



City of Delta
COUNCIL REPORT
Regular Meeting

To: **Council**

From: **Corporate Services Department**

Meeting Date: **April 27, 2026**

2026 UBCM Community Excellence Awards

The following report has been reviewed and endorsed by the City Manager's Office.

▪ **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the City of Delta's applications for the 2026 UBCM Community Excellence Awards for the following initiatives be endorsed by Council:

1. Westham Island Bridge Response – Excellence in Governance; and
 2. Barns to Beaches Bike Route – Excellence in Service Delivery.
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▪ **PURPOSE:**

To obtain Council's approval of Delta's submission topics for the 2026 UBCM Community Excellence Awards.

▪ **BACKGROUND:**

The annual Community Excellence Awards recognize and celebrate members of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) that have implemented projects or programs demonstrating excellence in meeting the purposes of local government in BC. The awards are intended to highlight promising practices and encourage knowledge sharing among local governments.

For 2026, applications will be accepted from March 18 to May 29, 2026 through the UBCM Awards Online Application Tool. This tool is new for 2026, and applications must now be submitted in two steps: completion of the online application form, followed by submission of an application worksheet and supporting materials by email. Required materials include a completed application, five representative photos, and links to any relevant videos. A Council resolution is also required for the application to be considered complete.

Similar to previous years, the award categories are:

1. Excellence in Governance
2. Excellence in Service Delivery
3. Excellence in Asset Management
4. Excellence in Sustainability

▪ **DISCUSSION:**

For the 2026 Community Excellence Awards, staff are recommending that Delta submit two applications to be considered by UBCM. The programs recommended for submission are:

1. Westham Island Bridge Response – Excellence in Governance
2. Barns to Beaches Bike Route – Excellence in Service Delivery

A description of each application, and summaries of such applications are as follows:

1. Westham Island Bridge Response – Excellence in Governance

Following the January 20, 2026 vessel strike that closed the Westham Island Bridge and cut off primary access to the island, the City of Delta acted quickly to support its farming community and residents. The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated immediately, coordinating a focused response to maintain emergency services and keep people, goods, and essential services moving.

Shuttle services were introduced without delay, followed by barge operations to transport emergency vehicles, agricultural products, and residents. These measures preserved access, sustained daily farm operations, and reduced impacts on the community. The response was further complicated by damage to a watermain, requiring creative solutions that also considered the island's longer-term needs.

Clear, timely information remained a priority throughout. The City established a dedicated working group with the farming community, supported by a call centre, a centralized website, and regular direct email updates to ensure consistent, reliable communication.

Strong relationships with provincial partners and TransLink were critical to the success of the response. Close collaboration enabled the City to secure funding and support to sustain essential transportation services throughout the disruption, ensuring a stable and reliable response as the situation evolved.

2. Barns to Beaches Bike Route – Excellence in Service Delivery

Completed in January 2026, the Barns to Beaches Bike Route is a 16 km cycling corridor connecting Ladner's historic barns to Tsawwassen's waterfront, linking a range of Delta's key tourism assets including farms, breweries, birding areas, local shops, and restaurants. The route is designed to support riders of all abilities, with branded wayfinding signage that reflects accessibility, including handcycles and recumbents, and interpretive kiosks that highlight Delta's agricultural heritage and natural environment, including its role along the Pacific Flyway.

Situated through an active farming area, the route also incorporates safety signage to support awareness between cyclists and farm vehicles. Funded through the Province's Destination Development Fund, the project strengthens local tourism, supports active transportation, and enhances the overall visitor experience while contributing to local economic development. Building on this momentum, the City will host the sold-out Barns to Beaches Festival this summer, welcoming 3,000 participants to experience the route firsthand.

For both applications, in accordance with UBCM Community Excellence Award application requirements, each application must include five representative photos of the project, as well as links to any available videos. Attachment A shares photos, and a screenshot and link to the Westham Island Bridge opening video. These photos and video will be part of the City's application. In addition to these photos, staff will compile and submit all required materials as part of the application process.

Implications:

Financial Implications - There are no financial implications.

▪ **CONCLUSION:**

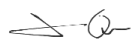
It is recommended that Council endorse Delta's 2026 UBCM Community Excellence Award applications for the Westham Island Bridge Response and the Barns to Beaches Bike Route.



Mike Brotherston
Director, Corporate Services

Department submission prepared by: Tyson Schofield, Manager of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs

This report has been prepared in consultation with the following listed departments.

Concurring Departments		
Department	Name	Signature
Communications & Engagement	JoAnne Kleb	JK
Emergency Management	Jeff Owens	

▪ **ATTACHMENT:**

A. 2026 UBCM Community Excellence Awards Application Photos