



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE: **HAROLD STREET REVITALIZATION PROJECT** **MOVES INTO CONSTRUCTION**

On behalf of Council, I am pleased to announce that the Village of Slocan has awarded the construction contract for the Harold Street North Revitalization Project to Kays Contracting, of Nelson, BC. Work on the one-block section between Ward Street and Delany Avenue will begin in September, with completion anticipated in spring 2027.

At \$2.45 million, this is a significant investment for a municipality of our size - and an important milestone after many years of community visioning, planning and preparation.

Harold Street is home to Slocan's commercial core. It is where people shop, dine, access services, and welcome visitors. As Slocan has evolved, the area has become increasingly busy, with more vehicle traffic, pedestrian activity and demand for organized parking. Renewing the street will help it serve residents, businesses and visitors more safely, for years to come.

The vision for Harold Street has been developing for many years. Downtown revitalization was first identified as a community priority through Slocan's 2011 sustainability and economic transition planning. At that time, the mill was experiencing periods of inconsistent operation, reinforcing the importance of diversifying the local economy and strengthen the Village center as a vibrant place for businesses, services and community life.

Following the mill's demolition in 2014, Slocan began experiencing new interest, infill and investment in the commercial core. In 2018, the Village began exploring what revitalization could look like and developed the Harold Street North Conceptual Design Plan, with the community directly involved in shaping the vision.

That vision was reaffirmed through the extensive public engagement that informed Slocan's 2022 Official Community Plan Revision. The OCP identifies "Creating a Vibrant Village Core Along Harold Street" as one of our community's Big Moves.

Turning that vision into a construction-ready project has required careful planning, detailed design, engineering and costing. It has also required identifying appropriate funding opportunities and aligning the project with available grant cycles. This important predevelopment work positioned the Village to secure the substantial funding needed to proceed.

This is not simply a beautification project. It is a significant investment in essential public infrastructure and the future of our community. The project will replace aging water infrastructure, introduce stormwater infrastructure where none currently exists, and reconstruct the road and sidewalks. It will also improve accessibility, drainage, lighting, landscaping, parking

and public amenity space. A more clearly defined parking layout is expected to increase usable frontage parking, while improving safety for pedestrians and motorists.

Together, these improvements will do more than renew essential infrastructure. They will create a safer, more accessible and better-organized commercial street, as well as a more inviting public place where people can pause, meet, move comfortably between businesses and services, and participate in Village life. By strengthening Harold Street as both a commercial core and a community gathering place, the project will support our local economy, encourage future investment, and contribute to Slocan's continued transition toward a more diverse and resilient future.

Construction of this scale will create disruption. Access, traffic, and parking will be affected at different times as work progresses, but Harold Street businesses will remain open. The Village and Kays Contracting will work with businesses and property owners to maintain reasonable access, provide advance notice of significant changes, and help people safely navigate the construction area. Important information about closures, detours, and parking will be shared through the Village's website and social-media channels.

I ask everyone to be patient, follow construction signage, and continue supporting our Harold Street businesses throughout the project. Their continued success is an important part of what this investment is intended to support.

Thank you to the community members who helped shape the vision, to Village staff who carried the project through its many stages of predevelopment, and to our funding partners who have made construction possible. I also want to recognize the professional support of Selkirk Planning & Design and Larch Landscape Architecture in developing the concept design, Lawson Engineering in advancing the detailed design and procurement, and Kays Contracting as we now move into construction.

After many years of visioning, planning and preparation, it is rewarding to see this long-standing community priority move from plans on paper to construction on the ground. Getting to this point has taken patience, persistence and collaboration. What we are building is more than a renewed street. It is a lasting investment in our public infrastructure, our local economy, our Village centre, and the future of Slocan.

Jessica Lunn
Mayor, Village of Slocan