



Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

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

1:30 pm

Regular Agenda

Watch the meeting live at: <https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/16-12-2025/>

Register to participate via Zoom Webinar at:

https://acrd-bc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zD8dIPKQQiSvmT2bym1D8Q#/registration

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|---|---------------|
| 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>DECLARATIONS</u> | |
| <i>(conflict of interest)</i> | |
| 4. <u>MINUTES</u> | |
| a. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting held November 5, 2025 | 3-6 |
| <i>THAT the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held on November 5, 2025 be adopted.</i> | |
| 5. <u>PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS (10-minute maximum)</u> | |
| 6. <u>CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION</u> | |
| 7. <u>REQUEST FOR DECISIONS</u> | |

a. **REQUEST FOR DECISION**

7-11

ACRD Secondary Route and Emergency Route Engagement Strategy

THAT the Transportation Advisory Committee recommend the ACRD Board of Directors;

1. Approve the lobbying strategy and direct staff to implement immediate next steps as identified in the December 16, 2025, report.

2. Allocate the identified staff time in the 2026 budget to create a vision consensus toward achieving a coordinated regional lobbying effort to request the Province of BC to:

a. Establish an emergency access route as an immediate priority;

b. Continue a phased approach for a viable secondary access road/highway that is open year-round.

8. REPORTS

a. Discussion for next meeting date in 2026 (Verbal) – M. Irg

9. LATE BUSINESS

10. 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**

11. ADJOURN



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025, 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
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
Colin Koszman, Land Use Forester, Mosaic Forest Management
Michael Pearson, District Manager, Transportation, Vancouver Island,
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
Dean Fauchon, Manager, Contract Services, Tsawak-qin Forestry
John McNabb, Member at Large
Arne Elias, Director, Port Alberni Port Authority
Jolleen Dick, Chief Executive Officer, Alberni Valley Chamber of
Commerce
Samantha Hackett, Executive Director, Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of
Commerce
Marcie Dewitt, Alberni-Clayoquot Health Network
Ken McRae, Member at Large

REGRETS:

Brandy Lauder, Chief Councillor, Hupacasath First Nation
Judith Sayers, President, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
Ken Watts, Chief Councillor, Tseshaht First Nation
Josh Jenkins, Executive Director, Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Sailland, Chief Administrative Officer
Mike Irg, Special Projects Director
Janice Hill, Executive Assistant
Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sharie Minions, Mayor of Port Alberni
Mike Fox, CAO, City of Port Alberni

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

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/5-11-2025/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:03.

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.

The Chairperson formally thanked the representatives from the Ministry of Transportation and Transit for the work that was done to help mitigate the impact of the Bamfield Road due to the Mount Underwood Wildfire.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED: A. Elias

SECONDED: M. Sparrow

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **DECLARATIONS**

4. **MINUTES**

a. **Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes – April 16, 2025**

MOVED: J. McNabb

SECONDED: K. McRae

THAT the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held on April 16, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. **PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

a. **Michael Pearson, Director, Nikki Schneider, Operations Manager, Ministry of Transportation and Transit, Highway 4 Emergency Detour Route Options**

MOVED: J. McNabb

SECONDED: C. Solda

THAT this report be received as presented.

CARRIED

S. Minions left the meeting at 11:00 am

MOVED: J. McNabb
SECONDED: C. Solda

THAT the Transportation Advisory Committee request a supplementary report from the Ministry of Transportation and Transit outlining how the impact of the fire damaged portion of the Bamfield Road may affect the information presented in the Emergency Detour Route Report.

CARRIED

6. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

- a. **Ministry of Transportation and Transit Provincial Response to ACRD Resolution at the 2025 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention.**

MOVED: C. Solda
SECONDED: M. Sparrow

THAT this correspondence be received.

CARRIED

7. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

8. REPORTS

- a. **ACRD Secondary Route and Emergency Route Options – M. Irg**
- b. **2026 Transportation Committee Discussion (Verbal) – D. Sailland**

MOVED: J. McNabb
SECONDED: A. Elias

THAT reports a-b be received.

CARRIED

C. Koszman left the meeting at 11:59 am

Moved: J. Dick
Seconded: C. Solda

THAT the Transportation Advisory Committee recommend that the ACRD Board of Directors create a coordinated, local lobby effort to convince the Province of BC to establish an emergency access route as a first step and continue to investigate a viable secondary access road/highway that is open year-round. Treat the alternate access

route as a strategic community and economic priority, not just an emergency measure.

CARRIED

D. Law left the meeting at 12:05 pm

M. Pearson and M. Dewitt left the meeting at 12:06 pm

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: A. Elias

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:09 pm.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Bob Beckett,
Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue
Administrative Assistant



To: ACRD Transportation Advisory Committee

From: Mike Irg, Special Projects Director

Meeting Date: December 16, 2025

Subject: ACRD Secondary Route and Emergency Route Engagement Strategy

Recommendation:

THAT the Transportation Advisory Committee recommend the ACRD Board of Directors;

1. Approve the lobbying strategy and direct staff to implement immediate next steps as identified in the December 16, 2025, report.
2. Allocate the identified staff time in the 2026 budget to create a vision consensus toward achieving a coordinated regional lobbying effort to request the Province of BC to:
 - a. Establish an emergency access route as an immediate priority;
 - b. Continue a phased approach for a viable secondary access road/highway that is open year-round.

Desired Outcome:

If approved by the Transportation Advisory Committee and subsequently by the ACRD Board of Directors, staff would advance with consensus building and lobbying plan. This would include the preparation of a summary report, request meetings with core partners to build a unified vision, the inclusion of feedback and guidance from partners, as well as the hiring of a lobbying consultancy to support the development and implementation of a coordinated effort for the establishment of an emergency access route as well as a viable secondary access road/highway that is open year-round.

Background:

The Alberni-Clayoquot region currently relies on a single primary highway for access. This creates significant vulnerability during emergencies, natural disasters, or prolonged closures which impacts public safety, economic stability, and community resilience. The Transportation Advisory Committee has identified the need for an alternate access route as a strategic priority for both emergency preparedness and long-term economic development. At the November 5, 2025 the Transportation Advisory Committee passed the following motion:

THAT the Transportation Advisory Committee recommend that the ACRD Board of Directors create a coordinated, local lobby effort to convince the Province of BC to establish an emergency access route as a first step and continue to investigate a viable secondary access road/highway

that is open year-round. Treat the alternate access route as a strategic community and economic priority, not just an emergency measure.

Following up on the above noted resolution, this report provides a framework of next steps for advancing these priorities in 2026. This framework includes the following key milestones:

1. Draft a summary review report that identifies the top choices for an emergency route that could also be upgraded, in phases, to become a permanent alternative highway route into the Alberni Valley.
2. Present the report to all partners across the region, in accordance with their preferred approach (e.g., letter, and/or delegation to council/board meeting, etc.).
3. Achieve a shared letter of support from all partners for advancing with a single preferred route.
4. Hire a lobbying consultancy to coordinate the efforts of the region toward achieving the agreed upon vision of the alternative route.

Time Requirements – Staff & Elected Officials:

Approximately 190 hours of ACRD staff time will be required for steps 1 to 4. This assumes an average of 10 hours per government in the region for discussion, delegation and feedback (10 First Nations and 3 Municipalities is 130 hours); ongoing reports, attendance and coordination of Transportation Advisory Committee meetings (40 hours); general administration to include RFP drafting, issuance and review (20 hours). Once a consultant is hired for the coordination of a lobbying effort, a revised estimate of additional time would be prepared, and this would include estimates for elected officials, staff, and committee members to lobby senior levels of government for the needed road access.

Financial:

The ACRD Board has assigned \$75,000 toward this initiative. The cost associated with the development of an alternate route (emergency or permanent) has yet to be identified.

Strategic Plan Implications:

The ACRD 2024-2027 Strategic Plan identifies “alternative and emergency routes including but not limited to Highway 4” as an objective in section 4.1 Strategic Advocacy.

Policy or Legislation:

The Ministry of Transportation and Transit is responsible for all Highways in BC and all roads outside of incorporated municipalities. Of note is that most all identified alternative routes being discussed are a mix of private and provincial ownership. This adds complexity and possible cost to this initiative.

Options Considered:

Other options for consideration by the committee include:

1. Make changes to the lobbying strategy and then refer to the Board.
2. Defer the decision pending additional research or consultation.
3. Do not proceed with the recommendation.

Submitted by: Mike Irg
Mike Irg, MCIP, RPP, Special Projects Director

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

Appendix A: Coordinated Lobbying Strategy

Strategic Objectives

Primary Objective: Secure provincial commitment to establish an emergency access route and initiate planning for a year-round secondary access highway.

Secondary Objective: Secure a provincially led planning program for a viable secondary access corridor.

Vision Consensus (January - July 2026)

In order to build consensus around a shared preferred route, the ACRD will draft a summary review report that includes references to past and current studies, identifies the top choices for an emergency route that could also be upgraded, in phases, to become a permanent alternative highway route into the Alberni Valley. Once the report and plan are received and endorsed by the Board, the ACRD will schedule and present the report to all partners across the region, in accordance with their preferred approach (e.g., letter, and/or delegation to council/board meetings, etc.).

Core partners include local governments (Port Alberni, Tofino, Ucluelet), First Nations (Hupacasath, Tseshaht, Huu-ay-aht, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ, Toquaht, Uchucklesaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Ahousaht, Ditidaht, Hesquiaht), Chambers of Commerce, Port Authority, and industry stakeholders.

Adhering to the requests and guidance provided by core partners, the ACRD will request and coordinate a shared letter of support from all partners for advancing with a single preferred route.

Lobbying Preparation, Target Audiences & Decision Pathways (April – August 2026)

Upon completion of the signed letter of support, the ACRD will seek the support of a lobbying consultancy that will help develop a plan of action for lobbying appropriate decision-making bodies including but not limited to: Ministry of Transportation and Transit, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Premier's Office, Treasury Board, and Emergency Management BC.

Allied Forums: UBCM/AVICC for resolutions and province-wide support.

Core Messages

- Safety & Resilience: Redundant access is essential for emergency response.
- Economic Imperative: Highway 4 disruptions cost \$60M+ per event, and new economic opportunities working with First Nations economic visions.
- Co-development & Reconciliation: Align with DRIPA and UNDRIP principles.
- Readiness: Emergency detour route activation within hours.

Tactics & Workplan

- A. Policy & Technical Prep: Unified brief, route options scan, DRIPA engagement plan.
- B. Political Advocacy: Minister meetings, UBCM resolutions, media outreach.
- C. Secondary Route Program: Feasibility studies, funding strategy.

Lobbying Implementation (August 2026 – Time to be Determined): The lobbying efforts will be subject to the agreement of partners and endorsement of the ACRD Board. It is important to note that there may be changes based on the direction of other partnering governments whose territories and/or

jurisdictions are directly impacted or influenced. This overview is a high-level plan of approach that is expected to change based on the feedback received by partners.

Immediate Next Steps

- 1) Draft a summary review report that identifies the top choices for an emergency route and alternative highway route into the Alberni Valley;
- 2) Present the report to ACRD Board and all partners across the region;
- 3) Achieve a shared letter of support from all partners for advancing with a single preferred route;
- 4) Hire a lobbying consultancy to coordinate the efforts;
- 5) Send coordinated letter to Minister; and
- 6) Draft UBCM/AVICC resolution.