



**Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
Highway Connector Committee
MINUTES**

Wednesday, April 11, 2007

Regional District Board Room

- Present: Mayor Ken McRae, City of Port Alberni
Mayor John Fraser, District of Tofino
Mike Kokura, ACRD Director
Charlie Haggard
Gillian Trumper
Dewayne Parfitt, Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce
Cindy Solda, ACRD Alternate Director
Mike Newton
Ken Epps, Island Timberlands
MLA, Scott Fraser, Alberni-Qualicum
- Staff: Bob Harper, Administrator
Wendy Thomson, Administrative Assistant
Robert Gunn

1. The meeting was chaired by Mayor Ken McRae.
2. The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m.

Introductions

3. Introductions were conducted around the table.

Minutes

4. Moved by C. Solda, seconded by M. Kokura, "That the minutes from the March 21, 2007 inaugural meeting of the Highway Connector Committee be adopted as circulated."

"Carried"

Correspondence

5. Moved by M. Kokura, seconded by D. Parfitt, "That a letter be forwarded to Judith Sayers, Chief Councillor, Hupacasath First Nation inviting her to appoint a representative to sit on the Highway Connector Committee."

"Carried"

6. Moved by G. Trumper, seconded by J. Fraser, "That the following correspondence be received for information: Dr. James Lunney, MP, Nanaimo-Alberni re: Participation on the Highway Connector Committee, Hupacasath First

Nation re: Participation on the Highway Connector Committee, Mayor Starr Winchester, City of Courtenay re: Participation on the Highway Connector Committee and City of Port Alberni re: Letter of Support - Highway Connector.”

“Carried”

Reports

7. R. Gunn spoke to his progress report and provided an update on activities since the inaugural meeting of the Highway Connector Committee. The Committee reviewed the updated accident data on Highway 4.
8. G. Trumper advised that the Port Alberni Port Authority conducted a study on the economic benefits of a link highway. This study may be of assistance to the Committee. R. Gunn will investigate further.
9. R. Harper provided an update on discussions with Peter Wightman, District Manager, Ministry of Transportation, Vancouver Island District regarding undertaking a study to examine the costs and benefits of the proposed alternate highway route. Mr. Weightman advised that such a study would cost approximately \$30,000.00 and the odds of a new study are increased if the Committee also puts money on the table. R. Harper advised that the Board of Directors have committed \$12,000.00 and another \$3,000.00 commitment has been received from community support. Discussions ensued regarding Committee input and influence into the study. R. Harper advised that the Regional District would have influence and input into the study by making a contribution. M. Newton recommended that consultation with the Regional District be written into the terms of reference for the study.
10. The Committee discussed benefits of the new route that should be included in the study. R. Harper advised that the onus is on the Committee to highlight the benefits. D. Parfitt said Tourism should be highlighted as a benefit. G. Trumper said environmental, economic and social impacts also need to be highlighted.
11. C. Haggard provided a verbal update on the proposed new highway connector. He reported that everything is pretty much done with the feasibility study. Mr. Haggard said it has been shown that the new route is feasible, now we are working to see if it is doable.
12. MLA, Scott Fraser passed around copies of the transcripts of the Hansard where he asked Minister Falcon to consider Highway 4 alternative route access through to Port Alberni and the West Coast. MLA Fraser said he requires as much information as possible from the Committee in order to keep the Minister's interest regarding the need for an alternate route. He noted the key issue for an alternate route is safety. MLA Fraser said safety is the strongest argument and the one that he has resinated to Minister Falconer.

13. K. Epps advised that overall, Island Timberlands are not against the proposed alternate route. They would have some visual issues that would need to be addressed and the route would take up some of their growing space. He said that some of their road infrastructure would also need to be changed. K. Epps said one of the benefits of the proposed route for Island Timberlands would be access onto the highway. K. Epps said the positives probably balance out with the negatives. He said there are a lot of dangerous trees in Cathedral Grove and stressed that safety needs to be the Committee's number one priority.
14. M. Newton discussed the safety issues around Cathedral Grove. He said with a wind threshold of 80 km's hour, the Ministry of Transportation should start closing down the highway for safety reasons. M. Newton said there should be closures when there is a risk to the people. He noted that causing delays for the public would force the need for another route. M. Kokura suggested getting in touch with highway safety experts, WCB and ICBC to look at this issue.

New Business

15. G. Trumper said the Committee will receive some opposition from cabin owners in the Horne Lake Area. She recommended the Committee look at getting support from some of the small businesses in the area for the new route.

Next Meeting

16. The next meeting of the Highway Connector Committee will be held on **Wednesday, May 9, 2007, 12 noon** in the **Regional District Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC.**
17. Moved by J. Fraser, "That this meeting now stand adjourned."

"Carried"
18. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Ken McRae,
Chairperson

Robert Harper,
Administrator

