



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACRD, Tseshaht, and Hupacasath working together on Rail Corridor Study

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, Tseshaht First Nation, and Hupacasath First Nation are working together on a Rail Corridor Study to develop an Alberni Valley vision for the Island Rail Corridor.

The study will involve documenting the history of rail in the Alberni Valley, reviewing existing infrastructure conditions, identifying needs and opportunities for the corridor, culminating in the identification of a preferred option and a strategy for moving that option forward. The study will be completed by HDR Corporation in February 2025.

“How the Island Rail Corridor can and should be used has been a long-standing point of discussion for communities across Vancouver Island, including those within the Alberni Valley. This specific study engages First Nations, impacted communities and interested groups to develop a shared common vision for the future of the corridor. We encourage people to consider and share their views through the lens of business/economic impacts, social, recreational, and cultural possibilities, as well as climate and environmental opportunities.” said Daniel Sailland, Chief Administrative Officer.

Public engagement and consultation with key groups will be an important component of the project as well and will inform the concepts and opportunities considered during the study. A range of opportunities for public participation will be offered, including in-person and online events and tools.

As a result of the 2021 Court of Appeal for British Columbia decision and ensuing action by the Government of Canada and Province of BC, the lands upon which the rail corridor sits are being reverted to the First Nations whose territories the corridor transects.

Input from the Tseshaht and Hupacasath communities is vitally important, as partners in the Rail Corridor Study, as title holders to segments of rail corridor, and on whose traditional territory the rail line is located.

“Ensuring that everyone is involved and able to contribute recognizes the important role of community feedback in creating a future plan for the region,” added Sailland. “It is equally important for Tseshaht and Hupacasath Nations to have the opportunity to explore the possible benefits they may have by engaging these lands. We look forward to working together to learn more about the interests and opportunities that could be available for the corridor and our shared community.”

The project is getting underway now with preliminary reviews and assessments. The first engagement events are expected to be held in September – more information will be shared closer to the date. For more information about the Rail Corridor study to follow along in the process and provide input, visit letsconnectacrd.ca/railstudy

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For more information,
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