



MINUTES OF THE ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 11, 2017, 11:00AM

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

MEMBERS Jack McLeman, Co-Chair ACRD

PRESENT: Randy Orr, Island Timberlands
Darren Deluca
Lucas Banton, Director, ACRD
Scott Fraser, MLA

STAFF PRESENT: Russell Dyson, CAO
Pat Deakin, Economic Development Manager, City of Port Alberni
Shelli Lyle, Administrative Assistant, ACRD

GUESTS: Ashok Bhatti, Regional Director, MOTI
David Edgar, Planning, MOTI
Michael Pearson, Operations Manager, MOTI

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED: D. Deluca

SECONDED: R. Orr

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated with the addition of the Melrose Road Connector Report.

CARRIED

Introductions were conducted around the table.

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

a. **AC Transportation Committee Meeting held November 22, 2016**

MOVED: D. Deluca

SECONDED: R. Orr

THAT the minutes of the Transportation Committee meeting held on November 22, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED

Darren Deluca gave a brief outline regarding the formation of the Alberni Clayoquot Transportation Committee (ACTC), its purpose and provided a review of the proposed improvements to Highway Four that the ACTC sees should be the priorities (1, 7a, 9, 12).

Ashok Bhatti provided a summary of his background and explained the organizational chart of the Ministry of Transportation. Mr. Bhatti stated this is the first of many engagements, he is here to understand the needs and priorities and meld them together with the Ministry. In terms of long term planning, insight and direction will be gained from David Edgar and Michael Pearson.

There is a strong commitment from the Ministry to improve Highway 4, the Ministry is hoping to look at other areas as well and draw a regional perspective for priorities, looking at how the work is spread out cost effectively and in a timely manner.

The Transportation Investment Plan (TIP) explains all the projects outlined. There were engagements with First Nations, local governments, transportation authorities and other interested stakeholders to gather information on local and regional priorities. The actions prioritized in B.C. on the Move will grow the economy, improve safety, maintain and replace aging infrastructure and support trade for B.C.'s expanding resource sectors through Canada's Asia-Pacific Gateway. Asia-Pacific Gateway initiatives are port and border related if it is a fit within the region we could work together, a contact person is needed from Asia-Pacific Gateway.

4. INVITED GUESTS

- a. REQUEST TO MEET FROM ASHOK BHATTI, REGIONAL DIRECTOR SOUTH COAST REGION ON BEHALF OF MINISTER STONE**
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Final Report Horne Lake Business Case discussion regarding proposed project priorities and start dates

David Edgar reviewed the projects proposed explaining the concepts and designs. The committee gave input to the projects proposed and level of priority.

WB Acceleration Lane at Hwy 4/Hwy 19 – modest \$, will improve the safety of motorists; build a park and ride, looking across the island using the same strategy formalize those instead of parking at random.

Little Qualicum Falls - improve the alignment, extend passing lanes, this will have an impact on the number of accidents and fatalities. Using the map with the project #'s, the ACTC sees #4, #5 and #6 being all one project, "let's get this into the 5 year plan. "

Cameron Lake Beach Access – use existing Hwy to allow a controlled parking, Randy Orr suggesting using the Timberwest land cut out the curve and straighten. RDN have

rights to the CPR trail to Mt. Arrowsmith, this would assist with the trail, the highway and the lake.

Angel Rock – moving out as opposed to going into the rock, retaining wall to get the extra width. From an economic perspective, at this time you cannot bring in large equipment there is a pinch point, would this raise the profile to look at removing the rock altogether. Suggestion of blowing up the rock, it is practical and it would be straightforward.

Beaufort Rest Area – additional parking, great realignment of the highway

Cathedral Grove – need consultation to figure out what is going to be acceptable to the community. Bypassing there are issues regarding riparian areas, creeks, ownership and tree count-there is a lot of value, it is in the Island Timberlands managed forest so IT has to manage, whatever form that takes. The focus will be on a joint collaborative effort, Regional Districts, Parks, First Nations, get them all at the table and find a solution.

- What is the vision for the Park?
- What are parking lot ideas - south or north side only, one side with an overpass or a culvert.
- Short Term Solutions - widen the shoulder; additional parallel parking, close the parking lot, put barriers up along the shoulder to stop parking.

WB Chain up and U turn – just before the start of the hump

Passing Lane Ext & Brake Check – extend to the top of the hump and push brake check over. Link up with the passing lane that ends, goes around a corner and links with the brake check area.

Passing Lane Realignment (S curves) - high cost, project 14 years ago.

Overall the ACTC priority is to improve traffic flow and safety.

5. REPORTS

a. **Melrose Road Connector Report**

MOVED: D. Deluca

SECONDED: R. Orr

That the AC Transportation Committee receive the Melrose Road Connector report.

CARRIED

Mr. Edgar provided a summary of Melrose Road Proposal.

- cost could be \$35 – \$40 M,

- requires an Interchange at I1H
- saves 8 minutes or 12kms for travel to the north
- never considered by the Regional District of Nanaimo
- outside the designated growth areas
- creates pressures for changes in land use
- impact existing businesses on Hwy 4, VIHA
- may lead to other connections – I1H to 10A, Corcan/Meadowoods.

6. **NEXT STEPS**

Work will begin on the four projects the Ministry committed to.

R. Dyson to confer with A. Bhatti regarding road maintenance contracts.

D. Deluca will work with A. Bhatti to organize a meeting with the Manager, Zoran Knezevic, Port Alberni Port Authority, the Ministry and the Pacific Gateway Group to have a conversation regarding investment, priorities and build the business case for PAPA.

Cathedral Grove will be its own project, discussions needed regarding the real impacts, high-level costs, what are the real options, concepts and designs. D. Edgar and M. Pearson will continue to explore short-term measures for the upcoming tourist season and discuss with the ACTC.

The Ministry will meet with the ACTC in the Spring.

7. **ADJOURN**

MOVED: J. McLeman

SECONDED: D. Deluca

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 1:06 pm.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Jack McLeman, Co-Chair