



# ***BC GOVERNMENT CAUCUS***

NEWS RELEASE

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## **LOCALMOTION FUNDS NEW SPARWOOD BRIDGE**

SPARWOOD – Thanks to \$1 million in LocalMotion funding, a new Elk River pedestrian bridge will support the District of Sparwood in becoming a greener and healthier community.

“This project is a great addition to Sparwood,” says East Kootenay MLA Bill Bennett. “The current Elk River crossing takes travellers along a busy highway while this new pedestrian bridge offers a safer and far more direct route to schools, local shopping and recreational facilities. This is a perfect opportunity for Sparwood residents to drive less and demonstrate their role as an active community while bringing the two parts of town closer together.”

This project includes the construction of a pedestrian / cyclist bridge located at the confluence of the Elk River and Michel Creek. The new crossing will provide a direct link between Sparwood Proper and Sparwood Heights and an alternative to the previous bridge which directed travellers toward the busy Highway 43, a corridor for heavy truck traffic.

“This project develops a new safer transportation link for our residents and has the potential to be an asset to our tourism industry,” says Sparwood Mayor David Wilks. “We are grateful to the Province for recognizing the importance of this project.”

LocalMotion is investing \$40 million over four years to help municipalities build bike paths, walkways, greenways, support community playgrounds and improved accessibility for people with disabilities. The funding supports capital projects, and is based on a 50/50 cost share with the municipality. In 2007, the province provided \$20 million to 34 projects in 28 communities.

LocalMotion is one of four Green Cities programs announced by the Premier at the 2006 Union of BC Municipalities Annual Convention. For more information on LocalMotion and links to other local government supports, visit [www.localmotion.gov.bc.ca](http://www.localmotion.gov.bc.ca)

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Visit Bill’s website at [www.billbennettmla.bc.ca](http://www.billbennettmla.bc.ca)

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