

B.C. on the Move: Engagement Meeting Notes

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

9:30 A.M.

CHILLIWACK

ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION	Kelsey Charlie, Sts'ailes First Nation Band
MOTI REPRESENTATIVES	Renée Mounteney, Deputy Director South Coast Region, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Ashok Bhatti, District Manager, Transportation, Lower Mainland District, MoTI
NOTE TAKER	Christel Guenette, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.
KEY THEMES (3-6)	
1) Highways and side roads: Participants noted that safety is of utmost importance. With this in mind, widening Morris Valley Road would increase safety for fishermen and children, and accommodate those parking along the road side.	
2) Bridges: Replacement of the Morris Valley Road one-lane bridge would improve safety to all residents.	
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The participant noted that the eastern valley is a hidden gem that is being found out. As such, traffic volumes have increased as people attend special events such the bald eagle festival and salmon runs. The participant noted that as the Lower Mainland's population grows, residents are moving east to take advantage of lower home prices. The participant noted that because Sts'ailes is isolated, residents rely on cars to move around. 	
MOVING FORWARD – STRATEGIES	
1) Moving People and Goods Safely and Reliably	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the increased traffic along Morris Valley Road, shoulders need to be widened to allow motorists space to park without affecting the safety of fishermen and children. The one lane bridge along Morris Valley Road is a safety concern, due to the number of accidents and "near misses". Motorists ignore posted speed limits and have difficulty stopping on the bridge due to the wood construction. There have been improvements with signage so it is definable as a one lane bridge. 	
2) Growing the Economy	
3) Connecting and Strengthening Communities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the number of West Coast Express runs would encourage residents to use it more. With the community growing, a highway to Harrison Lake will be needed in the future. 	
4) Maximizing Collaboration and Investment with Partners and Stakeholders	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the area is becoming known for its natural habitat viewing opportunities, Sts'ailes has been working with the Ministry of Forests to address issues surrounding parking and safety. Morris Valley Road is not wide enough to accommodate the increase in traffic. 	
TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widening the shoulder along Morris Valley Road will help to accommodate increased traffic volumes due to the area becoming an attraction. This will increase the safety to children and fishermen. Improvements to the one lane bridge along Morris Valley Road would decrease the number of accidents and near misses. 	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A participant noted the Sts'ailes leadership supports initiatives, and believe in being proactive rather than reactive. The participant informed of changes to the area and its evolution into an attraction. Appreciation was expressed for the previous 10-year plan. The participant has utilized the improvements and appreciated the upgrades including SkyTrain routes and highway improvements. The participant noted that Sts'ailes is attempting to be proactive. Leadership is attempting to prepare their members of what the future will hold in regards to expansion. 	