B.C. on the Move: Engagement Meeting Notes

NOVEMBER 18, 2014  2:30PM

KAMLOOPS

ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION

Stewart Adamson, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band
Oliver Arnouse, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band
David Nordin, Neskonlith Indian Band

MOTI REPRESENTATIVES

Mike Lorimer, Regional Director, Southern Interior Region, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI)
Steve Sirett, District Program Manager, Okanagan Shuswap District, MoTI
Shawn Clough, District Program Manager, Thompson Nicola District

NOTE TAKER

Kai-lani Rutland, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.

KEY THEMES (3-6)

1) **Collaboration with Partners:** Participants expressed a desire for increased participation and opportunities to work with MoTI on projects.

2) **Highways:** Participants expressed a need for continued investments and four-laning on the highway to address reliability and safety issues.

3) **Side roads:** Participants were supportive of increased investments to side roads.

4) **Cycling:** Participants noted that increased inter-connectivity between communities such as cycling and pedestrian trails is a priority.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Investments to Sun Peaks Road and the Cariboo Connector are priorities in the region and are important for support economic development in the region.

MOVING FORWARD – STRATEGIES

1) **Moving People and Goods Safely and Reliably**

- Ongoing investments for Highway 97 and Sun Peaks Road is important for safety and reliability. The region recognizes the importance of continued investments in these highways to address congestion and safety and facilitate economic growth in the region.

- Side-roads and bypasses are a priority for many of the communities in the region and additional investments are needed to increase numbers of passing lanes and shoulder width.

- Investments in side-roads and public transportation are important for the further development of the region’s tourism industry.

2) **Growing the Economy**

- Economic development is directly connected to the ability to move goods and services. Ongoing investments in Sun Peaks Road and Highway 97 are vital for economic development in this region.

3) **Connecting and Strengthening Communities**

- Investments to improve connections between communities are needed in this region.

- Investments in cycling and pedestrian trails are important for this region; the region is interested in safe alternatives.

4) **Maximizing Collaboration and Investment with Partners and Stakeholders**

- Participants noted that maximizing collaboration with First Nations and the Province is critical. Partnership and collaboration are necessary for continued investment in infrastructure and increased opportunities for First Nations.

TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- Participants prioritized improvements and investments to Sun Peaks Road.

- Participants would like to see continued investments to the Cariboo Connector.

- There is a need for investment in side roads and secondary routes to improve access to communities.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION

- A participant from Neskonlith Indian Band was supportive of continued investments for the four-laning of the highway from Kamloops to the US border. The participant noted that P3 partnerships were a great way to secure funding and expressed support for additional funding to come from the federal government.
- A participant from Neskonlith Indian Band brought up the Ministry’s use of the contract bottom line, and inquired if there was an alternative model that could be used to determine how contracts are awarded. It was suggested that the Ministry look into how the contracts are awarded differently and altering contract incentive language.

- A participant from Little Shuswap indicated that improvements to the Sun Peaks Road were a priority for their community to be able to support economic development. The participant noted that investments in this road and the 446 would greatly improve accessibility for the community.

- A participant from Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band noted that from the reserve and the road turn off, there are issues with sight lines and spotting traffic properly. The alignment seems to have safety issues and there have been accidents. The participant noted that this should be addressed.

- A participant from Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band noted that, because the community is constrained by the railway and river, access to the community is not as developed as they would like it to be. The Band interested in improving accessing to the community.

- A participant from Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band requested that the Ministry look into improvements to the 446 to accommodate the amount of traffic that ends up using the road.

- A participant from Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band indicated the potential that investments in the Sun Peaks Road have for the economic development of the community. The participant noted that investments to the road would provide access from the mountain to many of the services offered in the area. Road access would create employment opportunities that currently are not feasible because of accessibility issues. The Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band noted it is working with the other bands to develop these opportunities where they can.

- A participant from Neskonlith Indian Band noted that investment in the Sun Peaks Road is a priority for the Band, and asked that the Ministry make it a priority investment.

- A participant from Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band noted that they are interested in opportunities for their members and noted that they are seeing increasingly seeing more highly-trained members.

- A participant from Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band indicated that Turtle Valley Road and Shuswap Road on the north side of the river require investment to address safety concerns and improve the condition of the road.

- A participant noted that the Tapin area near the co-op is in need of investment to address safety concerns, as many tourists and residents use this road.

- A participant from Neskonlith Indian Band expressed interested in additional funding for secondary routes, including IR1 and out to Adam’s Lake Road. The participant inquired whether secondary route funding was district driven.

- A participant from Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band indicated that the Band is interested in cycling and pedestrian access projects and investment. A participant from Neskonlith Indian Band noted that they have discussed a walking path into Chase.

- A participant from Little Shuswap noted that there have been issues with traffic on the Trans-Canada Highway, with students being dropped off on the highway. The participant noted that there is some discussion about putting in a walking network from the north subdivision down to the band office area. The participant added that regional trail strategies need to be developed and a network has been discussed over the years. A group of individuals is trying to develop a network of trails, and as part of their research, they need to figure out where people want to go, and from where.

- A participant noted that the Riverside Bridge and another have been tagged.