



**RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER**

4325 Blackcomb Way TEL 604 932 5535  
Whistler, BC Canada V8E 0X5 TF 1 866 932 5535  
whistler.ca FAX 604 935 8109

June 27, 2022

**Re: E-Bike Share Demonstration Project**

Dear Business Owner,

As part of the Resort Municipality of Whistler's (RMOW) Climate Action Big Moves Strategy, we are partnering with BCAA's Evo Car Share to introduce an e-bike share demonstration project from August to October 2022. This is an important initiative to expand mobility options for residents and guests—and move away from auto-dependent trips.

E-bike share programs target users seeking a single, short duration trip from one destination to another without the worry of bike parking or theft. E-bike share stations being considered will be in strategic locations around the Village, Rainbow Park, Lost Lake Park, Meadow Park Sports Centre, and potentially other locations. Residents and visitors require a membership to access the fleet which then allows them to pick up an e-bike at one designated location and drop it off at another designated location. Use of these bikes includes an unlocking fee and a per-minute charge and is designed for shorter one-way commuter trips as opposed to hourly, half day or daily recreational rides. Using the e-bike share program for longer duration trips (30 minutes plus) will be cost prohibitive when compared to rental options provided by local businesses.

Similar e-bike and bike share programs systems have been successfully implemented in the City of Vancouver, the City and District of North Vancouver and at the University of British Columbia and have proven to reduce automobile trips.

This demonstration project will enable the RMOW to collect trip data to inform the implementation of a permanent system, intended for 2023. The future system will be tailored to support residents and commuters, and expand the availability of sustainable modes of transportation.

This demonstration project will be presented to Council on Tuesday, July 5 and the RMOW is offering a 1.5 hour virtual meeting to local bike rental businesses. During the meeting RMOW staff will present the initiative, and provide opportunities for dialogue and questions. This session will take place on Thursday, June 30 at 9:00 a.m. Businesses are encouraged to register by contacting [parksplanning@whistler.ca](mailto:parksplanning@whistler.ca). Please feel free to contact staff at any time at the above address.

Regards,

Jessie Gresley-Jones  
General Manager of Resort Experience

3 July 2022

Dear Mayor & Council

We write with respect to the White Gold Undergrounding project.

This project was initiated nearly three years ago with a successful petition from a solid majority of homeowners in the neighbourhood - owners of close to 100 properties! Many owners who support this project live, work and volunteer in our community year round. There are also a number of supportive owners who call Whistler their second home. We're all passionate Whistlerites, representative of the homeowner mix that make up the Whistler community.

The initiative was actually the brainchild of two long-time White Gold residents who considered this work a long term investment in our neighbourhood, a safety and risk management initiative as well as a neighbourhood enhancement project that would benefit all owners. You only need to look at recent storms which downed utilities for several weeks in eastern Ontario, affecting thousands of residents, and similar outages in parts of the Lower Mainland, to see the real tangible benefits of undergrounding power lines. Climate change is likely to only increase the number and severity of these events in the future.

Across Whistler, every new development over the past two decades has also undergrounded utilities, including the current RMOW development of employee restricted homes in Cheakamus Crossing, the cost of which is absorbed by purchasers of those homes.

However, today's economic environment has shifted significantly since the project was initiated. A booming construction sector through the pandemic, inflationary pressures not seen in decades, unprecedented labour shortages and rapidly rising interest rates mean that nearly three years later, the current total estimated cost is now almost double that initially budgeted by the RMOW's project manager and approved by White Gold homeowners.

We understand the cost overages are mostly driven by the tenders received in the civil tender process last month, which are exorbitantly higher (3-4 times) than the actual costs for the recent Cheakamus undergrounding of new utilities. These tenders on the White Gold project illustrate the imbalance in the current economic environment and should be rejected. We continue to support the aims of the project, but not at any cost.

This imbalance is unlikely to persist and/or be sustained into the future. A lot of good work has been completed that would be useful for the project to go ahead in the future. In light of the current environment, and acknowledging staff's reference in their report to any future project /

petition being able to benefit from the design work that has been done to date, we support staff's recommendation to pause the project.

Given the above, we ask council to request staff to:

1) delay the municipality's planned road repaving in White Gold for at least two years such that an undergrounding project can be reassessed at that time, when the economic situation may be more favourable for the project to move ahead (Note: it is likely a prudent decision to defer this road repaving investment anyway, given the current cost environment as described above); and

2) request a deferral/extension from BC Hydro for use of the grant in two years time so a future project could still possibly take advantage of that successful grant awarded to benefit the White Gold homeowners. Regardless of the decision by BC Hydro, the project has merit and could be considered with or without the grant in the future.

Finally, we'd like to acknowledge and thank staff & Council for their rational, diligent and professional consideration in progressing this project over the past three years, and look forward to a future time that is more suitable to progressing this worthwhile and beneficial project at a realistic price.

Yours sincerely

*On behalf of the homeowners group  
For the White Gold Undergrounding project*

Gordon Ahrens  
7309 Fitzsimmons Rd S, Whistler

Toni & David Metcalf  
7437 Ambassador Cres, Whistler

Rob Kavelaars  
7345 Toni Sailer Lane, Whistler

I may be too late with this response, but I will try, anyways.

I encourage the Whistler Council to stop the so-called "beautification of White Gold power lines.

The project has gotten totally out of hand. What we thought would be a \$20,000 bill has gone crazy and we are now no longer in favour of hiding the power lines. At this point, we feel that the project is no longer viable, desirable, nor cost efficient.

As seniors, this is putting a huge financial burden on us and our families. We have talked to many neighbours and most feel that somehow this project has gotten out of hand and we are very puzzled why it is continuing. We would like to be re-petioned if there is any further talk of proceeding.

Please listen to the people who live in White Gold and stop this crazy and necessary expense.

4 names on this letter:

Colleen MacDonald

Ian MacDonald

Kyle MacDonald

Natalie Percival

We live at:

7240 Fitzsimmons Rd S

Whistler BC

Dear Mayor and council members,

Yesterday we received an email from Christine Boehringer, project manager, concerning the proposed cancellation of the above.

It is remarkable that, as interested homeowners and taxpayers, we were only informed about this one day before the proposed Council meeting to address the matter. Also, that White Gold residents, who were strongly in favor of proceeding with this project, were not consulted about this recommendation.

The potential increased cost of this project definitely warrants further consideration. It has probably been exacerbated by the pent-up demand for labour and materials as a result of the Covid lockdowns, resultant supply chain shortages, labour shortages, and increased fuel costs. In addition, it appears that tenders had to be submitted by a certain deadline with construction to be completed by another deadline. It is certainly possible that these costs may moderate in the future once the pent-up demand has been met and supply chain, labour shortages and fuel costs come into balance.

It is also possible that White Gold residents would be willing to cover any potential increased costs, recognizing the marked increase in property values in the neighbourhood as well as the increased safety and security achieved by undergrounding. As far as I am aware, residents were not given an opportunity to consider this .

We would therefore like to suggest that Council take the following actions:

1. That RMOW Council not vote to cancel this project, but rather to defer it pending further consultation with White Gold homeowners and possible cost moderation in the near future.
2. That Council request an extension of the proposed grant from BCHydro.
3. That repaving of the roads (which appear to me in reasonably good condition) be deferred pending further consideration of the project.

Once again, our apologies are extended for the short notice of this communication, which reflects our only having been informed about the proposed cancellation yesterday!

Yours truly, Jeffrey and Donna Green,  
7334 Toni Sailer Lane, Whistler, BC.

Honourable Jack Crompton and Council Members,

We were very disappointed to learn that the above referenced utility project will no longer be moving forward.

To receive this news one day prior to this matter going before council is unacceptable. As current homeowners and long time tax payers, it does not feel that the best interest of the public is being served here.

We understand that a big concern of the project is the potential increased costs associated with it, which we agree should be further contemplated. However, to abandon the project altogether without considering possible alternatives is imprudent and shortsighted.

Most of the background pricing work took place during a global pandemic with supply chain breakdowns and related material shortages that obviously lead to the increase in cost. It is possible that these costs could normalize with the passage of some time, so deferring the project and asking for an extension from BC Hydro re the proposed grant would seem the most obvious course of action. Other possible solutions could include consulting the residents to determine if they would be willing to accept participating in this increased cost.

We strongly ask that the RMOW Council vote to further consult with residents on the idea of cost mitigation, or cost sharing, versus an outright cancellation.

We look forward to your timely response and trust that you and the council will again take the best interest of the local community.

Thank-you,

Jacqueline Green

40 Princess Anne Crescent

Etobicoke, ON, M9A2P2

(& White Gold Resident)

Dear Mayor and Whistler council members,

I read the email from Christine Boehringer and I'm quite upset that we were only informed about this recommendation 1 day before the Council meeting. The costs are very high and I understand the increase in costs for everything but I feel this is too much. Regardless, we are very interested in going ahead with this project. I agree with other neighbours that the residents may share in some of the costs as it would be a good investment for the neighbourhood. I understand this option was not considered by the council. We have owned in White Gold since 2000 and Ian has previously worked full-time for Whistler Blackcomb. We are invested in the community and will be long time locals.


I agree with my neighbours and other White Gold taxpayers in the following following:

1. That RMOW Council not vote to cancel this project, but rather to defer it pending further consultation with White Gold homeowners and possible cost moderation in the near future.
2. That Council request an extension of the proposed grant from BCHydro.
3. That repaving of the roads (which appear to me in reasonably good condition) be deferred pending further consideration of the project.

Once again, our apologies are extended for the short notice of this communication, which reflects our only having been informed about the proposed cancellation yesterday!

Yours truly, .

Dr Ian Hart Green MB BCh & Mrs. Samantha Dawn Green  
1079 Sunnyside Road, West Kelowna  
British Columbia, V1Z 2N7

From: Eric and Luise Zinsli, 7477 Ambassador Cr., White Gold  


Dear Mr. Mayor and Council,

We received your email yesterday regarding the cancellation of the White Gold Project.

It has taken a lot of time and effort to get to this stage and the project should not be abandoned but delayed.

The BC Hydro grant should be requested to be extended.

The road repaving should be delayed in line with the above.

We are still in support of the project but not at this time and at the current costs.

We are asking that the White Gold Project be NOT CANCELLED but DELAYED.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Eric and Luise Zinsli



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05 July, 2022

The figure below is a computer-generated word map of the comments from the **290 signatures** on the petition. The larger red font words are the most repeated across the comments. The smaller blue font words are less common. NOTE the repeated concern for community and cost. Less repeated concerns but noteworthy are vanity, listen and upheaval.



Dear Council,

We have just learned that Council, in the meeting scheduled for this afternoon, is planning to cancel the White Gold project due to cost issues. Given that the current economic climate is fraught with uncertainty and impacted by atypical issues stemming from the pandemic, we propose that a delay in the decision re: the White Gold project would be more prudent than an outright cancellation. We propose that Council should revisit approval of the project once the economic climate settles down. To cancel under the current situation seems reactive at best.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,  
Angela Samuda  
7482 Ambassador Cres  
