



# 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

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### 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, Tseshah 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, Tseshah 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 1:03pm.

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

### **a. 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 Comments 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](mailto: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*

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Bob Beckett,  
Chairperson

*Heather Zenner*

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Heather Zenner,  
Manager of Administrative Services