INFORMATION ONLY COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council Date: April 14, 2026

From: Ron Bowles, Chief Administrative Officer File No: 5500-01

Subject: **BC Hydro Transmission Project Public Feedback**

Prepared by: Rob Hillis, Senior Manager of Engineering and Capital Projects

Reviewed by: Brent Magnan, General Manager of Community Services

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INFORMATION SUMMARY

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Invest in Infrastructure – We will invest in building, improving and maintaining infrastructure to meet the needs of, and to provide a high quality of life for, current and future generations.

Foster Safety and Well-Being – We will pursue through direct action, advocacy, and collaboration with local and regional service providers, investments in community health, needs-based housing, emergency preparedness, policing, and other services that foster safety and well-being in West Kelowna.

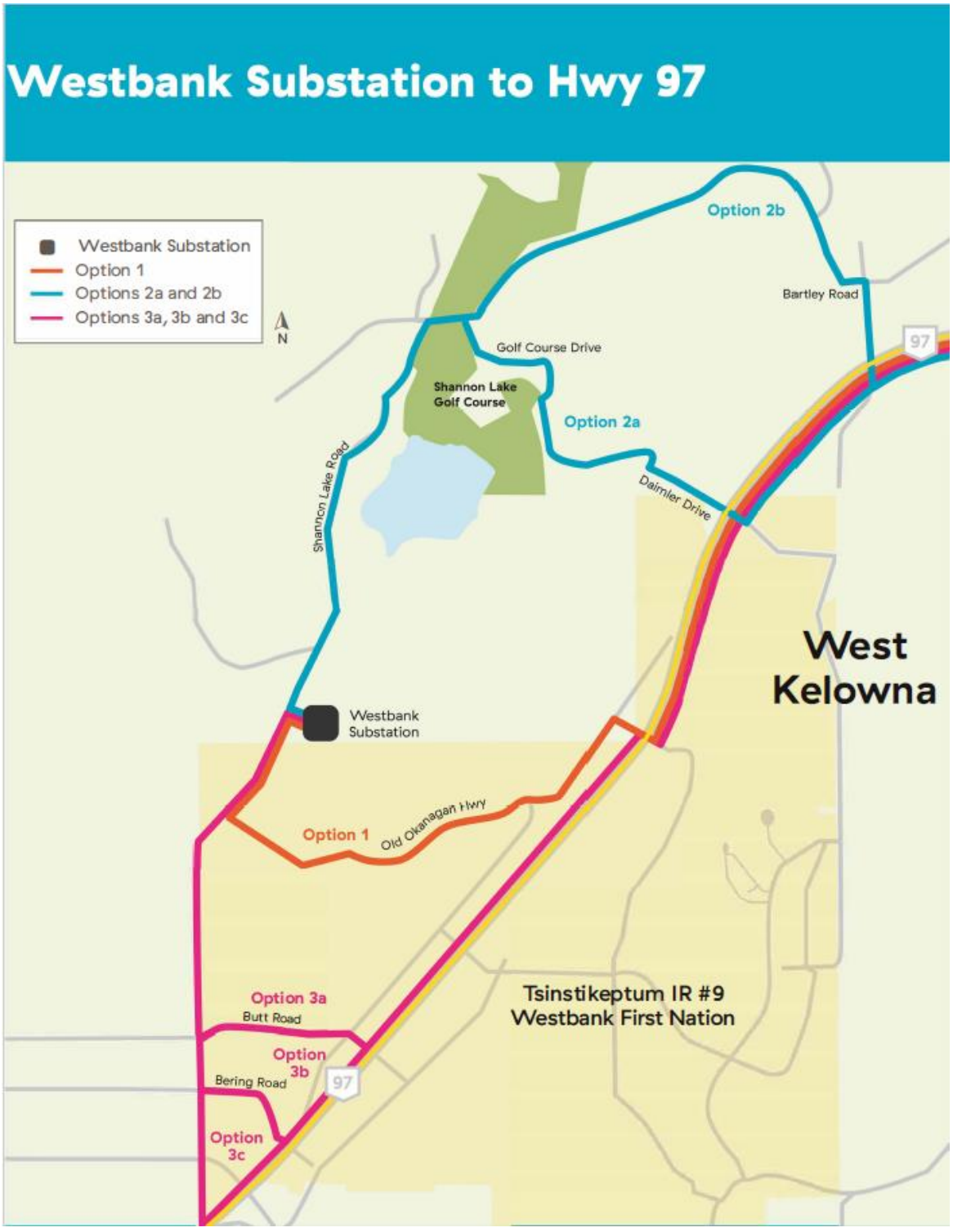
BACKGROUND

BC Hydro is strengthening their transmission network to West Kelowna, Westbank First Nation, Peachland and surrounding areas. The project includes improvements to the Westbank Substation and a new transmission line connecting to Fortis BC's Recreation Substation in Kelowna. This project will create redundant power supply for nearly 26,000 BC Hydro customers on the westside. The West Kelowna Transmission Project is a major improvement to the electrical system that will strengthen and reinforce the transmission network and make it more resilient to natural disasters.

As part of the design process, BC Hydro is studying route options and garnering public and stakeholder input for the new transmission main. The route will cross Okanagan Lake, follow Highway 97, then follow one of the three proposed options through the City of West Kelowna and Westbank First Nation, see **Figure 1**. The options will connect to the Shannon Lake Substation via:

- Option 1 (Orange), Old Okanagan Highway.
- Option 2 (Blue), Shannon Lake Road via Daimler Drive or Bartley Road.
- Option 3 (Magenta), Old Okanagan Highway via Butt Road, Bering Road, or Old Okanagan Highway.

Figure 1: Transmission Project Options



The electrical utility has completed the public feedback process on the three options and are presenting what they heard at the April 14th Council Meeting. Over 200 people attended an Open House on Wednesday February 25, 2026, at the Shannon Lake Golf Course from 4-7pm. Additionally they have received 1,200 survey responses from the public. Feedback includes that Option 1 is favoured and Option 2 is less preferred. Underground infrastructure would be preferred to overhead utilities. Residents have stated that they are concerned about visual impacts, loss of vegetation, and potential impacts to property values. Finally, residents want BC Hydro to keep costs low.

BC Hydro has requested formal feedback from the City of West Kelowna, which the City will provide at the April 28th Council Meeting. Staff will provide a recommended response for Council's consideration. During the design process, staff have provided preliminary feedback to BC Hydro preferring the most direct route with the least impacts to the community, while avoiding overhead lines in residential areas. This reflects the community expectations, and existing City planning documents such as the Official Community Plan (OCP). City staff have stressed minimizing long-term community impacts, aligning infrastructure with land use plans and OCP policies, protecting established neighbourhoods and growth areas, and ensuring the project supports long-term urban design and livability.

This project represents a significant regional utility upgrade that will ultimately benefit residents, businesses, and essential services. The project will provide an additional source of transmission supply to Westbank substation to strengthen the transmission system delivering clean, reliable electricity to Westbank First Nation, West Kelowna, Peachland and parts of Summerland.

PowerPoint: Yes ☒ No ☐