

## Rhonda West

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**From:** Rhonda West  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2025 12:02 PM  
**To:** Rhonda West  
**Subject:** FW: Valley Rail Planning Study - Request for Letter of Support from City of Salmon Arm

**From:** Lovegrove, Gordon <[gord.lovegrove@ubc.ca](mailto:gord.lovegrove@ubc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 4:36 PM  
**To:** [mayorandcouncil@salmonarm.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@salmonarm.ca)  
**Cc:** Dawn McGrath <[dawnmcgrath74@gmail.com](mailto:dawnmcgrath74@gmail.com)>; Louise Wallace Richmond <[lwallacerichmond@salmonarm.ca](mailto:lwallacerichmond@salmonarm.ca)>; Lovegrove, Gordon <[gord.lovegrove@ubc.ca](mailto:gord.lovegrove@ubc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Valley Rail Planning Study - Request for Letter of Support from City of Salmon Arm  
**Importance:** High

Mayor & Council,

Please consider this e-mail a formal request for Salmon Arm Council to consider writing a letter in support of a \$3 Million Indigenous-led planning study as a next step in our UBC Okanagan Valley Rail research project. To that end, I have attached an MS Word document containing sample text that could be used in a letter of support should your Council so choose. If possible, we ask that any letter of support be provided before our anticipated June 30 grant submission date.

As additional background, my UBC Okanagan research team have demonstrated the Technical and Economic Feasibility for a hydrail passenger tram-train system running between Osoyoos and Kamloops, which has now been independently peer-reviewed and published internationally in Sustainability Journal. I have attached PDFs of those publications, together with a 1 page Briefing summary brochure. My Indigenous PhD student, Ms Dawn McGrath (cc'd), is coordinating a \$3 Million federal grant application to Infrastructure Canada – under their Indigenous Infrastructure Program - to initiate an Indigenous-led planning study. The majority of it will be a six month community engagement – all LGs, RDs, FNs between Osoyoos and Kamloops (including yours) – to see if/where it might go. And if so, then nailing down stations, costing (30% design), schedules, possible technology demonstrator location(s) by the end of the roughly 12 month study. Local investment and jobs are a big driver here, not to mention affordable mobility, reconciliation, climate and safety benefits.

We are available to respond to any questions you may have. All the best.

PS: Last, I attach a PDF of our PowerPoint presented last week at the TNRD, and, which we plan to use in an upcoming delegation to CSRD (aiming for June 19).

Thanks & respect / way' limləmt

Dr Gord Lovegrove P.Eng., M.B.A., Ph.D., MCSCE, FITE (he/him/his)  
Associate Professor | Faculty of Applied Science | School of Engineering  
The University of British Columbia | Okanagan Campus | Syilx Okanagan Nation Territory  
Former Science Advisor to Deputy Ministers of Transport & Infrastructure Canada, Government of Canada  
Kelowna City Councillor 2022-2026  
Founder | Kelowna CoHousing Cohort  
Founding partner | SMARTer Growth Partnership  
Principal Investigator | Sustainable Transport Safety Research Laboratory

Co-Investigator | Technology Node Lead | Kelowna Homelessness Research Cluster |

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*Think of the environment before printing this email*

*I respectfully acknowledge that our campus is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Syilx/Okanagan people.*

Our latest research

**PUBLICATIONS:**

1. OVER PR Brochure (PDF available on request to [gord.lovegrove@ubc.ca](mailto:gord.lovegrove@ubc.ca))
2. OVER PR Economic Feasibility Analysis – Published in Sustainability Journal [mdpi.com/si/192342](https://doi.org/10.3390/su16104081)
3. OVER PR Technical Feasibility Analysis – Published in Sustainability Journal <https://doi.org/10.3390/su16104081>
4. OVER PR Governance, Financing & Implementation Strategies – In process!

**VIDEOS:**

**1. My Future Vision for OK Sustainable Transportation** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8K5s0or33f8>

**2. My STS Research Program Overview** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbbs0kUCuuw>