



AGENDA

**Standing Committee of Business Liaison
to be held on August 21, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
977 South Maquinna Drive in Council Chambers and by electronic means**

Remote Access **To attend this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams/ phone
Join the Village of Tahsis Microsoft Teams Meeting
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Toronto, Canada
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Call to Order

**Land
Acknowledgement**

Councillor Moore will acknowledge and respect that we are meeting upon Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory.

**Introduction
of Late Items**

**Approval of
the Agenda**

**Business
Arising**

**H 1 Community Consultation/ Town Hall event preparation- continuation
from August 5, 2025 .**

a) Business Committee Open House Plan

- b) Economic Development Survey questions**
- c) Economic Development Survey distribution**
- 2 Version 4 of the updated Strategic Economic Development Plan**
- 3 Other items for consideration in relation to the Town Hall Event**
- 4 Items to be discussed at the next Standing Committee of Business Liaison Meeting.**

Adjournment

DRAFT VOT Business Committee Open House Plan

Engagement Purpose and Scope

The VOT Business Committee has been working on draft updates to the Strategic Economic Development Strategy and associated Action Plan. These documents inform the direction and work plan for the VOT Economic Development program.

The purpose of this engagement is to generate responses to the draft strategy, goals and action items. It should be noted that the drafts were built from the existing plans and were augmented to include past community consultation documents (ie, 2019 Community Survey, Age Friendly Community Action Plan, Official Community Plan, Housing Needs Assessment).

Responses from community stakeholders will help to inform the final draft which the Business Committee will present to Council for consideration.

Engagement Process

Each Strategic Priority will be presented on one or two large format flip charts and be accompanied by the proposed Goals and Action items. Stakeholders will use GREEN post-it notes to identify the Action items that resonate with them and that they see as worth pursuing as part of a 10 year plan. By default, those action items with no post-its or a low number, will demonstrate to the Committee that they aren't viewed favorably by stakeholders. Community stakeholders will also have the opportunity to include comments and propose new ideas for consideration.

Business Committee Member Role

Business Committee members in attendance are there to support the community stakeholder engagement and would best serve in a supportive listening capacity. The exercise is meant to be apolitical, and an opportunity for us to hear from the community rather than the other way around.

Let's keep the Open House positive and constructive, with the goal that community stakeholders leave with a feeling of positivity and vision with regards to the future of our community.

DRAFT Survey Questions

In order to engage as many community stakeholders as possible, the committee would like to open a survey on the weekend of the Open House, with a plan to leave it open for _____.

The questions would follow the same format as the Open House, which is to look for reactions and resonance with the Strategic Priorities, Goals and Action items proposed, and ample room to provide comments and propose new ideas.

Strategic Priority #1 – People and Investment

Please read the Goal and then respond to the Action items that follow by checking all that you support as actions to reach the goal. Keep in mind that we are looking for a long-term vision that will still need to be funded through grants and budgets in order to become a reality.

(Survey question)

Goal - Build on our reputation for front row access to world class fishing and outdoor recreation by developing tourism infrastructure including trails, camping options, and outdoor gathering spaces that benefit both residents and visitors.

- Develop a more formal Tourism Development Plan.
- Create a development & maintenance plan for existing local trails.
- Make the Leiner Trail a destination: improve to an accessible standard with plant, animal and historical interpretive signs, and other appropriate infrastructure.
- Apply for an Active Transportation Planning Grant in partnership with MMFN to create a village network for way finding and safe travel (walking, biking) to all parts of the village including connecting to IR11 and the newly funded Grease Trail project.

- Create a development plan for the Waterfront Park including sheltered gathering space, washrooms, parking, and garbage disposal. Alternatively consider other waterfront VOT properties for development.
- Create a development plan for washrooms, parking and signage at the boat launch.
- Create a development plan for Pete's Farm (with the potential to include H1 tent camping sites).
- Add poles at the waterfront to support seasonal flags and light displays
- Make it easier for visitors to navigate the village by improving road signs and adding way-finding signs.
- Move benches and shelters to more useful and scenic locations. Ensure they are installed with accessibility in mind.
- Purchase accessible picnic benches and locate them throughout the village in appropriate locations.
- Continue the 'red chair' project by adding two chairs every year.

(Survey question)

Goal - Prioritize maintenance and beautification of the village and building assets in order to make the village physically attractive.

- Make an annual calendar to prioritize seasonal efforts to keep the village looking its best.
- Buy more concrete flower planter blocks to beautify the flood wall.
- Invest in targeted annual budgets specific to beautification, for hanging baskets on all municipal buildings, new planters and other similar beautification efforts.
- Create small municipal Neighborhood Beautification grants that are awarded annually.
- Work with Western to build a new fence along the sidewalk/ mill site interface.

- Apply for the provincial invasive species grant to tackle the growing broom issue in the village.
- Look at capital costs to ensure we have the tools we need for maintenance (ie: street cleaner)

(Survey question)

Goal - Market Tahsis to the world through strategic partnerships.

- Consider the creation of a regional Destination Marketing Organization.
- 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 the Mowachaht- Muchalaht First Nation and develop co-strategies where possible.
- Create branding and a village theme to create cohesive colour and form across the built environment and digital presence.
- Build a new VOT website with strong branding, visuals and easy navigation.
- Develop a more formal Tourism Marketing Plan.

(Survey question)

Goal - Develop community cohesion and make Tahsis more socially attractive through community programming and events.

- Improve VOT consultation with residents and visitors to help guide a community centered approach to future planning.
- Launch a survey specific to Recreation Centre programming and hours to inform local services.
- Create an annual Tahsis events calendar and strategy.
- Launch a regular newsletter through the VOT website to keep both residents and visitors looped in to everything going on in our community.

- Actively work to improve accessibility in the village including the built environment and service delivery (ie: library, trails, recreation centre, parking, programming and events) to support full participation and an inclusive community.
- Apply for grants to renew all municipal playgrounds- including in the Townsite, Recreation Centre & Trailer Park

Create a dog park to support social connection for community members and their four legged friends.

(Survey question)

Goal - Create a business/co-working hub to support a sub-community of remote workers. both existing and future

- Create a small business/coworking hub in the Tahsis Recreation Centre to support the needs of budding entrepreneurs and remote workers who may need a different space to work or resources such as a printer or fax.

(Survey question)

Goal - Establish a municipal social enterprise entity through which to promote economic development and provide opportunity for strategic partnerships

Needs action – ask Paige about work to date

Strategic Priority #2 – Employment Opportunities

Please read the Goal and then respond to the Action items that follow by checking all that you support as actions to reach the goal. Keep in mind that we are looking for a long-term vision that will still need to be funded through grants and budgets in order to become a reality.

(Survey question)**Goal - Create attractive entry level Village of Tahsis employment opportunities for residents and people interested in relocating to Tahsis.**

- Consider the opportunity for the VOT to join the living wage movement and if successful, encourage local businesses to do the same.
- Look for opportunities to increase Village of Tahsis employment opportunities while also supporting economic development, by extending the hours of operation of the Tahsis Recreation Centre and the Museum and Tourist Information Centre

(Survey question)**Goal - Work with local and First Nations partners to establish new value-added industries in Tahsis and area.**

Implement the Aquaculture strategy to create jobs in community.

Approach MMFN to see if there is interest in Community Forest partnerships in the Tahsis area.

Create an Agriculture strategy towards the goal of local food security and a sustainable, diverse industry.

Strategic Priority #3 – Infrastructure

Please read the Goal and then respond to the Action items that follow by checking all that you support as actions to reach the goal. Keep in mind that we are looking for a long-term vision that will still need to be funded through grants and budgets in order to become a reality.

(Survey question)**Goal - Continue to advocate for an increased number of kilometres of seal coat and for continuous maintenance and improvements to Head Bay Road, connecting Tahsis to the rest Vancouver Island.**

- Continue Head Bay Road working group discussions and report to residents every six months or less
- Build a coalition of road users (potentially to include Coast Guard, RCMP, BC Ambulance Service, SD 72, village residents, etc.) to lobby the Province of BC to improve both capital investment in and ongoing maintenance of the Head Bay Road.
- Consider ways to better communicate current road conditions to residents and visitors (ie: on the Village of Tahsis website or by providing a link to the road conditions FB page or by setting up a webcam at the Bull Lake Summit)
- Use the tagline “Road to Adventure” as a way to provide a spin on the experience of getting to Tahsis

(Survey question)

Goal - Invest in maintenance and renewal of key assets (ie Recreation Centre, Municipal Office) that make Tahsis attractive as a visitor and resident.

- Make a phased plan to renovate the Recreation Centre including the exterior façade, accessibility, and any other updates required. Assign budget and apply for grants to implement the plan over five years.
- Identify and act on priorities in the Asset Management Plan that also benefit Economic Development.

(Survey question)

Goal - Explore opportunities to provide additional housing options that will support current and future community housing needs.

- Identify suitable VOT lands for a multi-unit, accessible and affordable housing development to meet housing needs.
- Identify non-profit partners for a housing project and approach BC Housing to explore the opportunity

(Survey question)

Goal - Explore and support the need for renewal and renovation of existing housing stock.

- Build an information resource that will help residents find renovation and retrofitting grants and trusted contractors that are willing to travel to Tahsis.

(Survey question)

Goal - Explore and support the need for transportation services for goods and people including locals and visitors.

- Continue to explore opportunities for both public and private transportation partnerships with the Strathcona Regional District and the Mowachaht-Muchalaht First Nation.

(Survey question)

Please share your overall thoughts on the identified goals and actions.

Do they resonate with you? Are there gaps that you'd like to note?

All ideas and suggestions are welcome whether they are small and specific or large and broad. (Might want to add an opportunity to be contacted?)