

November 22, 2020

To Mayor and Council

My name is David Metcalf and my family and I have been living permanently in White Gold since 2012 and have owned property here since 2007.

I am writing to voice my emphatic support for your decision on November 3rd to proceed with the White Gold Underground Project and stress my concern that you are now reconsidering that decision at the December 1st council meeting.

As a retired Portfolio, Programme and Project Management professional, I have seen many sound and worthwhile projects fail to proceed for the wrong reasons (poor stakeholder management and misinformation key among them) and I fear a reversal of your November 3rd decision would be a mistake.

This project is, without exaggeration, a once in a generation opportunity for White Gold homeowners to meaningfully invest in the improved safety, reliability, aesthetics and value of our neighbourhood. Circumstances could not be better (RMOW budgeted repaving of the road surface, BC Hydro beautification grant, majority support of homeowners, ability to pay on property taxes over 30 years) and tax deferral opportunities will negate the financial impacts for a majority of White Gold owners. The Business Case for this project is valid.

Council's decision to proceed with the project was based on sound logic, consistent with the Community Charter process and recognized the will of the majority of homeowners (approx. 58%).

Since signalling our strong support through the petition process, the majority in support of the project have been mostly silent, awaiting the outcome of the process and council's decision which was validated on November 3. The small minority of homeowners in opposition (~10%), however, have understandably been hard at work attempting to undermine the project with letters to council which has prompted several articles and editorials in the Pique. In the absence of a balanced perspective and adherence to project facts as sent to all homeowners and available on the RMOW website, these emotionally charged articles and letters have served to falsely elevate the perception of opposition to the project, inconsistent with reality.

Make no mistake, this project has broad support in the White Gold neighbourhood and a reversal of council's November 3rd decision would not only serve to undermine Whistler's faith in the Community Charter process but also in Council's decision making ability.

Going forward, our neighbourhood has a plan to work together to find the most suitable and affordable option for every homeowner to benefit from this project.

I thank you for your attention and trust that you will stand by your decision of November 3rd and see this project to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely,

David Metcalf
7437 Ambassador Crescent, Whistler
