



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAY CONNECTOR COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2012

Regional District Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

MEMBERS

Cindy Solda, Chairperson, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

PRESENT:

Bill Irving, Mayor, District of Ucluelet

Mike Kokura, Director, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

Gary Haggard, Member at Large

Randy Orr, Island Timberlands

Neil Malbon, Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce

Bob Kanngiesser, Member at Large

Darren Deluca, Port Alberni Port Authority

Bob Cole, Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce

OTHERS

Rob Cole, Councillor, City of Port Alberni

PRESENT:

Jack McLeman, Councillor, City of Port Alberni

Ron Crema, Port Alberni Port Authority

Dianne St. Jacques, Port Alberni Port Authority

Ken Watson, City Manager, City of Port Alberni

Guy Cicon, Engineer, City of Port Alberni

REGRETS:

Pat Deakin, Economic Development Officer, City of Port Alberni

Gillian Trumper, Port Alberni Port Authority

Mike Newton, R.F. Binnie & Associates

STAFF PRESENT:

Wendy Thomson, Manager of Administrative Services

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm

2. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Mr. Darren Deluca, Director, Port Alberni Port Authority regarding overview of Port Alberni Port Authority's Transportation Committee.**

MOVED: B. Kanngiesser

SECONDED: B. Cole

THAT Mr. Deluca, Port Alberni Port Authority (PAPA) be invited to address the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Highway Connector Committee.

CARRIED

Mr. Deluca conducted a power point presentation (attached) on the Alberni Valley Transportation Committee developed by the PAPA. The PAPA identified the need for improved road access to Port terminals to achieve it's mandate and address potential concerns of citizens about Port operation. Due to the shared economic, regional and cross-jurisdictional issues related to transportation, a cross-section of governments and agencies were invited to work with the Port on improving road infrastructure. The purpose of the Committee is to support and advocate for improved highway and road access to Port Alberni, and the Port's deep sea shipping terminals. Mr. Deluca provided an overview of the 3 new links in the proposed road network connecting Port terminals to Highway 19. He discussed the 3 options and key findings for the Highway 19 connector.

Mr. Deluca provided a brief overview of the proposed Ring Road bypass route to divert heavier truck traffic off Redford Street and Anderson Avenue by establishing a road corridor from Coombs Country Candy Store to Ship Creek Road. The ACRD has retained R. F. Binne & Associates to examine routes including costs estimates, design issues, benefits and challenges. The report should be completed by the end of January. Mr. Deluca answered questions from the Committee.

G. Cicon, Engineer, City of Port Alberni reported that the City has commissioned Stantec Engineering to conduct a detailed review of a segment of Harbour Road. He discussed the challenges including required negotiations with private land owners.

The Committee discussed the three proposed Highway 19 connector options and the issues faced with each. There was discussion regarding the need to go to the Province with one request, not several different options for a highway connector. The ring road is a short term project and connectivity to the Island Highway is a long term project. The Committee agreed the one ask to the Province should be a connector highway. An economic impact study of a new highway connector is required outlining the benefits to the entire region, including First Nations communities. There was discussion regarding funding options to develop an economic impact study.

The Committee discussed the need for coordination between the ACRD Highway Connector Committee and the PAPA Transportation Committee.

The Committee discussed the next steps moving forward and which Committee should take the lead role. Both organizations have capacity issues. It was agreed that both Committee's have a role and need to keep going.

3. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

- a. **October 11, 2012, Port Alberni Port Authority News Release regarding Connector Highway Studies.**

MOVED: M. Kokura
SECONDED: B. Cole

THAT this correspondence be received.

CARRIED

4. REPORTS

a. Ring Road – Highway 4 to Ship Creek Road Proposal from R.F. Binnie & Associates

MOVED: B. Cole
SECONDED: M. Kokura

THAT the Highway Connector Committee receives the Ring Road – Highway 4 to Ship Creek Road Proposal from R. F. Binnie & Associates.

CARRIED

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. The Committee discussed the role and structure of the ACRD's Highway Connector Committee and the PAPA's Transportation Committee. The ACRD Highway Connector Committee hasn't met in a couple of years. The Terms of Reference and representation on the Committee needs to be updated by the ACRD Board.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. B. Irving recommended talking to the Ministry of Transportation regarding conducting an economic impact study and what is required. He suggested visiting the Ministry's website to find out what the requirements are in order for the Ministry to conduct the study.

7. ADJOURN

MOVED: D. Deluca
SECONDED: B. Cole

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 3:50 pm.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Cindy Solda,
Chairperson

Wendy Thomson,
Manager of Administrative Services

Alberni Valley Transportation Committee



Progress Report
November 15, 2012

History of the Committee

- The Port Alberni Port Authority identified the need for improved road access to Port terminals to achieve its mandate and address potential concerns of citizens about Port operations
- Due to the shared economic, regional and cross-jurisdictional issues related to transportation, a cross-section of governments and agencies were invited to work with the Port on improving road infrastructure
- The committee's purpose is to support and advocate for improved highway and road access to Port Alberni, and the Port's deep sea shipping terminals



Committee Members

- Darren DeLuca – Port Alberni Port Authority (Chair)
- Gillian Trumper - Port Alberni Port Authority
- Dianne St. Jacques - Port Alberni Port Authority
- Glen Wong - Alberni Clayoquot Regional District
- Mike Kokura – Alberni Clayoquot Regional District
- Rob Cole – City of Port Alberni
- Jack McLennan – City of Port Alberni
- Bob Cole – Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Paula Petersen - Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Cindy Stern – Tseshaht First Nation (observer)
- Brenda Sayers – Hupacasath First Nation (observer)



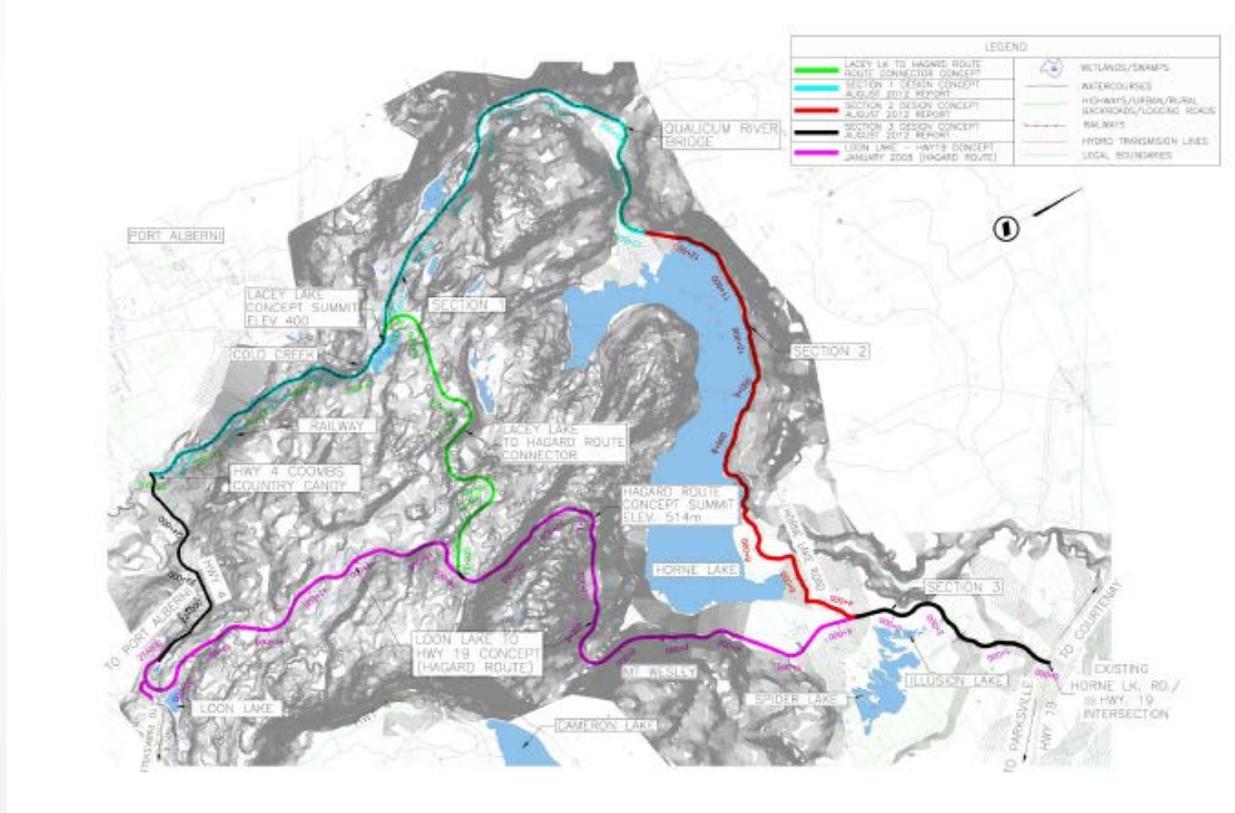
Proposed Road Network

There are 3 new links in the proposed road network connecting Port terminals to Highway 19

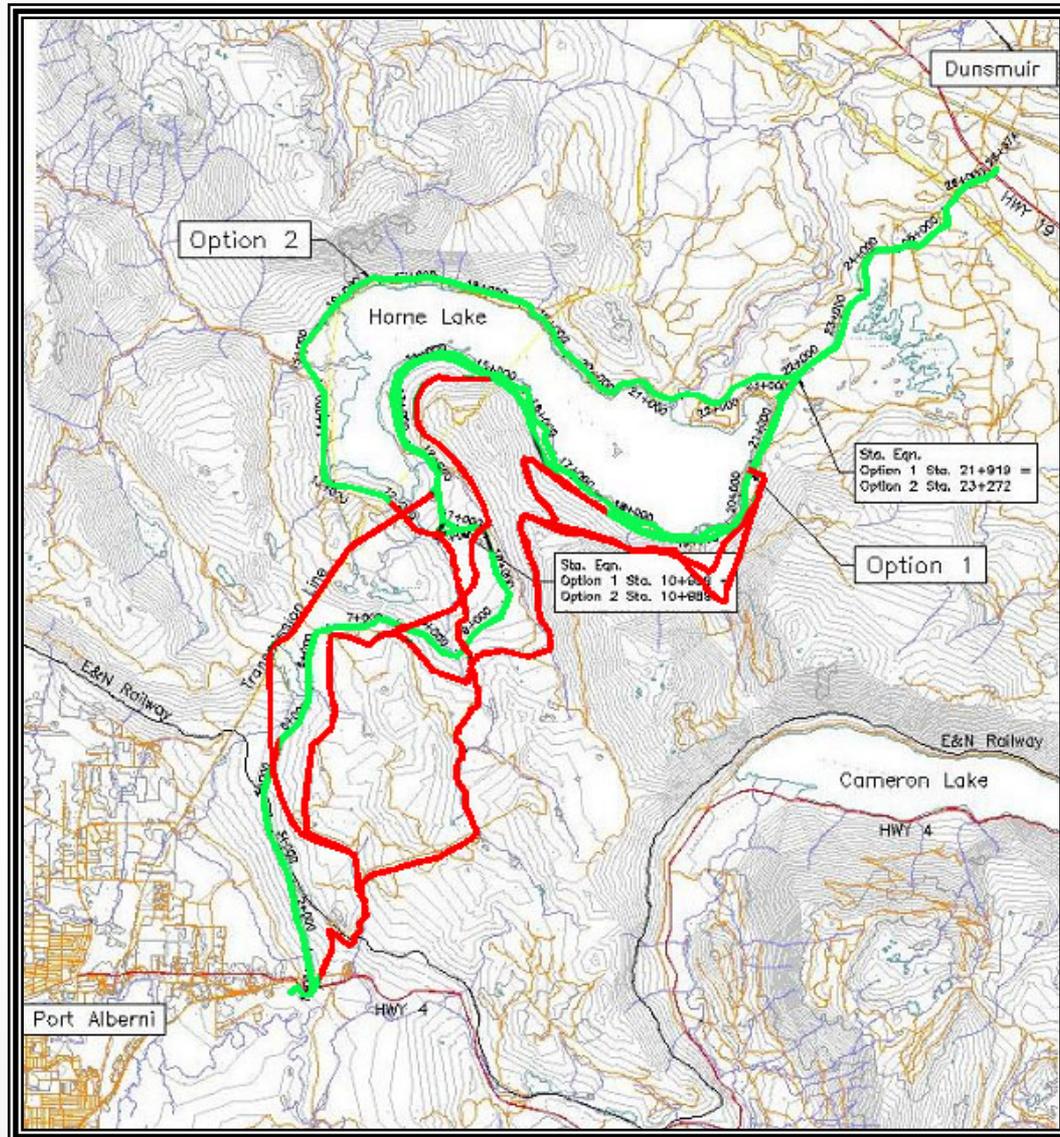
- I. A new Port Alberni to Highway 19 connector highway (PAPA lead)
- II. A Highway 4 to Ship Creek Road via a bypass 'ring road' (ACRD lead)
- III. An industrial road connecting Ship Creek Road, Harbour Road and lower Redford Street (CPA lead)

3 options for Highway 19 connector

- Option A – Candy Store to Highway 19 via north shore of Horne Lake
- Option B – Hybrid route connecting Horne Lake route to Haggard route via Lacey Lake
- Option C – Haggard route from Highway 4 summit



Original MoTI options



Port Alberni to Highway 19 via Horne Lake

Option A - An improved Horne Lake route traversing from the Candy Store via Lacey Lake and the north shore of Horne Lake

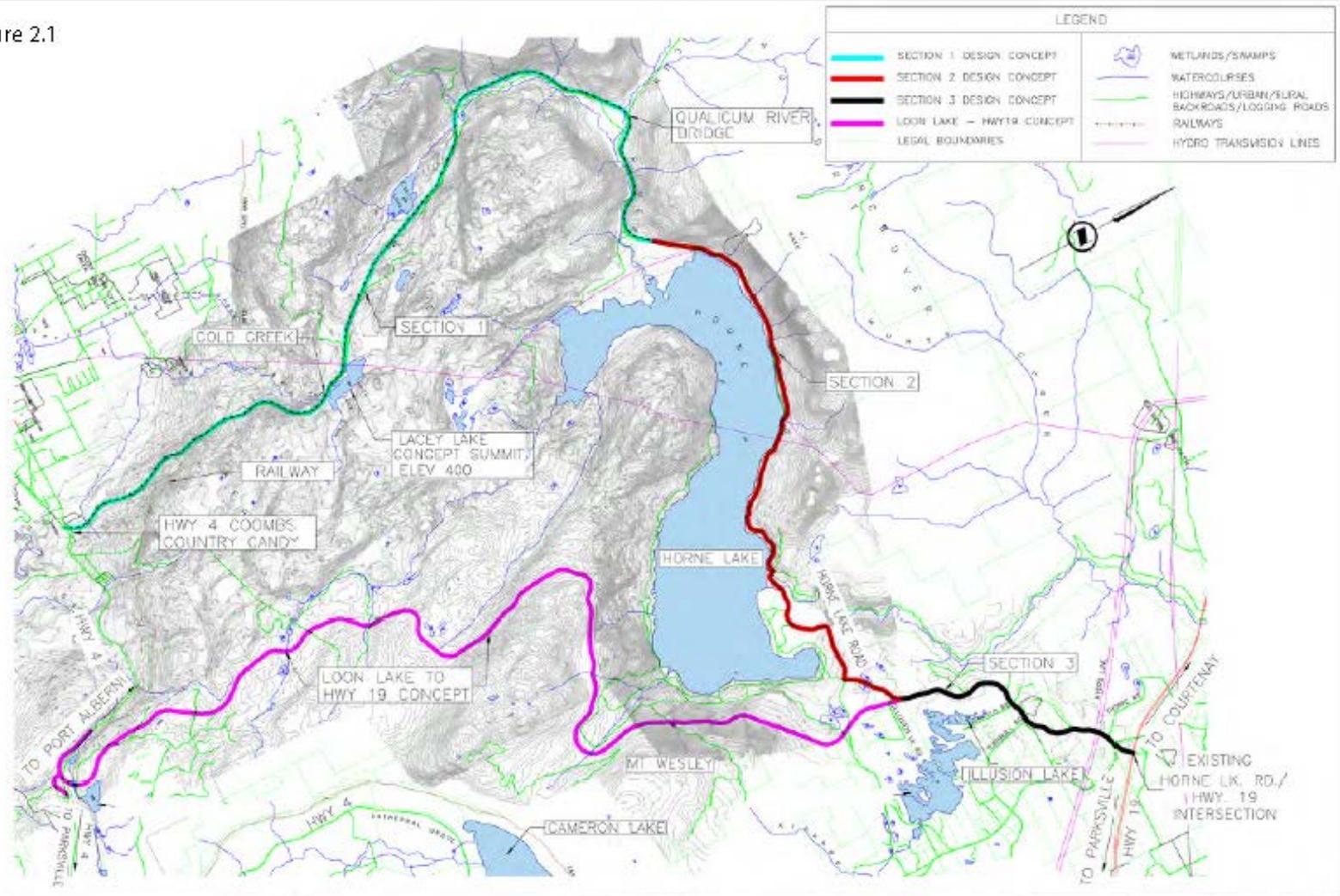
Key Findings

- A route was identified that meets MoTI standards for 80km/hr highway
- A 27 km route with 21 minute travel time
- Estimated Cost \$50 million

Challenges

- The route goes very close to the Lacey Lake / Cherry Creek Watershed reservoir
- Negative impacts to the Horne Lake cabin owners on Horne Lake
- Potential geotech issues along north shore of Horne Lake

Figure 2.1



Port Alberni to Highway 19 via Horne Lake/Haggard hybrid route

Option B - A hybrid route connecting the Horne Lake route to the Haggard route via a Lacey Lake coupler

Key Findings

- Route identified that meets MoTI standards for 80km/hr highway
- A 25 km route with 19 minutes travel time
- Estimated cost \$73 million

Challenges

- The route goes very close to Lacey Lake / Cherry Creek Watershed reservoir
- Highest cost option

ACRD Haggard Connector

Option C – the 2007 ACRD commissioned route from the Highway 4 summit to Highway 19.

Key Findings

- Route identified that meets MoTI standards for 80km/hr highway
- A 20 km route and 17 minute travel time from the summit
- Estimated Cost \$65 million

Challenges

- Elevation of 512 meters negatively effects winter driving conditions
- Significant amounts of private lands involved

2012 MoTI Urban Systems Report

MoTI-commissioned report to identify preferred route
and cost/benefit assessment

Key Findings

- Current Highway 4 traffic count was 10,000 vehicles per day potentially growing to over 12,500
- Truck traffic was estimated to grow from 300 to potentially 650 trucks per day
- Report identified Haggard route as preferred route
- Diversion to Haggard route was estimated at 43%
- Report concluded that it would be 25 years until a new route was cost effective and that existing Highway 4 route was *'a safe and reliable corridor... capable of supporting general and commercial traffic growth that could arise from economic development activities in the region.'*

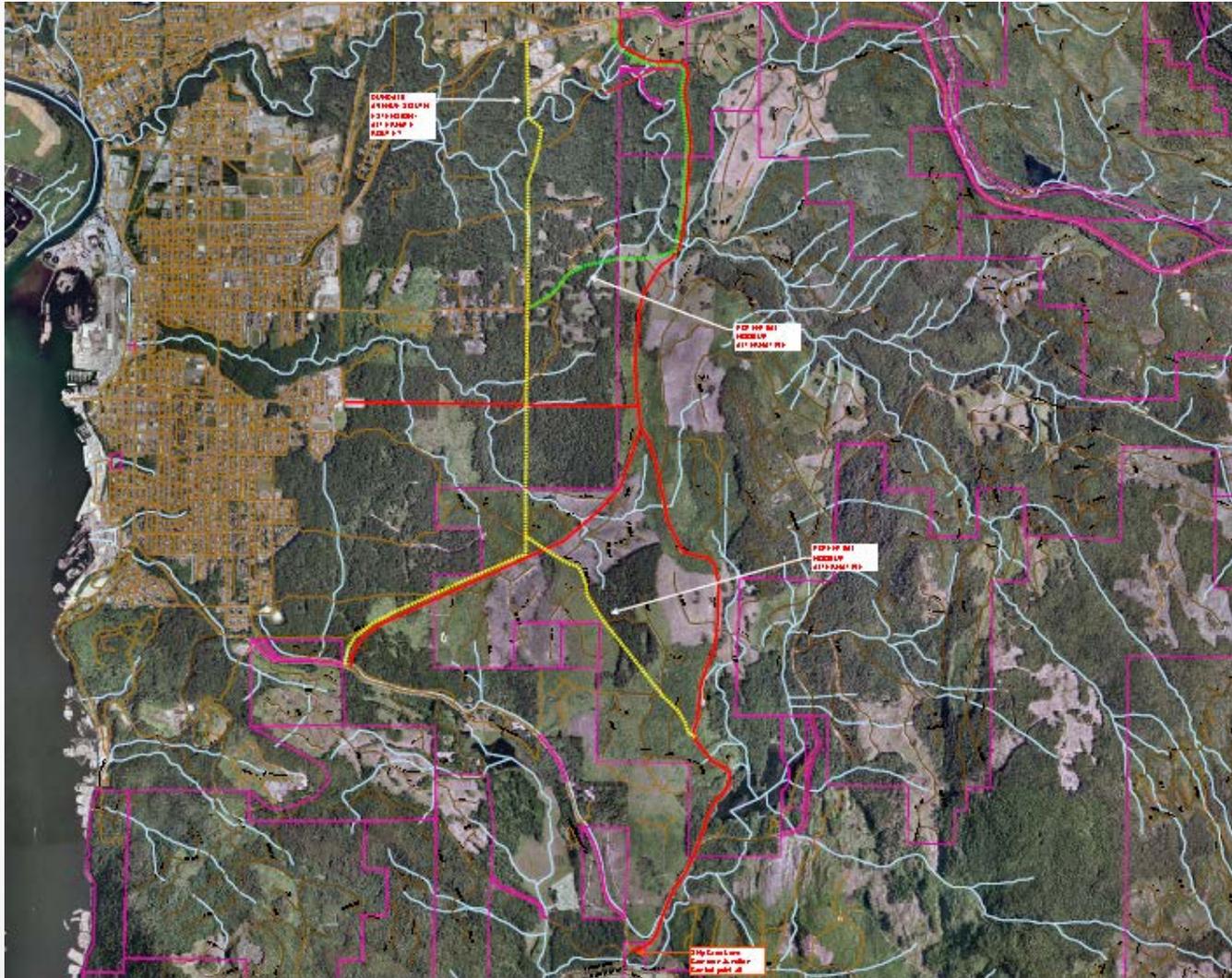
The 'Ring Road'

A proposed bypass route to divert heavy truck traffic off Redford Street and Anderson Avenue by establishing a road corridor from the Candy Store to Ship Creek Road

Status

- ACRD has retained Binnie to examine routes including cost estimates, design issues, benefits and challenges
- Report due January 31, 2013

Potential Routes



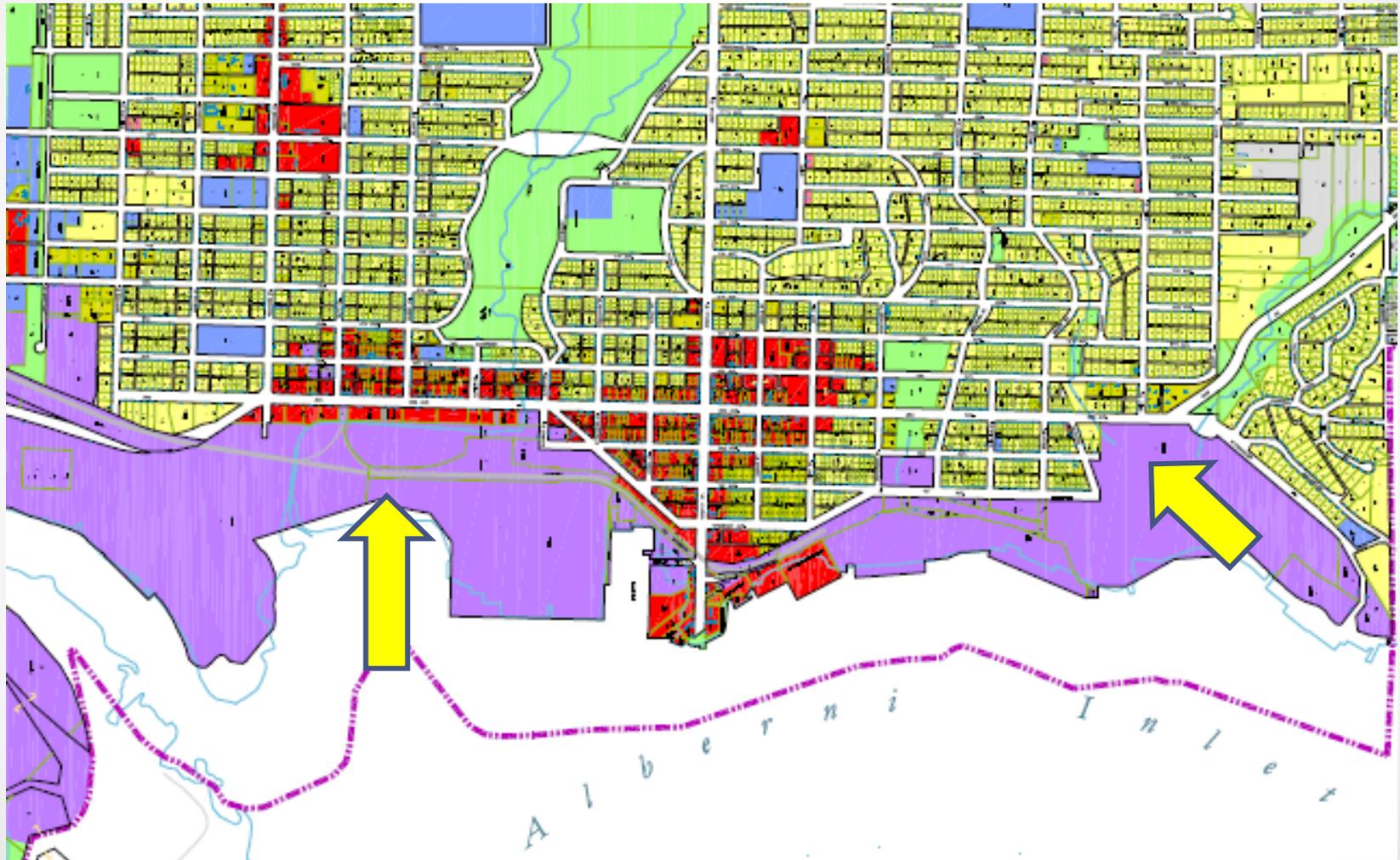
Harbour Road Industrial Road

A route from the base of Ship Creek Road transiting along the waterfront past the Port terminals to the bottom of Redford Street

Status

- City of Port Alberni engaged in engineering reports to assess project
- Negotiations required with Catalyst and APD mills for land acquisition

Harbour Road



Next Steps

- Complete Ring Road report and assess options
- Identify preferred option for connector route
- Identify funding to complete Preliminary Design Studies that further defines costs, design options, geotechnical, environmental and property constraints
- Lobby governments to include highway connector and ring road in budget for 5-yr capital plan

