



Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, February 9, 2024

Zoom/Board Room (Hybrid) – 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

1:00 PM

Regular Agenda

Watch the meeting live at <https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/9-2-2024/>

Register to participate via Zoom Webinar at:

https://acrd-bc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cioDUgdIQ3iPIFifRgc7lg

	PAGE #
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
Recognition of Territories.	
Notice to attendees and delegates that this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District Website.	
Introductions - Committee Members and Staff present in the Boardroom and via Zoom.	
2. <u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u>	
<i>(motion to approve, including late items requires 2/3 majority vote)</i>	
3. <u>MINUTES</u>	
a. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting held October 31, 2023	3-7
<i>THAT the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held on October 31, 2023 be adopted.</i>	
4. <u>CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION</u>	
a. LETTER FROM ROB FLEMMING, MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE	8-11
January 30, 2024 letter in response to ACRD Board of Directors request to establish an Emergency Route through Horne Lake.	
<i>THAT the Transportation Committee receive correspondence item a.</i>	

6. **REQUEST FOR DECISIONS**

- a. **REQUEST FOR DECISION** **12-15**
Amendment to the Transportation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

THAT the Transportation Committee recommend the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors amend the Transportation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference as presented.

7. **REPORTS**

- a. **2024 BUDGET AND WORKPLAN** **16-17**
Review and discussion of PIC presented at January 24, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

THAT the Transportation Advisory Committee receives reports a.

8. **LATE BUSINESS**

9. **QUESTION PERIOD**

Questions/Comments from the public:

- Participating in Person in the Board Room
- Participating in the Zoom meeting
- Emailed to the ACRD at responses@acrd.bc.ca

10. **ADJOURN**



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023, 1:00 PM

Hybrid - Zoom/Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Bob Beckett, Chairperson, Director, Electoral Area "A" Bamfield
Mike Sparrow, Director, Electoral Area "F" Cherry Creek
Levana Mastrangelo, Director, Executive Legislature, Yuułu?if?ath
Government
Marilyn McEwen, Director, Mayor, District of Ucluelet
Dan Law, Mayor, District of Tofino
Al Haggard, Director, Port Alberni Port Authority
Zoran Knezevic, Port Alberni Port Authority
Jolleen Dick, Chief Executive Officer, Alberni Valley Chamber of
Commerce
Josh Jenkins, Executive Director, Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce
Jen Dart, Executive Director, Tofino- Long Beach Chamber of Commerce
Ken Watts, Chief Councillor, Tseshaht First Nation
Dean Fauchon, Manager, Contract Services, Tsawak-quin Forestry
Colin Koszman, Land Use Forester, Mosaic Forest Management
Michael Pearson, District Manager, Transportation, Vancouver Island,
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
John McNabb, Member at Large
Denise Stys-Norman, Member at Large
Cindy Solda, Councillor, City of Port Alberni

REGRETS:

Charles Mealey, Councillor, City of Port Alberni
Judith Sayers, President, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
Brandy Lauder, Chief Councillor, Hupacasath First Nation
Bella Fred, Tseshaht First Nation
Molly Hudson, Mosaic Forest Management

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Sailland, Chief Administrative Officer
Wendy Thomson, General Manager of Administrative Services
Heather Zenner, Manager of Administrative Services

The meeting can be viewed on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District website at:

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/31-10-2023/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

The Chairperson recognized this meeting is being held throughout the Nuu-chah-nulth territories.

The Chairperson reported this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District website.

Introductions - Committee Members and Staff present in the Boardroom and via Zoom.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED: J. McNabb

SECONDED: C. Solda

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **REPORTS**

The Transportation Advisory Committee received the Transportation Committee Terms of Reference and Committee list.

4. **PRIORITY SETTING**

ACRD Board Direction – Second Route in and out of the Alberni Valley

☒ **Resources & Budget Discussion.**

Members discussed the impacts of the Highway 4 road closure, possible alternative routes, budget costs of reports and staff time. Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce is undertaking an impact study of Highway closure on businesses including health and medical impacts, less focused on social impacts.

Ministry staff identified they are willing to review the three known routes: 1) Cowichan Lake Route, 2) Cumberland Route, 3) Horne Lake Connector, for emergency routes but not as a secondary route. Realistic timeframe for a Ministry consultant to start this review is early 2024 with a completion by end of 2024. Ministry is not anticipating any long-term closures on Highway 4 in the winter, and they are prepared for short term closures. If there was a significant closure, resources would be put into place to open a detour (same as summer 2023), which would take up to a few days to open for public traffic. The three routes identified above are all existing roads and are open for discussion. Ownership of roads is complicated, and large portions of these roads are privately owned.

Members discussed the difference between an emergency route vs a

permanent secondary route in and out of the Alberni Valley and that there are significant differences in budget required to create a business case for each. Discussion on business case and what the committee wants to achieve. Success is dependent on the business case being focused on a growing economy. The Treaty Nations have a voice including an economic vision that is still young, but an important component of a new economy. Members discussed the different routes, Cowichan vs Comox.

ACRD staff will come back to the Committee with staff/consultant resources required to support the Ministry with assessing an emergency route and to assess a permanent secondary route including identifying the ACRD budget process, prior to next meeting. ACRD and MOTI to connect offline to discuss further.

b. Identify key elements for a business case

Discussion on what additional business cases are needed to be completed, in addition to what has already been done. Tseshah First Nation is meeting with Minister Fleming this week and is pushing for both an emergency route and a secondary route. The Committee agreed they don't want to duplicate work already done and want to ensure that upcoming work is required and doesn't duplicate previous efforts. Need to ensure that considered routes make business sense, financial and legal sense.

MOVED: K. Watts

SECONDED: J. McNabb

THAT the Transportation Advisory Committee recommend to the ACRD Board of Directors to amend the Transportation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference to identify that the Scope of Work will include an emergency route and a permanent secondary route.

CARRIED

The Ministry would need to look at the existing Business Cases from 2005 – 2016 to update with current engineering standards and costs. This work would be considered an Engineering Analysis rather than a Business Case (for an emergency route).

Ministry indicated that some minor work will be done on Highway 4 to widen the shoulder, also indicated that an 'Angel Rock' project has been considered in the past, but it is a high cost and post project, the highway would remain a two lane highway (high cost project). Ministry also highlighted that reviewing an emergency access can be done quicker, but that additional work could be phased later to review permanent secondary route options.

c. Identify other interested parties to include in the business case development

Business Case evaluations need to include businesses who operate in a web-based format, Vancouver Island Health Authority, all First Nations, Flight Operations, Fuel distribution, vehicle sales, transportation of workers, aquaculture, fishfarms, commercial fish plants, adjoining Regional Districts, School District, sports organizations.

Need to also consider the financial impacts of those who aren't currently willing to invest in the Alberni Valley because of the highway closures.

Members discussed that a secondary route could create other future opportunities depending on where a new route is built.

d. Previous studies & resources available on the ACRD Website

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/transportation>

Members discussed the style of business cases and to be cautious about each of the studies given the proponent. Which business cases need to be updated, and which ones can be shelved? Ministry would need to relook at the existing business cases to be able to answer this and has committed to doing this.

What is required to do before the committee meets again? ACRD staff will come back to the committee with further information and options including what the committee wants to accomplish (emergency and permanent secondary route), structure of a Request for Proposal, and develop a timeline. Members requested a synopsis of past reports. Members discussed meeting more frequently prior to provincial election. Question raised, if there is a preferred route for emergency and preferred secondary route or are they one and the same?

Members mentioned that the West Coast have had their fair share of transportation issues, BC Transit withdrew their commitment for Transit on West Coast, Wheels for Wellness ended due to lack of volunteers, and Tofino Bus schedule impacted. Committee recommended to invite an Alberni-Clayoquot Health Network representative (Manager of Administrative Services will invite). Recommend looking for grant options, perhaps ICE-T.

Committee acknowledged that this project requires the commitment of multiple levels of government, First Nations, businesses, areas jurisdictions.

6. LATE BUSINESS

7. QUESTION PERIOD

Questions/Comments from the public. The Manager of Administrative Services advised there were no questions or comments respecting an agenda topic from public:

- Participating in Person in the ACRD Board Room
- Participating in the Zoom webinar
- Submissions received by email at responses@acrd.bc.ca.

Next meeting will be in January 2024 and will be held quarterly.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 pm.

Certified Correct:

Bob Beckett,
Chairperson

Heather Zenner,
Manager of Administrative Services



January 30, 2024

Reference: 321708

John Jack, Chair
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
3008 Fifth Avenue
Port Alberni BC V9Y 2E3

EMCR 640320

Dear Chair Jack:

Re: Highway 4 Alternate Route

Thank you for your letter of October 27, 2023, requesting the Province establish an alternate route to Highway 4 through Horne Lake that could be used during emergencies. I am also responding on behalf of my colleague the Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR).

I know the closures of the highway due to the wildfire at Cameron Lake Bluffs have been extremely challenging for businesses, residents and travellers in the Alberni Valley and on the west coast of the island. I am also deeply grateful to all those who worked around the clock to fight the fire, clean up the site, repair infrastructure and reopen the highway. During this time EMCR coordinated communications between ministries, Indigenous and local governments, and invested partners to reduce the impacts for the duration of the wildfire emergency.

As you will know, following the wildfire emergency, EMCR worked closely with the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) to support after action review and recovery conversations. Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) funding options have been presented to support Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning for communities.

My ministry understands the critical importance of access for rural communities. As you know, the ministry is initiating an Emergency Detour Planning Study to look more closely at potential alternate access options for the West Coast. Ministry staff also have been participating in the ACRD's Transportation Advisory Committee to address the transportation needs of the region, and I understand that discussion topics have included alternate and emergency routes to and from West Coast communities. Ministry staff are also currently working on a corridor study of Highway 4 with Tseshaht First Nation to look more closely at safety and access between Falls Street and Sproat Lake.

.../2

I understand that the ministry studied the possibility of an alternate route to Highway 4 connecting Port Alberni to Highway 19 through a Horne Lake Connector route, but the study concluded that the cost to construct a secondary route outweighed the benefits. As such, the ministry has continued to invest in significant improvements to the safety of Highway 4 to ensure it can continue to support residents and businesses throughout the region for decades to come. While closures of Highway 4 are always possible, we are confident that the risks to the highway in the Cameron Lake Bluffs area currently are no greater now than before the fire.

I was pleased that Vancouver Island District Manager Michael Pearson and Operations Manager Nikki Schneider were able to update the ACRD Board of Directors on October 25, 2023, about some of the work the ministry has been doing on the Highway 4 corridor. As mentioned during the meeting, the ministry has installed closure gates on Highway 4 near Chalet Road and at the hump near Cameron Lake. The intent of the gates is to provide greater certainty to travellers of where the highway could be closed during adverse weather or other events and to improve safety by eliminating the need for traffic flaggers when closures are required. We also developed a protocol to increase patrols of the corridor during adverse weather events so that proactive highway closures can be implemented faster.

In 2022/23, the provincial government invested approximately \$560 million in bridge, highway and sideroad improvements, with \$345 million over 10 years committed to mitigating the impacts of climate change. This program will target vulnerable infrastructure in priority areas to better withstand devastating floods, slides and wildfires.

We know the risks to our infrastructure are changing with the climate, and we are working hard to ensure our highway network is resilient and reliable, both now and in the future. As we invest in our highway network, my ministry is using design standards that require additional efforts to ensure our infrastructure can withstand future severe climate-related weather events. All designs of provincial highway infrastructure—including new, rehabilitated and rebuilt infrastructure—must take into account risks associated with climate models. Ministry staff are working with climate specialists at the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium to obtain climate projections that will inform our designs.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Fleming".

Rob Fleming
Minister

.../3

Copy to: Premier David Eby

Honourable Bowinn Ma
Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
MLA, North Vancouver-Lonsdale

Honourable Josie Osborne
Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
MLA, Mid Island-Pacific Rim

Michael Pearson, District Manager
Vancouver Island District

Nikki Schneider, Operations Manager
Vancouver Island District



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

October 27, 2023

The Honourable Bowinn Ma
Minister of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness
PO Box 9010 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Via email: EMCR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Transportation &
Infrastructure
PO Box 9055 Prov Stn Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Via email : Minister.MOTI@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Ma and Minister Fleming,

Establishment of an Emergency Route through Horne Lake.

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board of Directors remain concerned with the availability of Highway 4 at the Cameron Lake Bluffs throughout the fall and winter. While we appreciate the remedial work done by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to ensure the safety of the highway, we remained concerned that the highway will experience closures over the next few months due to weather.

The ACRD Board is writing to request that the Provincial Government declare an emergency route through Horne Lake.

Closures of Highway 4 have significant impacts on regional residents and visitors to our area. The ACRD and our regional partners remain vocal in requesting a long-term solution to mitigate future issues with Highway 4 closures. An emergency route out of the West Coast and Alberni Valley is mandatory, not only for our regional economy, but for the safety and well-being of its residents.

We look forward to hearing the Ministry's response to this request. In the meantime, the ACRD and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Transportation Committee welcome any opportunity to assist and provide input into this matter.

Sincerely,

John Jack, Chair
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

cc: Honourable David Ebby, Premier, Province of BC
premier@gov.bc.ca
Honourable Josie Osborne, MLA, Mid-Island-Pacific Rim
Josie.osborne.mla@leg.bc.ca



To: ACRD Transportation Committee
From: Heather Zenner, Manager of Administrative Services
Meeting Date: February 9, 2024
Subject: Amendment to the Transportation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

Recommendation:

THAT the Transportation Committee recommend the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors amend the Transportation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference as presented.

Desired Outcome:

Update the Transportation Committee Terms of Reference.

Background:

The ACRD Board of Directors adopted the Transportation Committee Terms of Reference at the August 23, 2023 Board meeting and the first Transportation Committee was held on October 31, 2023. At that meeting the Committee requested the Terms of Reference be updated to identify that the 'Scope of Work will include an emergency route and a permanent second route'.

The amended Transportation Committee Terms of Reference are attached for the committee's consideration. An additional statement was added to section 3.1 of the TOR.

Strategic Plan Implications:

This project is not specifically addressed in the ACRD Strategic Plan; however, there are links to the Emergency Management and Partnerships & Alignments objectives in the plan.

Policy or Legislation:

The *Local Government Act* authorized the establishment of standing committees.

Reviewed by: *Cynthia Dick*
Cynthia Dick, General Manager of Administrative Services

Approved by: *Daniel Sailland*
Daniel Sailland, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

Terms of Reference Transportation Advisory Committee

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Transportation Advisory Committee has been established to consider issues and to make recommendations to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board pertaining to transportation options throughout the ACRD.

2. Duties/Mandate

- 2.1 The Transportation Advisory Committee is a standing committee of the Board that will work cooperatively with key partners in the region to advance transportation options throughout the ACRD.
- 2.2 The Committee will provide the Board with regular, ongoing updates on different activities and services with the areas defined in section 1.1.

3. Scope of Work

- 3.1 The scope of the work will be to prioritize transportation options in the Region, inform the ACRD Board and then collectively advocate for these options to higher levels of government. The scope of work could include prioritizing transportation options including a secondary route in and out of the Alberni Valley, the Bamfield Road, the Bamfield/Cowichan Route, and route to the West Coast. Furthermore, the scope of work specific to the Alberni Valley will include an emergency route and a permanent second route.

4. Membership

- 4.1 Membership on the Committee is as follows:

- One (1) municipal representative (each) from the City of Port Alberni, District of Tofino, and District of Ucluelet
- Three (3) Directors from the ACRD representing Alberni Valley, Bamfield, and West Coast, Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Toquaht Nation, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ, Uchucklesaht Tribe

- One (1) Port Alberni Port Authority representative
- One (1) representative (each) from Alberni Valley, Ucluelet, and Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce
- One (1) Ahousaht First Nation representative
- One (1) Ditidaht First Nation representative
- One (1) Hesquiaht First Nation representative
- One (1) Hupacasath First Nation representative
- One (1) Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation representative
- One (1) Tseshaht First Nation representative
- One (1) Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council
- One (1) First Nations Health Authority
- One (1) Health Representative
- One (1) Tsawak-qin Forestry (TFL44) representative
- One (1) Mosaic Forest Management representative
- One (1) Paper Excellence representative
- One (1) Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure representative
- Two (2) Members at large from the business community in the Region

5. Appointment and Term

- 5.1 Appointments to this Committee shall be for the term they are representatives of the organizations listed in Sections 4.1.
- 5.2 The ACRD Board may, at any time, remove any member of the Committee and any member of the Committee may resign at any time upon sending written notice to the Chairperson of the Committee.
- 5.3 Non ACRD members of the Committee serve without remuneration.
- 5.4 Committee appointments are re-confirmed by the Chair of the Board at the Regular ACRD Board of Directors Meeting in January of each year.

6. Chair

- 6.1 The Chair of the Committee will be an ACRD Director as appointed by the Board in January of each year.

7. Meeting Procedures

Terms of Reference – Transportation Advisory Committee, 2024

- 7.1 The meetings of the Committee shall be held quarterly or at the call of the Committee Chairperson.
- 7.2 A majority of the Committee members shall represent a quorum, one of whom must be a Director of the ACRD Board.
- 7.3 Meetings of the Committee shall be conducted and held in accordance with the ACRD's Procedures Bylaw.
- 7.4 Staff or contracted resources will provide support to the Committee including preparing agendas, coordination of research and reports, recording minutes of all meetings and ensuring Committee agendas, minutes, etc. are forwarded electronically for circulation to all members.

8. Reporting to the Board

- 8.1 The Committee Chair will report to the ACRD Board on the activities of the Committee.
- 8.2 Recommendations from the Committee to the Board must be adopted by the Committee prior to presentation to the ACRD Board.

9. Resources

- 9.1 On behalf of the Committee, staff or contracted resources will provide advice and professional assistance to the Committee including writing letters and preparing reports to the ACRD Board.
- 9.2 Staff or contracted resources will provide support to the Committee including preparing agendas, recording the minutes of meetings and ensuring Committee agenda's, minutes etc. are circulated electronically to all Committee Members and the ACRD Board.
- 9.3 ACRD staff will coordinate the engagement of all and any contracted services.

Adopted by the ACRD Board:	July 26, 2023
Amended by the ACRD Board:	August 23, 2023
Amended by the ACRD Board:	



Proposed Case Initiative (PIC)

Service Area:	General Government (Service #020)
Initiative Name:	07 - Transportation Committee Scope
Implementation Year:	2024
Status:	For Board Consideration

Project Description:

To develop a specified scope and associated budget for the exploration and prioritization of transportation options including a secondary route in and out of the Alberni Valley. This project proposes the scope of the work identified for the committee in 2024 include: the literary review of the alternative route work completed by the previous committees; an exploration and analysis of community and economic changes that have occurred since the last review (i.e., the establishment of economic plans within communities or within established treaties); a review of the economic impacts of a full highway closure to the region; a high-level cost benefit analysis of the route options available (including the engagement of the rail corridor); and a recommendation to the Board of Directors. The above noted work would also require some community and interested party engagement, coordination with the ministry of transportation and infrastructure, and the facilitation of at least three committee meetings. To achieve the above noted work, the ACRD would seek to hire a consultant.

Organizational Problem or Opportunity:

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has been established to consider issues and to make recommendations to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board pertaining to transportation options throughout the ACRD. The scope of the TAC's work will be to prioritize transportation options in the Region, inform the ACRD Board, and then collectively advocate for these options to higher levels of government. This work could include prioritizing transportation options including a secondary route in and out of the Alberni Valley, the Bamfield Road, the Bamfield/Cowichan Route, and route to the West Coast. The priority identified for the year 2024 is the exploration of alternative (secondary) routes out of the Alberni Valley.

The scope of the work has a broad range of possible approaches. These could be as little as a review of previous work and the establishment of consensus for which preferred route, we would ask the province to further explore and cost out, or it can include significantly more. In the absence of a clear scope the ACRD may not find the success it desires and the opportunity to resolve this important issue may be prolonged or missed. Further, the ACRD does not have the internal staff resources to successfully lead this project unless other priorities are removed. Staff believe it is more prudent to hire a consultant or consulting firm to help achieve this objective.

Strategic Alignment:

This initiative is identified in the 2024 – 2027 strategic plan under Advocacy and Services, strategic area 4.1 with the objective to “Develop individual strategies for effective advocacy on important issues facing the ACRD including: - Alternative and emergency routes including but not limited to Hwy 4”.

Financial Impacts and/or Opportunities:

The cost to engage a consultant to undertake this work is estimated at \$70,000 for 2024. Some possible funding could come from the grant received to explore a business plan for the Island Rail Corridor, if and where the priorities align.

Risk Evaluation:

We have confirmation that the province is considering options for where and how it could invest in alternative routes for the many communities that are incumbered by a single route in and out of their community. The risk with not actively adding objective community, social, and economic details to the considerations of the province is that the ACRD could miss the opportunity for confirmed investment in an alternative or emergency route.

Alternative Options:

That the ACRD hire a facilitator to review previous work and facilitate TAC meetings to establish consensus for which preferred route we would ask the province to further explore at their cost. This approach would represent a possible contract of no more than \$10,000. However, this approach would likely result in a lobbying effort that lacks the objective criteria required to make a business case or a persuasive argument for new provincial infrastructure investment. The ACRD could not proceed with this initiative at this time.