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## City to seek alternative location for drag strip

Considering both the anticipated economic benefits of motorsport racing events in Campbell River, and the challenges related to developing a facility adjacent to the airport, Council has decided not to pursue the use of the airport land for a drag strip and has directed staff to work with the Vancouver Island Motor Sport Association (VIMSA) to explore options for alternative locations.

The City had been working with VIMSA to consider a proposal to develop 45 acres of land adjacent to the airport. Information from the Province confirmed that, to use the land for a purpose unrelated to airport operations, the City would have to pursue removal of the land from the airport land grant. This would require land transfers and associated long-term borrowing to purchase the land.

The City has received mixed community feedback on the proposal to develop a drag strip adjacent to the airport, including letters from Homalco First Nation and from Couverdon outlining concerns about the proposed airport location.

A recent study indicates the estimated annual economic impact of a facility is:

- direct local impact \$1,975,000
- indirect \$2.2 million
- provincially \$3 million

*“We see the value in VIMSA’s initiative and want to support this moving forward,” says Mayor Andy Adams. “Given the information we’ve received about costs to develop near the airport, and the community concerns we’ve heard about creating a facility at this site, Council feels best way to support this initiative is for the City to help VIMSA find a suitable alternative location.”*

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Contact: Peter Wipper, Director of Planning

250-286-5707