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Town Council votes unanimously to move Banff Railway Lands ARP to Second Reading

Amendments to ARP reflect public hearing feedback

BANFF, AB, April 23, 2024—The [Banff Railway Lands ARP](#) has been moved to [Second Reading](#) by Banff Town Council, who have requested amendments based on community feedback during the [Public Hearing](#) on March 20, 2024. Council has requested to adjust the phasing of the plan to prioritize the rehabilitation of the conservation area and residential area redevelopment. They also asked for all future development be subject to the [Impact Assessment Act](#), ensuring a thorough evaluation of environmental impacts.

Mayor Corrie DiManno expressed her enthusiasm for the plan, stating, "This is an important moment in Banff's history, and we have an opportunity to really transform a key gateway into our community. This plan gives us a clear vision to revitalize and rehabilitate this under-utilized area. We see the potential to make this a cornerstone of the visitor experience."

Notably, Council has requested edits to Section 5.6 "Norquay Gondola Terminus," where they requested the term 'gondola terminus' be deleted to instead include a broader range of multi-modal transportation systems listed in Parks Canada's [Expert Panel on Moving People Sustainably in the Banff Bow Valley](#). This includes aerial transit, passenger rail, buses, autonomous shuttles, on-demand vehicles, bicycles, and ridesharing services.

"By broadening the language used in the ARP from 'gondola terminus' to include other multi-modal transportation systems like aerial transit, Council has embraced our vision of using the railway lands as a ground zero hub to manage vehicle congestion and reduce transportation emissions in the Park and town," said Jan Waterous, Managing Director of Liricon Capital.

The ARP will be reviewed at a future Town Council meeting, after Town of Banff Administration returns to Council with a revised document addressing their amendments. The date and time of the Council meeting has yet to be determined.