



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2024, 1:30 PM

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
Levana Mastrangelo, Director, Executive Legislature, Yuułu?if?ath
Government
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
Josh Jenkins, Executive Director, Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce
Samantha Hackett, Executive Director, Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of
Commerce
Judith Sayers, President, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
Dean Fauchon, Manager, Contract Services, Tsawak-quin Forestry
Colin Koszman, Land Use Forester, Mosaic Forest Management
Marcie Dewitt, Alberni-Clayoquot Health Network
John McNabb, Member at Large
Ken McRae, Member at Large

REGRETS:

Michael Pearson, District Manager, Transportation, Vancouver Island,
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
Brandy Lauder, Chief Councillor, Hupacasath First Nation
Ken Watts, Chief Councillor, Tseshah First Nation
Bella Fred, Tseshah First Nation

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Sailland, Chief Administrative Officer
Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant

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

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/2-10-2024/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:33 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. DECLARATIONS

4. MINUTES

a. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting held July 30, 2024

MOVED: C. Solda

SECONDED: M. Sparrow

THAT the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held on July 30, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

6. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

7. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

8. REPORTS

a. Thomas Bevan, Chief Executive Officer, Island Corridor Foundation, Judith Sayers, Chair, Island Corridor Foundation & Harley Wylie, Island Corridor Foundation (Verbal)

J. Sayers provided a brief history of the work of the Island Corridor Foundation (ICF) and how the organization is moving forward with the options available, and the stakeholders involved.

T. Bevan provided an update on the work that is currently being done by the Island Corridor Foundation and the public engagement that is being

done by different parties involved. Belief is that the Island Rail could be presented as an alternative, emergency route out of Port Alberni and the West Coast.

Discussion followed regarding the railway options for Parksville to Port Alberni, and the work needed to bring the corridor up to safety requirements for tourism and emergency transportation.

ICF is currently working on updating the business plan, vision study, and condition assessment on the railway. Business plan will be completed when the current study is complete as they need the information from the study to finalize the business plan.

H. Wylie provided an update from a recent All Nations meeting where discussion was had regarding the pros and cons of Island Rail. Unanimous agreement that this continue to be an All-Nation discussion. A motion was put forward to have First Nations, the ICF and MOTI travel to Ottawa to request Federal support on this project. Importance to have Indigenous participation in the business plan, needs to include Indigenous Economic benefits, Indigenous tourism and include both UNDRIP and DRIPA agreements.

D. Fauchon left the meeting at 2:33 PM

Discussion followed regarding whether the end-goal is high-rail or regular rail service on the current line and what the barriers to either are.

Discussion followed regarding how to keep the request for a second route from the Transportation Committee and the Island Rail Corridor separate but still lend support to each initiative.

MOVED: K. McRae
SECONDED: Z. Knezevic

THAT the Transportation Committee recommend the ACRD Board of Directors direct ACRD staff to follow up with MOTI staff to identify steps to secure funding to do the brush clearing along the Island Rail Corridor from the Alberni Valley to Parksville that could facilitate up to a ten-tonne high-rail vehicle (including trestle assessing) noting that the committee lends support to this action but does not see it as the official position for an alternative route to Highway 4.

CARRIED

J. Sayers left the meeting at 2:50 PM

K. McRae & H. Wylie left the meeting at 2:55 PM

b. Request For Proposals, Daniel Sailland (Verbal)

D. Sailland provided a review of what was presented by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) at the last Transportation Committee meeting. Final report from MOTI is expected in early 2025. Would like to put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for technical support on this project. Requested input from the committee on how to structure the RFP to ensure a focused response and action plan that will get the Transportation Committee's goals moving forward.

Discussion followed regarding the final report from MOTI and whether that report is needed to pursue a final action plan.

H. Wylie re-joined the meeting at 3:03 PM

D. Sailland provided an explanation on the timeline of putting out the RFP and the reasoning behind beginning the process prior to receiving the final report from MOTI.

Discussion followed regarding next steps, the role of the committee and what falls within the scope to prepare and present the business plan to MOTI.

Discussion followed regarding requirements for the RFP and what the successful applicant should provide for the committee.

Committee requested that ACRD Staff put together a list of involved stakeholders to review and ensure that everyone who should be involved has been contacted.

MOVED: J. McNabb

SECONDED: C. Solda

THAT the Transportation Advisory Committee recommend to the ACRD Board of Directors to direct ACRD staff to develop a Request for Proposals to support the committee going forward to provide a secondary route into the Alberni Valley and that the primary considerations be focused on inclusion and participation by all groups that are affected by the lack of a secondary route and primarily First Nations Communities.

CARRIED

9. 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.

10. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is planned for November.

11. ADJOURN

MOVED: Director Solda
SECONDED: Director Sparrow

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 3:27 pm.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Bob Beckett

Bob Beckett,
Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue

Kristin Kerr-Donohue,
Administrative Assistant