals along the corridor; sometimes referred to as the "green wave".

Signal coordination reduces delay, Green House Gas Emissions, and the frequency of rear end collisions. A traffic signal coordination plan encourages drivers to travel at the posted speed limit and provides more predictable traffic signal changes. To support this, ICBC has committed \$28,500 to the development of the traffic signal coordination plan.

OPTIONS

1. Direct Staff to allocate \$22,000 of ICBC's Road Improvement Funding to the Bowen Road traffic signal coordination plan.
 - Budget Implication: Funding will be allocated from a grant received from ICBC and the project will be included in the Final 2018 – 2022 Financial Plan.
2. Provide Staff with alternative direction.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The proposed traffic signal changes would be included in the Final 2018 – 2022 Financial Plan.
- The cost is expected to be less than \$22,000 with 100% of the funding coming from ICBC.
- Traffic signal coordination is an effective way to reduce motor vehicle collisions, Green House Gas emissions, and traffic delays.

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