

# B.C. on the Move: Engagement Meeting Notes

NOVEMBER 18, 2014

9:30AM

TERRACE

<b>ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION</b>	Rod Cox, Kitsumkalum Economic Development Group Ulyses Venegas, Kitselas Band Housing Department Geneva Erickson, Kitselas Lands & Resource
<b>MOTI REPRESENTATIVES</b>	Scott Maxwell, Acting Regional Director, Northern Region, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Randy Penner, Operations Manager, Skeena District, MoTI Darrell Gunn, District Manager, Transportation, Skeena District, MoTI
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Selina Bull, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.
<b>KEY THEMES (3-6)</b>	
<p>1) <b>Highways and side roads:</b> Participants agreed that their communities had concerns about maintenance and safety (including pedestrian safety) on the roads between the reserves and Terrace, especially with potential safety issues arising from increased dangerous goods hauling.</p> <p>2) <b>Highways:</b> Participants noted that capacity on Highway 37 will present a challenge in terms of highway safety, and industrial development in Kitimat and the surrounding region.</p> <p>3) <b>Transportation planning:</b> Participants expressed concerns about increased trucking and rail traffic that is expected with LNG and other economic development for the region.</p>	
<b>CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants agreed that road and pedestrian safety was a key challenge for their communities, especially where there are maintenance concerns.</li> <li>The Kitselas First Nation indicated that there was an opportunity for the Band to work with the local Ministry representatives to develop a highway risk management plan for the transport of dangerous goods in the community.</li> <li>The Kitsumkalum First Nation noted the safety challenge of moving entire modular work camps and pipe for LNG facilities on large trucks through communities and around tight corners on Highway 16.</li> <li>The Kitselas First Nation noted an opportunity to increase driver skills through a new winter driving school offered by the nation.</li> </ul>	
<b>MOVING FORWARD – STRATEGIES</b>	
1) <b>Moving People and Goods Safely and Reliably</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A participant from Kitselas First Nation noted a safety concern with increased hazardous materials moving through its communities and especially near the new water system in the area, which runs underneath Highway 16/37 in Kleanza. The participant indicated a need to work with the Ministry to develop a risk management plan to deal with threats to the quality of the water supply. The participant also noted that the speed limit in this area should be lowered from 90 km/h to 70 km/h.</li> <li>Participants noted safety concerns for Highway 16 between Terrace and Prince Rupert, especially with the expected hauling of large components for building work camps and pipelines.</li> <li>The Kitselas First Nation stressed that poor maintenance between the reserves and Terrace can cause road accidents. The Kitselas First Nation also indicated that maintenance is not being done between the highway and the reserve despite the fact that those roads are supposed to be maintained by MoTI's contractor. Participants indicated that these roads should be maintained throughout the night so that residents who have to leave early for work are not at risk on slippery roads.</li> <li>A participant from the Kitselas First Nation pointed out that traffic on Highway 37 between Kitimat and Terrace can be expected to dramatically increase with the economic growth in Kitimat and with other development in the region.</li> <li>The Kitselas First Nation noted that occasionally flights into Terrace cannot land due to bad weather.</li> <li>The Kitselas First Nation stressed a safety concern with pedestrians crossing from the Skeena Valley Trailer Park to the school bus stop on the other side of the road. Kitselas First Nation indicated that there should be safer pedestrian access for school children to get to the bus stop.</li> <li>The Kitselas First Nation noted a safety concern with the slippery winter conditions on Substation hill, especially because there is railroad crossing at the bottom of the hill.</li> <li>The Kitselas First Nation noted some safety issues with the area surrounding the Queensway Bridge (Lakelse Avenue). With the train crossing Queensway Drive more often now, traffic has to queue on both sides for the bridge, and drivers cannot see what is on the other side.</li> </ul>	
2) <b>Growing the Economy</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A participant from Kitselas First Nation indicated that economic growth in the area may increase dangerous goods hauling through the area, and urged the Ministry to look at this issue from a risk management perspective.</li> <li>The Kitsumkalum First Nation indicated a concern with the growth of heavy hauling traffic related to LNG construction, and noted that moving pipe from the Port of Prince Rupert would put heavy pressure on a very short stretch of infrastructure.</li> </ul>	
3) <b>Connecting and Strengthening Communities</b>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kitselas First Nation noted that Highway 16 connects Kitselas with other communities to the east and west. The Kitselas First Nation also indicated that this corridor is critical for the movement of the band's staff.</li> </ul>
4) Maximizing Collaboration and Investment with Partners and Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kitselas First Nation expressed an interest in working with local Ministry representatives to produce a risk management plan for the transport of dangerous goods in the area.</li> <li>The Kitselas First Nation expressed an interest in gaining support from the Ministry for the delivery of a winter driving school program.</li> </ul>
<b>TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS</b>
<u>Kitselas First Nation:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kitselas First Nation prioritized capacity and safety improvements to Highway 37 between Terrace and Kitimat.</li> </ul>
<u>Regional:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants agreed that road safety was a top priority for their communities, and felt that maintenance should be better delivered to improve safety in their area. Participants from the Kitselas First Nation felt that safety in the area should also be addressed by developing a risk management plan in conjunction with the Ministry.</li> <li>Participants agreed that improvements to Highway 16, especially between Terrace and Prince Rupert, and between Terrace and the reserves, were a priority for their communities. Participants felt that narrow sections of highway should be widened and that the Mile 29 crossing should be grade separated.</li> </ul>

<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kitselas First Nation noted a concern relating to rumoured Ministry plans to widen the highway in Kleanza, and indicated that Kitselas has been constructing a new water system. This participant stressed a concern that increased dangerous goods traffic in the area may threaten the water supply for Git'aws and Kleanza. Randy Penner indicated that the Ministry has no plans to widen the road there at this time.</li> <li>Darrell Gunn noted that for participants concerned about highway safety, the Ministry has a program called "Shift into Winter" which provides some safe winter driving tips and expertise. Randy also noted that the Ministry operates informational road checks to help prepare residents for winter driving.</li> <li>A participant from Kitselas First Nation inquired whether there is any plan for Highway 37 between Terrace and Kitimat.</li> <li>Kitselas First Nation noted a concern with school buses getting stuck on Kleanza Mountain.</li> <li>The Kitselas First Nation indicated an issue with the maintenance of trees alongside the roads that sometimes hit power lines and block the road, and inquired whether that was under the jurisdiction of the Ministry. Other participants responded that such trees would be the concern of BC Hydro. Scott indicated that the Ministry could provide traffic control in cases where roads were closed by trees or power lines.</li> <li>The Kitselas First Nation inquired whether the Ministry has been meeting and communicating with other First Nations and communities in the Northwest such as Kitwanga and Houston. Scott Maxwell noted that the Ministry has carried out these kinds of engagement meetings all over BC, and that the District is available to speak with communities about day-to-day concerns.</li> <li>Kitselas First Nation noted that the band was going to provide a winter driving school sessions and that they are looking into the details for delivery of this program.</li> </ul>