



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, November 22nd, 2016@ 9:00 am

Regional District Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

AGENDA

- | | PAGE # |
|---|---------------|
| 1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u> | |
| 2. <u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u>
<i>(motion to approve, including late items requires 2/3 majority vote)</i> | |
| 3. <u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</u> | |
| a. AC Transportation Committee Meeting held April 26, 2016 | 2-4 |
| <i>THAT the minutes of the Transportation Committee meeting held on April 26, 2016 be adopted.</i> | |
| 4. <u>PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS</u> | |
| 5. <u>REPORTS</u> | |
| a. MOTI News Release Hwy 4 Corridor Study | 5-6 |
| b. Horne Lake Connector Business Case Final Report October 2016
Mike Pearson, P. Eng. Operations Manager,
Vancouver Island District - Central Vancouver Island, MOTI | |
| 6. <u>CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION</u> | |
| 7. <u>NEW BUSINESS</u> | |
| 8. <u>ADJOURN</u> | |

**MINUTES OF THE ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016 @ 9:00 AM**

Regional District Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack McLeman, ACRD, Co-Chair
Gillian Trumper, PAPA, Co Chair
Randy Orr, Island Timberlands
Bob Cole, City of Port Alberni
Lucas Banton, ACRD
Darren DeLuca
Tim Pley, City of Port Alberni

STAFF PRESENT: Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni
Shelli Lyle, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.

The Chair recognized the meeting this morning is being held in the Tseshaht First Nation and the Hupacasath First Nation Traditional Territories.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: L. Banton

SECONDED: B. Cole

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a. AC Transportation Committee Meeting held February 9, 2016.

MOVED: L. Banton

SECONDED: B. Cole

THAT the minutes of the AC Transportation Committee Meeting held on February 9, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED

Gillian Trumper entered the meeting at 9:14 am.

4. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

5. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION**

6. **REPORTS**

a. **2016-02-10 Response to HLC vs Hwy 4 MAE Spreadsheet**

The Committee discussed the findings of the HLC Review Resolution Form received from the Ministry on March 18, 2016. It seems there is no intention of building the new road. The Ministry has answered the ACTC's questions as to their perspective, need to wait for the final draft report. If the intention is to repair Hwy 4 what is the timeline and what will happen this year. We will need to show support for what is being proposed but emphasize that it does not address the long time needs of the community.

Send a letter to Minister Stone along with the final draft asking the Minister to meet with the ACTC at his convenience. After the exercise there will be recommendations and the government is aware there needs to be ongoing support after the exercise.

The ACTC's strategy is to send a letter to Ministry staff asking for the final draft report. After the report is received organize a meeting with Minister Stone.

b. **Qualicum First Nation Meeting**

Have not been successful in meeting with the QFN to this point, we will wait for QFN to contact Gillian with a meeting date.

To Do's

1. Send a letter inviting Minister Stone to meet with the ACTC from the ACRD Chair with the assistance from Russell, Tim and Randy requesting a meeting with the AC Transportation Committee subject to having the final draft.
2. Send a letter to the Ministry (Janelle Erwin) requesting a copy of the final draft business case.
3. G. Trumper to find out who the contact person is for Pacific Gateway
4. Engage Minister of Environment Mary Pollack regarding Cathedral Grove updates

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

8. **ADJOURN**

MOVED: L. Banton

SECONDED: B. Cole

THAT this meeting be adjourned 9:57 am.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Jack McLeman, Co-Chair

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2016TRAN0338-002232
Nov. 1, 2016

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Study concludes Highway 4 improvements outweigh investment in connector

PORT ALBERNI – The Province is launching engineering work for Highway 4 corridor upgrades and safety improvements, following a review of the Highway 4 Horne Lake Connector business case, which concluded that an alternative route between Port Alberni and Highway 19 is not financially feasible.

“As part of our commitment through B.C. on the Move, we assessed the costs and benefits of an alternative connection between the Island Highway and Port Alberni,” said Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Todd Stone. “We have concluded that the costs of constructing and maintaining a new highway outweigh the expected benefits for travellers. Moving forward, we are looking at making a number of improvements to ensure this section of Highway 4, which is vital to Vancouver Island’s economy, continues to meet the needs of the communities it serves.”

The study examined various alignments around Horne Lake and estimated construction, operating and maintenance costs. Recognizing that the Highway 4 corridor between Highway 19 and Port Alberni will remain an important east-west transportation route with or without a new connector, the study developed and analyzed potential improvements to increase the safety, reliability and capacity of this section of the existing corridor.

The report, based on a 35-year analysis period, confirms the estimated total cost of a Horne Lake Connector would be about \$92 million. Investing approximately \$24 million in improvements to the existing highway is projected to have a comparable return in terms of safety and user benefits.

While the new route would result in travel-time savings for the 8% of travellers going to and from the North Island, the remaining 92% of travellers would see no net benefit. As such, the Government of British Columbia is not considering the building of a Horne Lake connector route at this time. Instead, government will focus on upgrades to improve the safety, mobility and reliability of Highway 4 between Port Alberni and Highway 19.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is initiating engineering work on the following projects:

- safety improvements at Cathedral Grove, which is an increasingly popular tourist destination where the demand for parking now exceeds the room available in the busy summer tourist season;
- extension of the westbound passing lane near the Port Alberni “Hump” including improvements at the brake check to improve corridor mobility and commercial vehicle safety;

- an upgrade to the Highway 4/Highway 19 interchange by adding a westbound acceleration lane for drivers exiting Highway 19 and merging onto Highway 4; and
- widening the highway at Angel Rock, using a retaining wall structure to allow both sides to have roadside barriers as well as wider shoulders.

Ministry staff will continue to engage with the communities and all key stakeholders to discuss the report findings and future highway improvements. Engineering work and consultation for these projects is expected to take at least one year.

Over the past five years, the Province has invested approximately \$1.8 million in safety enhancements along this 40-kilometre stretch of highway, including:

- a new left-turn lane at Whiskey Creek;
- a roadside barrier near Cameron Lake;
- centreline rumble strips between Qualicum and Port Alberni;
- better roadside delineation at various locations; and
- seasonal speed reader boards to remind travellers of the reduced speed limit through Cathedral Grove.

Learn More:

The Highway 4 Horne Lake Connector business case report is available on the ministry's website: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/transportation-reports-and-reference/reports-studies/vancouver-island>

Media Contact:

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