



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON July 30, 2024, 10:00 AM

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

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Bob Beckett, Chairperson, Director, Area "A" Bamfield
Mike Sparrow, Director, Area "F" Cherry Creek
Cindy Solda, Councillor, City of Port Alberni
Marilyn McEwen, Director, Mayor, District of Ucluelet
Dan Law, Mayor, District of Tofino
Arne Elias, Director, Port Alberni Port Authority
Zoran Knezevic, President and CEO, Port Alberni Port Authority
Jolleen Dick, Chief Executive Officer, Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce
Samantha Hackett, Executive Director, Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce
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
Marcie Dewitt, Alberni-Clayoquot Health Network
John McNabb, Member at Large
Ken McRae, Member at Large

REGRETS:

Levana Mastrangelo, Director, Executive Legislature, Yuułuꞵiꞵath Government
Josh Jenkins, Executive Director, Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce
Brandy Lauder, Chief Councillor, Hupacasath First Nation
Ken Watts, Chief Councillor, Tseshah First Nation
Bella Fred, Tseshah First Nation
Judith Sayers, President, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
Molly Hudson, Mosaic Forest Management

STAFF PRESENT:

Mike Irg, General Manager of Planning & Development
Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant

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

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/30-7-2024/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

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 with the addition of item 6. a.

CARRIED

3. **DECLARATIONS**

4. **MINUTES**

a. **Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes – February 9, 2024**

MOVED: K. McRae

SECONDED: M. Sparrow

THAT the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held on February 9, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

a. **Micheal Pearson, Director, Vancouver Island District, BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure & Ken Curry, Parsons Consulting presenting the Highway 4 Emergency Access Route Study Status Update.**

Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) & Parsons Consulting staff presented an overview of the first phase of the study, the history of why the Transportation Committee and MOTI have taken this on, and the full scope of the study.

Members requested clarity on the mapping and background data, what the consultants are looking for, and what qualifies as a “better route”. The consultant provided information as to how they have classified the identified route options presented.

Members requested clarity on what is currently the emergency alternate route and the process of making it available in the event of another closure on Highway 4. Ministry staff confirmed that the emergency route utilized last summer is still the alternate route in case of emergency and would be ready for all vehicle traffic within 24-hours of a closure on Highway 4.

Members requested clarity on whether this study is going to be focused on emergency detours only or if a full-time secondary route will be included. Ministry staff confirmed that the current study is focused on emergency routes and that a business case will need to be presented to MOTI to proceed with a full-time secondary route.

Members voiced their concerns with the emergency route used in 2023 as it was not a viable option for all traffic, both commercial and personal, and the closure caused financial strain to businesses and other issues in the affected communities. Ministry staff agreed that, while there have been significant upgrades to a portion of the road, this route is not accessible to all. Ministry staff reiterated that this study is looking into options for emergency routes only.

The consultant presented Phase 2 of the study and reviewed the various routes that were identified for further assessment. Next steps in Phase 2 will be field verification of conditions and technical memorandums to be able to report back in early 2025. Geotechnical engineers will be working in the field in the coming months to review the conditions on the reported route options.

Members discussed what other identified routes are ready in the event of another long-term closure, and if any of these routes would be able to be ready for the community and the traffic to get through. The potential to have multiple alternate routes was also discussed, a shorter route for regular vehicle traffic and a longer route for truck traffic.

Members requested clarity as to what the final report will provide the committee. Ministry staff confirmed that there will be a summary of each corridor identified and a qualitative multiple account evaluation which will compare each route against the others. This will allow the ACRD to move forward with its business case to MOTI requesting a permanent secondary route.

Committee members requested that a discussion regarding parking and safety issues in MacMillan Provincial Park be put on a future ACRD Board of Directors Meeting agenda.

Given the emergency route that was utilized in 2023 and only saw six to eight percent of regular vehicle traffic, members requested clarity as to how the identified routes will handle the full volume of daily traffic. Ministry staff confirmed that reliance on an emergency route is only ever going to be a short-term option, the intent is to

accommodate as much traffic as possible, as safely as possible, but that it is not expected 100% of the traffic would be able to make it through via the emergency route.

Members discussed upgrades that will need to be made to bridges along the emergency route to accommodate two-lane traffic and questioned whose responsibility it is to upkeep the road and bridges on the portion of the emergency route between Port Alberni and Youbou. Ministry staff identified that ownership of the roads in the identified routes is a complicated issue as they are primarily privately owned, and the MOTI has no jurisdiction outside of emergency situations.

Members discussed different businesses and industries to reach out to when presenting the business case to MOTI in the future.

Question from the public via Zoom regarding options for railway as a secondary transportation option. Ministry staff confirmed that it is still working with Regional Districts and First Nations on a large study regarding the Island Transportation Corridor. K. McRae suggested that the new CEO of the Island Corridor Foundation, Thomas Bevan, be invited to the next Transportation Committee meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

a. Update from ACRD CAO Daniel Sailland, presented by Director Beckett regarding funds allocated to participate in the Business Case Study.

In March 2024 the ACRD Board of Directors approved a \$70,000 budget for the Transportation Advisory Committee to present a Business Case Study to MOTI to support a permanent secondary route out of Port Alberni. Staff will be issuing an RFP to find the resources within the 2024 ACRD budget to help the committee with this work. Prior to issuing the RFP, ACRD staff are waiting on the initial report from MOTI on alternate emergency routes and will ensure they are sufficiently advanced with the work of the Alberni Valley Rail Corridor Study Working Group's public outreach in September, as these will impact the work of the Transportation Committee and will allow for a clear understanding of what needs to be focused on.

Members discussed the date of the next meeting to allow for review of the draft RFP and correspond with the next Alberni Valley Rail Corridor Study Working Group meeting on October 2, 2024.

MOVED: J. McNabb

MOVED: C. Solda

THAT the next meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee will be held on October 2, 2024.

CARRIED

7. **REQUEST FOR DECISIONS**

8. **REPORTS**

9. **LATE BUSINESS**

10. **QUESTION PERIOD**

Questions/Comments from the public. The Administrative Assistant 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.

11. **ADJOURN**

MOVED: J. McNabb
SECONDED: M. Sparrow

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 11:14 am.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Bob Beckett,
Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue,
Administrative Assistant