

Village of Tahsis – Action Plan for the 2023 Strategic Economic Development Plan

This action plan is for use as an internal document to track delivery of the agreed actions that assist in the delivery of the Strategic Economic Development Plan.

It is important to note that since the plan was published in 2023 the following initiatives have been progressed:

- The newly agreed Canadian Coast Guard Marine Facility will bring employment opportunities, especially during construction phase;
- The finalized plans for the new Community Dock will also bring similar employment opportunities; and
- The new facility and business at the boat launch will also add to the increased tourism and other opportunities.

In addition, Council has agreed to encourage large development opportunities (such as the re-development of the former Maquinna Hotel, development of the former WFP mill site or IR 11 at the entrance to the Village) as they would be the most efficient way to galvanize the plan as all have significant growth opportunities attached.

The Action Plan is set out in detail below:

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
Strategic Priority #1: People and Investment					
Goal #1: Create a business/co-working hub to support a sub-community of remote workers, both existing and future.	1.1.1	Scope and design a co-working space within the Tourist Information Centre.	Paige Sawyer	04/30/24	Scoping document agreed by Council.
	1.1.2	Convene a group of interested business owners and other interested stakeholders to scope the co-working space technology, furniture and equipment needs. Use the existing REDIP grant and other grant funding to integrate the co-working space proposal into the Tourist Information Centre renovation project.	Paige Sawyer	03/29/24	Revised co-working space proposal included in Tourist Information Centre renovation project.
Goal #2: Establish municipal-based structures through which to promote economic development and provide opportunity for strategic partnerships.	1.2.1	Interact with the Tahsis Chamber of Commerce if requested to do so as part of ongoing meetings, etc.	Paige Sawyer	06/28/24	TBD once the existing Tahsis Chamber of Commerce is operational.
	1.2.2	Under the provisions of the Council Procedure Bylaw, Council to establish a Standing Committee for Business to interact with Mayor and Council and to develop a dialogue to enable the delivery and future development of the Strategic Economic Development Plan, along with the development and delivery of education and training opportunities to help local business owners to succeed.	Council	04/30/24	Standing Committee for Business established.

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
Strategic Priority #1: People and Investment (continued)					
Goal #2: (continued) Establish municipal-based structures through which to promote economic development and provide opportunity for strategic partnerships.	1.2.3	Set terms of reference for the Standing Committee for Business including reporting, meeting schedule and objectives.	Council	04/30/24	Standing Committee for Business established.
	1.2.4	Consult with the Standing Committee for Business on long term planning and development initiatives including updates to the Official Community Plan and zoning bylaw amendments.	Council	Ongoing	Minutes of Standing Committee for Business and resulting actions.
	1.2.5	Use the Standing Committee for Business to represent the local business community in the North Island Digital Development Initiative and any other connectivity opportunities arising from Connected Coast.	Council/ Standing Committee for Business Members	Ongoing	Representation on North Island Digital Development Initiative confirmed.
Goal #3: Establish Tahsis as a prime tourism location on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, building on the world class fishing and access to unrivalled nature activities and recreation.	1.3.1	Interact with 4VI (Tourism Association of Vancouver Island), Destination Campbell River and other North Island tourism initiatives, as well as the Destination Marketing efforts of Mowachaht Muchalaht First Nation and develop co-strategies where possible.	Paige Sawyer	03/31/24 and ongoing	To be determined (TBD).
	1.3.2	Seek funding opportunities to develop a more formal Destination Marketing Plan.	Paige Sawyer	Ongoing	Destination Marketing Plan commissioned (and funding received).

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
Strategic Priority #2: Employment Opportunities					
Goal #1: Support investments in critical assets such as tourism infrastructure which will create both seasonal and year-round work.	2.1.1	Apply funding from the Rural Dividend Fund grant, REDIP program and other funding sources to create a new full time position for a local Economic Development Officer (at least two years' funding needed).	Mark Tatchell	05/30/24	Full-time Economic Development Officer position agreed and posted.
	2.1.2	Recruit to the new full-time position.	Mark Tatchell	07/31/24	Full-time Economic Development Officer position appointed.
Goal #2: Active consideration of how existing assets can be used, with community support, to develop local businesses or increase community revenues.	2.2.1	Use the existing infrastructure and networks (e.g. Tahsis Business Connect) to create a local Business Directory and provide structured opportunities for businesses to collaborate and cost share (e.g. Freight Sharing, etc.).	Paige Sawyer	03/31/24	Local Business Directory created.
	2.2.2	Use the new full-time Economic Development Officer position to hold regular clinics with business owners and provide the opportunity for dialogue and informing the agenda and scope of the Standing Council Committee for Business.	Paige Sawyer	Ongoing	Schedule for regular clinics created.

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
Strategic Priority #2: Employment Opportunities (continued)					
Goal #3: Implement Community Forest and Aquaculture strategies to create jobs in community and with local partners, Mowachaht Muchalaht First Nation.	2.3.1	Develop a Community Forest feasibility plan in partnership with Mowachaht Muchalaht First Nation.	Mark Tatchell	03/31/25	Community Forest Feasibility Plan developed and signed off by Council.
	2.3.2	Work with local aquaculture businesses and First Nations to assess whether a local Aquaculture Strategy should be developed and implemented.	Mark Tatchell	03/31/25	Aquaculture Strategy developed and signed off by Council.
Strategic Priority #3: Infrastructure					
Goal #1: Paving of Head Bay Road, connecting Tahsis to the rest of Vancouver Island.	3.1.1	Create a working group to advance discussions on a long-term solution for funding for paving and long-term maintenance of Head Bay Road (to potentially include Village of Tahsis, Province of BC, Western Forest Products, Government of Canada and Mowachaht Muchalaht First Nation involvement).	Mark Tatchell/ Council	Ongoing	Working Group convened and operational.
	3.1.2	Regularly update residents on progress of the working group.	Mark Tatchell	Ongoing	Regular updates completed (no less than every 6 months).
	3.1.3	Build a coalition of road users (potentially to include Government of Canada, RCMP, BC Ambulance Service, Residents, etc.) to lobby the Province of BC to improve both capital investment in and ongoing maintenance of the Head Bay Road.	Council	Ongoing	TBD.

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
Strategic Priority #3: Infrastructure (continued)					
Goal #2: Investment in key strategic assets that will make Tahsis a 'destination'.	3.2.1	Establish a Harbour Authority to be responsible for the new community dock and to set, collect and manage usage and moorage fees, etc., with an additional full- or part-time position to be considered to assist with collection and enforcement.	Mark Tatchell/ Council	Ongoing	Harbour Authority established and operational.
	3.2.2	Subdivide the parcel of land where the Tahsis Marine Centre and Post Office are located and sell at least part of the sub-divided asset.	Mark Tatchell	09/30/24	Plot sub-divided and sold.
	3.2.3	Develop a Building Permit and Development Permit seminar/workshop and regular online clinics for business owners to educate and inform on what is required for Building and Development Permits (site specific) and how to expedite them with Mayor and Council and, potentially, with the Province of BC.	Paige Sawyer/ Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Building Inspector/ SRD Planning Officer	05/30/24 and ongoing	First seminar/workshop held with ongoing program established.
Goal #3: Investment in additional housing options that will make Tahsis attractive to new residents.	3.3.1	Communicate to local residents information about the Property Maintenance Regulation Bylaw including the complaint and enforcement process.	Mark Tatchell/ SRD ByLaw Officer	09/30/24	Meeting held and literature developed.

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
Strategic Priority #3: Infrastructure (continued)					
Goal #3: (continued) Investment in additional housing options that will make Tahsis attractive to new residents.	3.3.2	Set service standards for the Property Maintenance Regulation By-Law with the SRD to ensure prompt action on complaints.	Mark Tatchell/ SRD ByLaw Officer	09/30/24	Update to ByLaw agreed and published.
	3.3.3	Work towards establishing a plan for the waterfront/mill site with Western Forest Products and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.	Mark Tatchell/ Council	Ongoing	Plan developed and stakeholder group convened for discussion on long-term resolution.

Note: In total 24 actions identified.