



Engagement Summary Report

August 2018

Highway 14 Corridor Improvements

Community Engagement

June 19 – July 15, 2018

Kirk&Co.

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Kirk & Co. is a recognized industry leader in designing and implementing comprehensive public and stakeholder consultation and engagement programs. Utilizing best practices, consultation and engagement programs are designed to maximize opportunities for input. Kirk & Co. independently analyzes and reports on public and stakeholder input.

The views represented in this engagement summary report reflect the priorities and concerns of engagement participants. They may not be representative of the views of the public and other stakeholders because participants self-selected into the Highway 14 Corridor Improvements community engagement, and therefore do not reflect a random sample.

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1.0

Background

The Highway 14 Corridor is a vital link in the transportation of people, goods and services on southern Vancouver Island. It supports the overall economy of the South Island, connecting the communities of Port Renfrew and Sooke to greater Victoria.

One of the key features of this highway is that it transitions from a high volume four-lane urban highway in the east at Veterans Memorial Parkway (VMP) to a very rural two-lane highway in the west, with an urban transitional area in and around Sooke.

Annual average daily traffic (AADT) volumes along the corridor have increased by approximately 25% over the past 10 years. The corridor is experiencing increasing platoons of commuter traffic (where congestion causes vehicles to travel closely together), and areas west of Sooke lack shoulders, pullouts and pavement conditions are of concern for this important tourism and commercial route. The corridor is served by BC Transit Routes 61 and 65.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure asked for feedback regarding their priorities for the corridor.

ENGAGEMENT TOPICS INCLUDED:



Priorities for transit



Priorities for highway upgrades



Any additional comments regarding the Highway 14 Corridor Improvements.

How your feedback will be considered

Feedback from First Nations, local government, the public and other stakeholders is vital to understanding the needs, interests and opportunities associated with the Highway 14 corridor.

The feedback provided will be considered, along with technical, environmental and financial information, as the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure plans for transportation improvements along this corridor. These transportation improvements will help to ensure that this corridor meets the needs of users in the short and long term.

2.0

Community Engagement: June 19 – July 15, 2018

2.1 PURPOSE

This community engagement was designed to gather community input regarding the Highway 14 Corridor Improvements.



Photos from the open house on Tuesday, June 19, 2018.

2.2 ENGAGEMENT PARTICIPATION

There were a total of **856** participant interactions during the community engagement:



614

feedback forms were received
(586 online, 28 hard copy)



99

open-ended submissions were
received through email



143

people attended a public
open house

2.3 ENGAGEMENT TOPICS

Engagement materials provided information about:

- **Announced projects:** including the Sooke River Road Intersection Upgrade, Gillespie Road/Roche Cove Bridge, and Jacklin Road Transit Priority.
- **Future priorities for the Highway 14 Corridor:** Transit Upgrades, Upgrading the Existing Highway, and Potential Highway Realignment.

The feedback form had questions regarding priorities for transit service and facilitates, and highway upgrades. There was also an opportunity to provide additional comments in the feedback form or by email.

2.4 NOTIFICATION

Notification activities to inform the community about engagement opportunities included:



Print advertisements

Advertisements ran in the *Goldstream Gazette* and the *Sooke News Mirror* on Wednesday, June 13, 2018.



Social media

4 tweets were sent from @TranBC, 5 from @govTogetherBC, 2 posts from facebook.com/TranBC, and one Instagram post from @ministryoftranbc leading up to and during the engagement period.



Stakeholder emails

Emails to Mayors and Councils, First Nations, and key stakeholder groups.

See Appendix 1 for copies of the notification materials.

2.5 ENGAGEMENT METHODS

2.5.1 Display Boards and Feedback Form

The engagement materials provided information on the improvements proposed for the Highway 14 Corridor between the Veterans Memorial Parkway in Langford and Port Renfrew.

The feedback form included questions related to transit service and facilities, and highway upgrades.

Please see Appendix 2 for a copy of the display boards and feedback form.

2.5.2 Online Materials

All materials were available online at gov.bc.ca/highway14, including an online feedback form. Of the 614 feedback forms received, 586 (95%) were received online.

2.5.2 Open House

143 people attended a public open house held at Edward Milne Community School.

The open house allowed community members to speak with the project team and ask questions about the Highway 14 Corridor Improvements. Display boards were set up around the room to facilitate discussion. Hard copy feedback forms were available and attendees were encouraged to complete the feedback form during the session, at home or online.

Date	Time	Location	Attendance
Tuesday, June 19	4:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Edward Milne Community School	143

3.0

Community engagement results

3.1 FEEDBACK FORM

The following are summary results from the 614 feedback forms received online and in hard copy.

Please note that not all respondents answered every question. Quantitative results are displayed by number of selections. The total number of mentions for qualitative data may exceed the total number of respondents as participants may have commented on more than one topic. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has read and will consider all feedback. Following is a summary of the most frequently mentioned themes.

1. What is your primary reason for using Highway 14?

Please select only one

Commuting to/from work

56% (343)

Personal business, including shopping, appointments, meeting friends/family

30% (185)

To/from entertainment recreation

6% (35)

Travel for business, including professional drivers (taxi driver, delivery/goods mover, courier)

5% (31)

Commuting to/from school

3% (16)

Total responses: 610

2. If you use the highway to commute to work or school, how do you usually commute?

Please select only one

Alone in personal vehicle

78% (383)

Car pool

14% (69)

Public transit

6% (28)

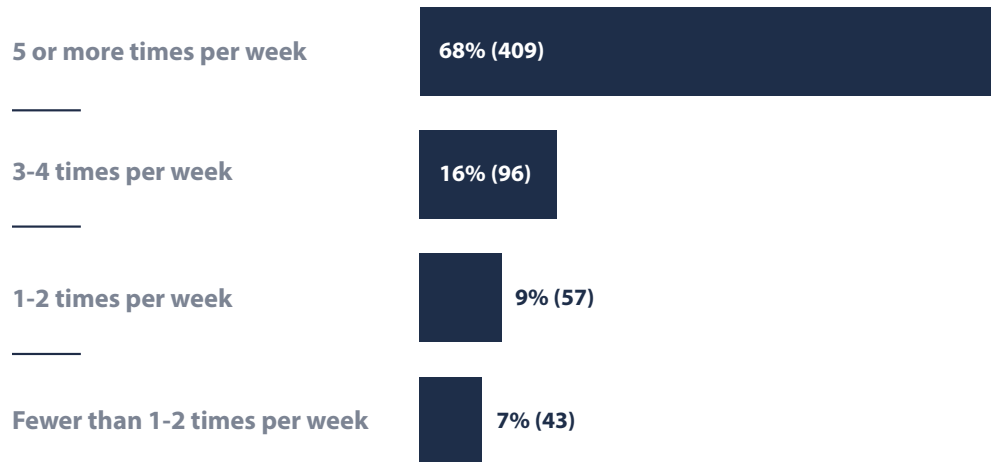
Cycle

2% (9)

Total responses: 489

3. How often do you travel on Highway 14?

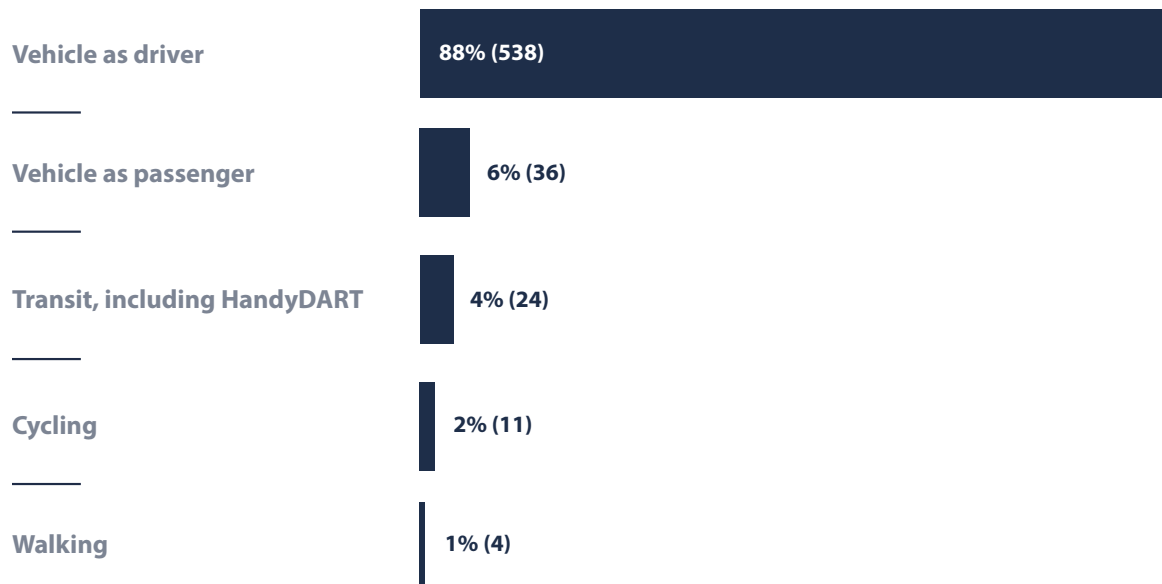
Please select only one



Total responses: 605

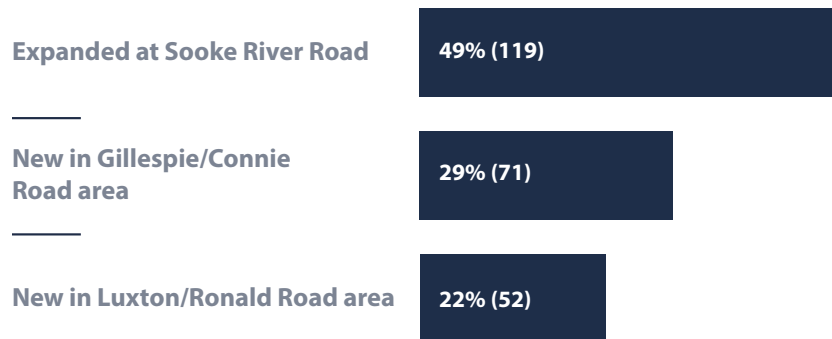
4. Which modes of travel do you regularly use on Highway 14?

Please select only one



Total responses: 613

5. Would you be likely to use a park and ride/pool at the following locations? *Please select all that apply*

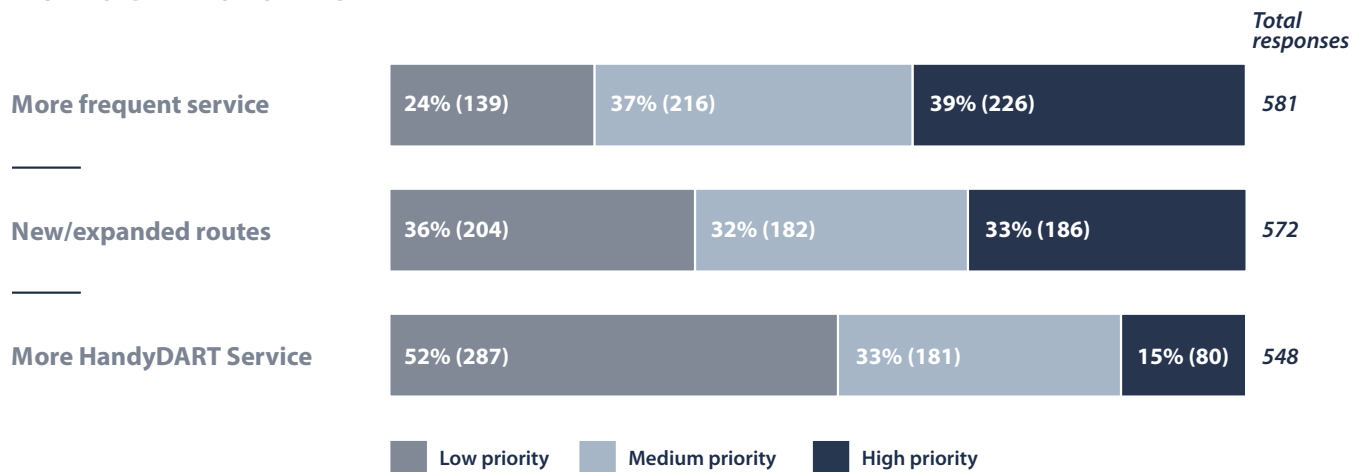


Total responses: 242

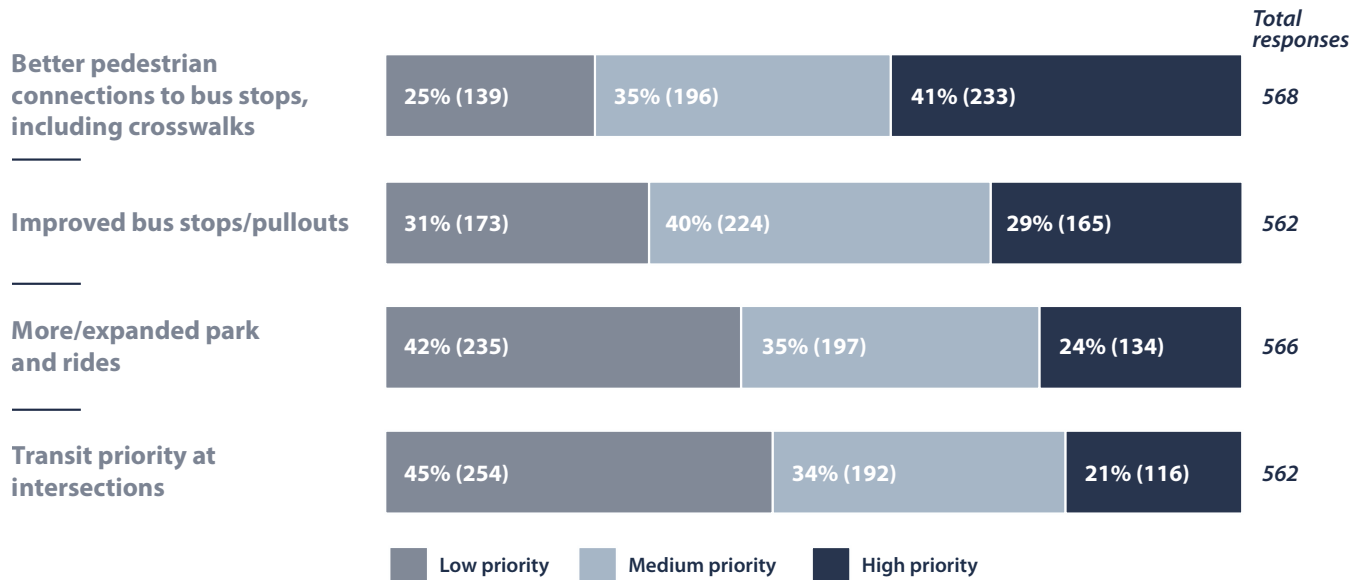
6. What types of transportation improvements do you consider to be priorities for the Highway 14 Corridor?

The following transportation improvements are ranked on the basis of average mean score.

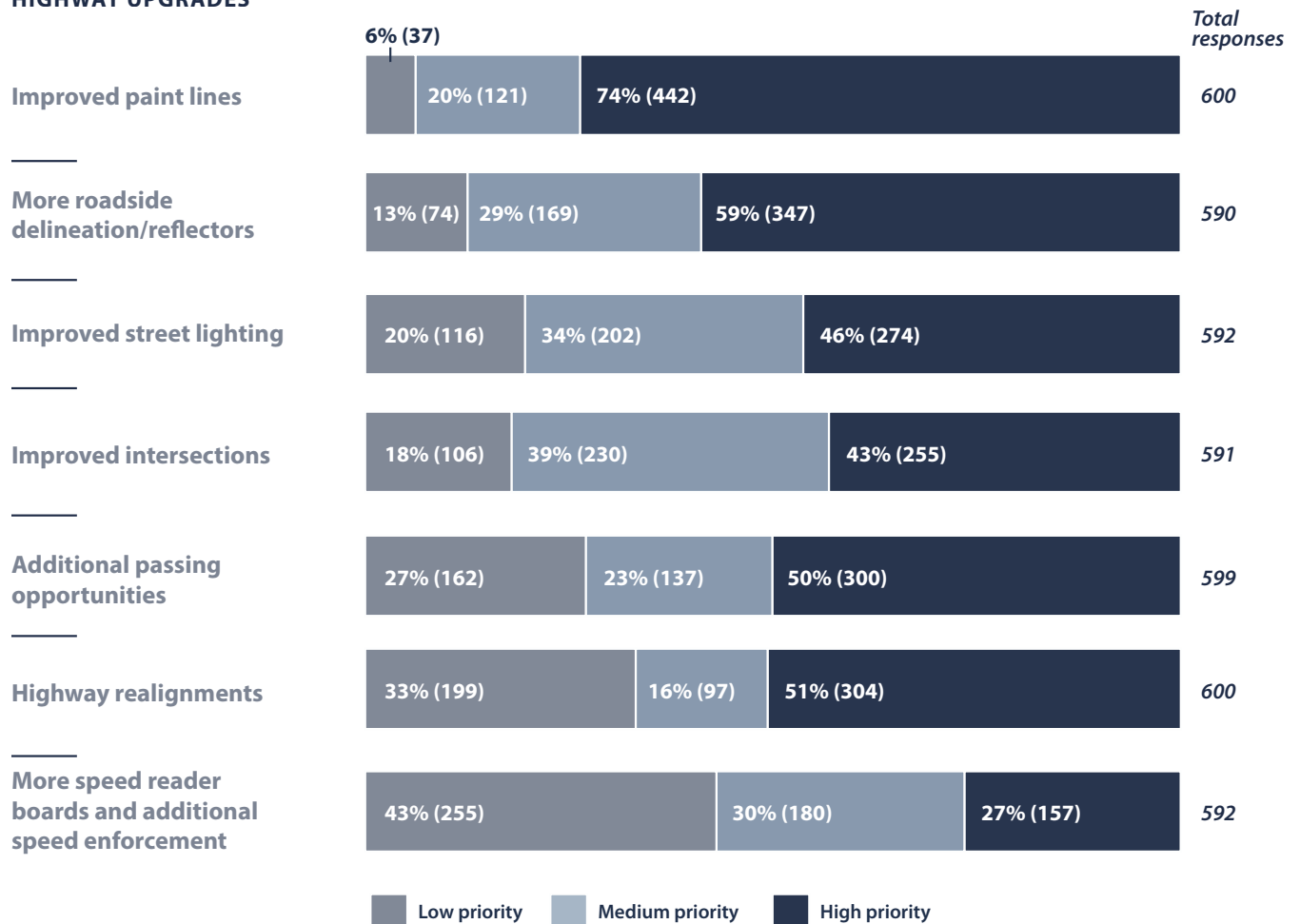
INCREASED TRANSIT SERVICE



ADDITIONAL TRANSIT FACILITIES

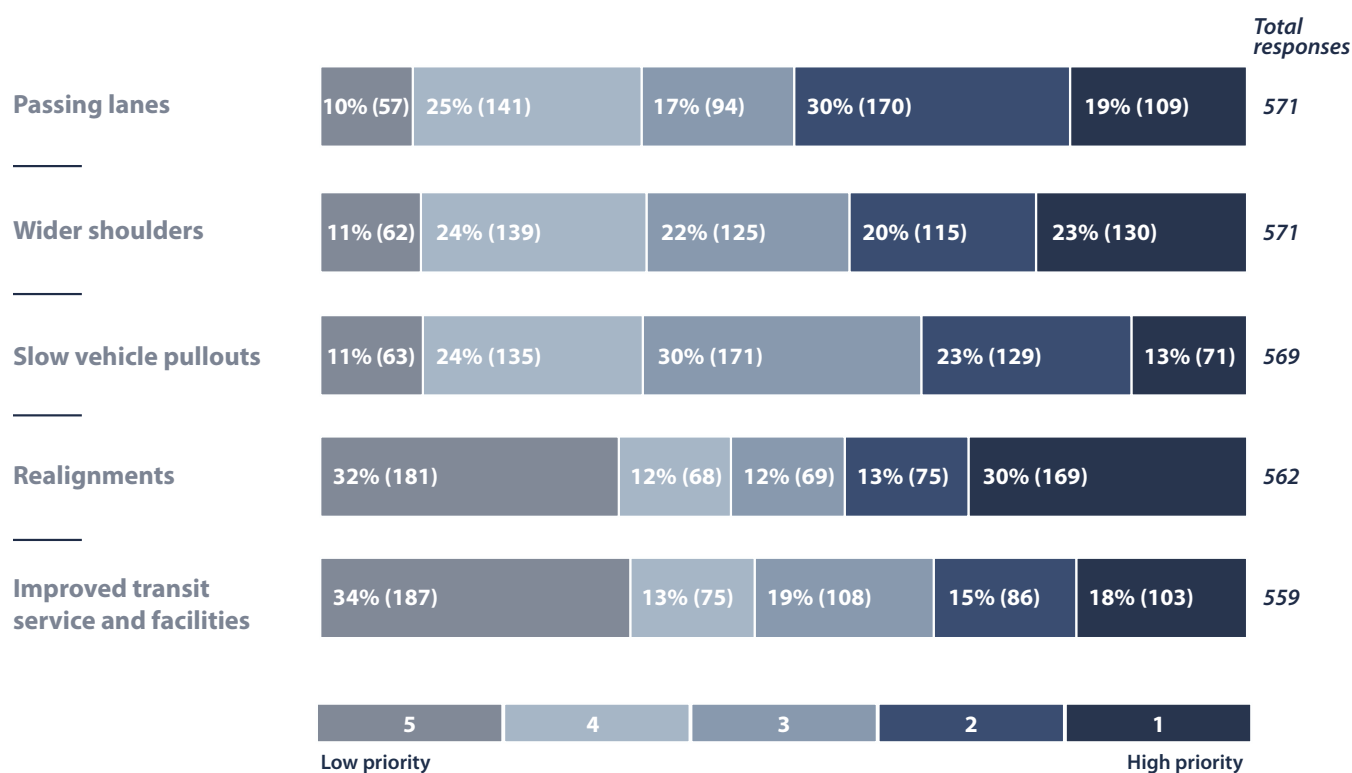


HIGHWAY UPGRADES



7. Please rank these transportation improvements in your preferred order of priority, from 1-5.

The following transportation improvements are ranked on the basis of average mean score.



8. Please provide any additional comments you may have regarding the Highway 14 Corridor Improvements:

Key themes from additional comments (403 responses)	Number of Mentions
<p>Participants provided suggestions for safety improvements along the Highway 14 Corridor, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repainting lines with reflective paint and/or reflector pieces. • Adding street lights along the corridor. • Increasing police presence and speed enforcement. • Widening the highway and shoulders to accommodate emergency vehicles. • Clearing the shoulders of debris and vegetation more frequently. • Repaving the corridor. • Making school zones 30 km/h 8am-5pm on Sooke Road. • Adding medians. • Adding cellphone service. • Adding grooves in the road. • Adding "your speed" signs. • Dimming the new directional "arrows" lights at 17 Mile at night. 	137
<p>Participants expressed support for building a new highway or alternate route from Sooke to Langford or Highway 1.</p>	119
<p>Participants provided suggestions about passing on the Highway 14 Corridor, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing regulation and/or signs requiring vehicles use pullouts when there are 3-5 or more vehicles lined up behind them. • Increasing pullout areas. • Increasing passing lanes or passing areas. • 4-laning the highway from Langford to Sooke. • Implementing a counterflow lane system. 	67
<p>Participants provided suggestions about intersections on the Highway 14 Corridor, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding roundabouts instead of traffic lights at busy intersections, including Sooke River Road. • Adding left turn lanes at intersections. • Syncing traffic light timing and adjusting timing during rush hour to avoid bottlenecks. • Adding traffic lights at intersections, including Gillespie Road, Kangaroo Road, and Woodlands. 	65
<p>Participants provided suggestions about pedestrian and cyclist improvements, including road shoulders for cyclists and pedestrians, and pedestrian controlled lights at crosswalks and/or bus stops.</p>	60

Key themes from additional comments (403 responses)

Number of Mentions

Participants expressed support for the potential highway realignments.

40

Participants expressed concerns about the potential highway realignments, because of potential impacts on the community and properties or because a straighter road may increase speeding.

34

Participants provided comments about transit, including:

31

- Increasing service to Sooke and improving connections.
- Adding a bus route from Sooke to Highway 1 rather than going through Langford.
- Improving amenities, including pedestrian access and lighting.
- Implementing proposed park and rides, including at Connie Rd.
- Improving the safety of bus pullouts at bus stops, i.e. relocating the bus stops that are near curves with bad sign lines.
- Adding dedicated bus lanes.
- Implementing high speed transit in the area.
- Implementing an express bus line with fewer stops.

Participants provided suggestions for the Highway 14 Corridor alignment, including:

21

- Realigning the highway as proposed, while keeping the current sections open to traffic.
- Straightening out the curvier sections of the highway.

3.2 OPEN-ENDED SUBMISSIONS

The following are key themes from the 99 open-ended submissions received through email or in hard copy.

Themes from 99 open-ended submissions

Number of Mentions

Participants provided suggestions for safety improvements along the Highway 14 Corridor, including:

28

- Repainting lines with reflective paint and/or reflector pieces.
- Adding street lights along the corridor.
- Increasing police presence and speed enforcement.
- Widening the highway and shoulders to accommodate emergency vehicles.
- Clearing the shoulders of debris and vegetation more frequently.
- Repaving the corridor.
- Making school zones 30 km/h 8am-5pm on Sooke Road.
- Adding medians.
- Adding cellphone service.
- Adding grooves in the road.
- Adding "your speed" signs.
- Dimming the new directional "arrows" lights at 17 Mile at night.

Participants provided suggestions about intersections on the Highway 14 Corridor, including:

24

- Adding roundabouts instead of traffic lights at busy intersections, including Sooke River Road.
- Adding left turn lanes at intersections.
- Syncing traffic light timing and adjusting timing during rush hour to avoid bottlenecks.
- Adding traffic lights at intersections, including Gillespie Road, Kangaroo Road, and Woodlands.

Participants expressed support for building a new highway or alternate route from Sooke to Langford or Highway 1.

24

Participants expressed concerns about the potential highway realignments, because of potential impacts on the community and properties or because a straighter road may increase speeding.

17

Themes from 99 open-ended submissions

Number of Mentions

Participants provided suggestions about passing on the Highway 14 Corridor, including:

16

- Implementing regulation and/or signs requiring vehicles use pullouts when there are 3-5 or more vehicles lined up behind them.
- Increasing pullout areas.
- Increasing passing lanes or passing areas.
- 4-laning the highway from Langford to Sooke.
- Implementing a counterflow lane system.

Participants provided suggestions about pedestrian and cyclist improvements, including road shoulders for cyclists and pedestrians, and pedestrian controlled lights at crosswalks and/or bus stops.

15

Participants provided comments about transit, including:

13

- Increasing service to Sooke and improving connections.
- Adding a bus route from Sooke to Highway 1 rather than going through Langford.
- Improving amenities, including pedestrian access and lighting.
- Implementing proposed park and rides, including at Connie Rd.
- Improving the safety of bus pullouts at bus stops, i.e. relocating the bus stops that are near curves with bad sign lines.
- Adding dedicated bus lanes.
- Implementing high speed transit in the area.
- Implementing an express bus line with fewer stops.

Participants expressed the need for Gillespie intersection improvements and noted that it should be prioritized.

10

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