

Process for approvals

Anyone interested in a project for the new or old portion of the layout must submit a proposal to the HO Planning Committee. The proposal shall include:

- Diagrams and/or pictures describing the project
- The materials and techniques to be used,
- How the proposed project fits in with the era and theme of the layout,
- The estimated time of completion for the project, and
- The name and contact information of the Lead Individual on the project as well as the name(s) of those working on the project

There will be 3 outcomes for the review:

1. The project will be approved.
2. The project will receive conditional approval - stating changes required.
3. The project will be declined with reasons.

The committee will provide assistance and feedback to help the proposed projects be approved.

Project Quality Standards

General Concerns

- All project work to be done must be done to achieve results to be as realistic as possible. All proposed and existing projects are to compliment this goal.
- All proposals must take operations into consideration and they must compliment the requirements of the traffic necessary for realistic operation (this includes loads, cars types, and industries that are appropriate).
- The committee will provide general plans for areas and then consider proposals for particular buildings and industries.
- The proposal shall include a budget based on research of materials needed (to be shared in the presentation of the project). Updates during construction shall also be made as requested.
- The committee will communicate with the individuals that submit proposals and with the general membership by providing updates on progress and changes to the original plans.
- The priority of the work will be on completing the new area with secondary consideration for any modifications to the existing layout. Waterfront scenery shall be completed before adding permanent structures to or around the shoreline.
- No scenery or structures shall be permanently added to the new (or newly-revised) areas until the backdrop is installed.

Layout Theme and Era

- All projects and items added to the layout will conform to the era 1955-1965.
- The focus of the layout is to represent Southern Alberta, British Columbia including the new area which is intended to represent the west coast

Construction Standards

- Minimum standards of workmanship are required to maintain quality. As such, any projects are to be equal to or better than the quality of the scenery and building that already exist on the completed portions of the layout.
- A mix of standard kits, kit-bashed, and scratch-built structures are acceptable as long as they are well done.
- This means that the buildings are to be realistic and completed with care. Examples include (but are not limited to) smooth and tightly fitted corners, no glue showing, materials on roofs should be common to those used in the area such as shingles, tar/gravel, cedar shingles, etc.
- We encourage craftsman kits and scratch-built projects and want to minimize standard kits that are commonly available and seen on many other layouts.

Lighting

- The addition of interior lighting should be added as often as possible. LED's are to be used and installed and tested in the building prior to completion. Resistors for the LED's are to be included in or under the building as a part of the lighting for the project.
- Wire leads are to be provided and long enough to be routed through the bench work so the they can be connected to wiring under the layout.
- All lighting and animation wiring must be able to accept 12 VDC at the point of connection to the provided leads.

Weathering & Detailing

- Structures and other scenery items are to be realistic and follow standard engineering and construction practices
- Structures and other scenery items are to use muted colors and a mix of blended materials to achieve realistic results
- Alberta Southern Railway colors will be used as often as possible on freight cars, locomotives, and structures to emphasize our name sake railroad
- When a building is to be located near the front of the layout or in a highly visible area it should include interior detailing or some interior detailing.
- Each building should be lightly weathered, in keeping with the area in which it is to be installed.
- Items such as signs are to be made to reflect Canadian practices and themes where ever possible and they are to be used from the kit or made on the computer. No hand drawn or hand lettered signs on the buildings.