



# REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-188

From: Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer

Date: May 13, 2021

**Subject: Gotta Go Roadside Facilities Alternate Approval Process**

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## **RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board approve the elector response form for the Alternate Approval Process to obtain elector approval for 'Gotta Go Roadside Facilities Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2440, 2021', which must be used if a resident wishes to object to the Gotta Go Service; further, that the deadline for elector responses is July 5, 2021; and finally, that the eligible number of voters in the service area boundary is 7,965.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

On March 11, 2021, the Regional Board gave Gotta Go Roadside Facilities Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2440, 2021 first three readings and selected the Alternate Approval Process as the method to be used to obtain elector approval for the service.

On April 15, 2021, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs provided Statutory Approval for the bylaw. The Board now needs to approve the elector response form and the deadline for responses, and accept the determination of the eligible number of voters in the service area boundary. If elector responses are received from more than 10% of eligible voters, the Board may not proceed with the Gotta Go Roadside Facilities service unless approval is obtained via assent voting (referendum). If less than 10% of eligible voters submit elector response forms, indicating they wish the Board to conduct assent voting prior to adopting Bylaw 2440, elector approval is deemed to have been obtained and the Board may then consider adoption of the bylaw.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

Approval of the electors via the alternate approval process is permissible for services with a maximum requisition of less than 50¢/\$1,000 net taxable value of land and improvements. The maximum requisition stated in Gotta Go Roadside Facilities Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2440, 2021 is "the greater of \$300,000, or an amount equal to the amount that could be raised by a property value tax of **\$0.0249/\$1,000** when applied to the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area".

There will be advertising costs for the placement of the required public notification in each of the relevant local newspapers – Alaska Highway News, Northern Horizon, Tumbler Ridge Lines, and Coffee Talk News (Approximately \$500 - \$800 per ad, per paper, with two ads per newspaper required), and some printing costs for elector response forms. Staff time costs to hold public meetings and prepare public information packages have not been estimated.

### **COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

The *Local Government Act*, s. 345 (2) and *Community Charter* s. 85 (2) prescribe the mandatory content of a public notice required to advise the public of an alternate approval process. A minimum of two notices will be placed in each local newspaper relevant to the service area (Hudson’s Hope, Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd, Taylor and Electoral Area B) advising residents of the process, how to respond, and the deadline for responses. The deadline for response must be not less than 30 days after the second required public notice.

Elector Response forms will be available upon request at the PRRD offices in both Fort. St. John and Dawson Creek, and at the municipal offices in Hudson’s Hope, Tumbler Ridge, Taylor, and Chetwynd. Response forms will also be available via the PRRD website, or by email. They can be returned by mail, email, or in person at PRRD offices. Participating area municipal offices will not be responsible for accepting elector response forms on behalf of the PRRD.

Additionally, two virtual public meetings will be scheduled in June to share information about the proposed service and the alternate approval process. The presentation will be recorded and made available on the PRRD website to allow residents unable to attend the virtual meeting to watch the presentation to inform themselves at their convenience.

### **OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

If less than 10% of eligible electors submit elector response forms, the Board may proceed with adoption of the Gotta Go Roadside Facilities Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2440, 2021. If more than 826 response forms are received, the Board must conduct assent voting to obtain approval of the electors prior to consideration of adoption of the bylaw.

The estimated number of eligible electors was calculated based on information available from Statistics Canada Census Profile, 2016, accessed online on May 7, 2021. The number of eligible voters was the lowest possible estimate that could be determined, to ensure that the number of elector response forms required to trigger assent voting (referendum) to approve the Gotta Go Service was as low as possible and not perceived as artificially inflated in any way.

1. Where alternate information sources were available, the lowest number of voters was used.
2. No estimation of the number of non-resident property electors was calculated or added.
3. No estimate of population growth was applied to 2016 census figures.

<i>Participating Area</i>	<i>Census Profile, Population, Canadian Citizen, 18 years of age+</i>	<i>Alternate Eligible Voter number</i>	<i>Alternate information source</i>
<i>Hudson's Hope</i>	<i>745</i>	<i>477</i>	<i>2018 municipal voters list</i>
<i>Chetwynd</i>	<i>1755</i>	<i>1755</i>	
<i>Tumbler Ridge</i>	<i>1430</i>	<i>1430</i>	
<i>Taylor</i>	<i>1040</i>	<i>1008</i>	<i>Elections BC</i>
<i>Electoral Area B</i>	<i>3295</i>	<i>3295</i>	
	<i>8265</i>	<i>7965</i>	
<i>10% of eligible voters</i>	<i>826</i>	<i>796</i>	

## Attachments:

1. Gotta Go Roadside Facilities Elector Response Form
2. Gotta Go Roadside Facilities Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2440, 2021
3. Statutory Approval of Bylaw 2440, 2021

## External Links:

1. [March 11, 2021 Report to Board re: Gotta Go Roadside Facilities Service Establishment Bylaw](#)