

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

NOVEMBER 28, 2014

9:00AM

HOPE

<b>ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION</b>	Rose Peters, Chawathil First Nation Norm Florence, Chawathil First Nation Rhoda Peters, Chawathil First Nation
<b>MOTI REPRESENTATIVES</b>	Renée Mounteney, Deputy Director South Coast Region, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI)
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Christel Guenette, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.
<b>KEY THEMES (3-6)</b>	
1)	<b>Cycling and pedestrian:</b> Participants noted the importance of a pedestrian overpass to ensure the safety of school children crossing the highway to catch their bus.
2)	<b>Highways and side roads:</b> Participants stressed the importance of addressing invasive plants due to their impact on the safety of the road.
3)	<b>Highways:</b> Participants expressed the need to install lights through the bluffs to ensure pedestrian safety on the highway.
<b>CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation noted that vehicles speed excessively once they pass the Highway 1 and Highway 7 junction and scales.</li> </ul>
<b>MOVING FORWARD – STRATEGIES</b>	
1)	<b>Moving People and Goods Safely and Reliably</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation noted that improvements around the TransCanada Highway and Ross Road require completion.</li> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation noted the importance of lights along the bluffs on Highway 7. Accidents had occurred along this section due to rock on the road. It was suggested that lighted arrows or solar lights be installed.</li> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation expressed the importance of addressing aging infrastructure along Highway 7. There is a culvert that has become a sinkhole, which could potentially cause a serious accident.</li> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation noted that fishermen park along the highway narrowing the corridor. This has the potential to cause an accident. Chawathil First Nation members have CP lands that they are not using. There is potential to form an agreement for a parking area to be constructed.</li> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation noted the accumulation of knotweed along Highway 7. Its current area is 30 m by 1 km. Knotweed has begun to impact the culvert, creating a hazard for motorists. The knotweed has also covered the reflectors making it dangerous for motorists who cannot see the line delineation.</li> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation expressed concern over the increased speed through the stretch by Lake of the Woods. Children cross the highway to access the school bus. Trucks gain speed as they travel down the hill. It was suggested that a pedestrian overpass would provide safety to pedestrians wanting to cross the highway.</li> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation noted the sinkhole before the pipeline needs addressing as it has been there for years.</li> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation noted that particulates from truck brakes have built up along the highway and fish-bearing waterways, which is impacting the environment and contaminating water supplies. Minimizing the speed would reduce these particulates and increase safety for drivers and Chawathil First Nation members.</li> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation noted that the junction bridge is too narrow for people and cyclists to cross safely. A member was hit by a camper mirror.</li> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation expressed concerns regarding how trucks move through their community.</li> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation noted that Highway 1 requires better access and egress off the road. The current layout does not allow motorists to safely exit or enter onto the highway.</li> </ul>
2)	<b>Growing the Economy</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation noted that tourism is important for the area. Kiosks at rest areas would provide information to tourists of the area. It was suggested to install charging stations for electric vehicles.</li> </ul>
3)	<b>Connecting and Strengthening Communities</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation expressed concern that when Highway 1 is closed, trucks queue up to wait for the road to reopen. This impacts residents' access to their homes, and their ability to travel to Hope.</li> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation noted on Seventh Day Road, it was intended for a culvert to be constructed when highways first came in. Every year this road floods, as it was a natural creek route.</li> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation noted that a frontage road would provide safer access off of Highway 7.</li> </ul>
4)	<b>Maximizing Collaboration and Investment with Partners and Stakeholders</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation expressed an interest in receiving rock from scaling projects to the Chawathil owned gravel pit. This rock could be used to improve the community and roads. Interest was expressed in accessing resources located in Chawathil territory.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation noted that opportunities for training for members to maintain the highways would be appreciated.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation expressed the need to be informed when MOTI is working on the highway through their reserve, to understand what is going on.</li> </ul>	
<b>TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation noted the importance of eradicating knotweed from Highway 7 shoulders.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation stressed the importance of addressing the sinkhole created by the culvert on Highway 7. It has also affected the water flow.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation requested lights to be installed along the bluffs on Highway 7 to help ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians.</li> </ul>	
<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was noted that a parcel of land adjacent to the old highway (now Ross Road), which previously had been used as a MOTI right of way, is on reserve land. Participants questioned whether this land would revert back to the reserve. Ms. Mounteney noted that she would ask the ministry's First Nation consultant about the status of this land.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was noted that the truck rest area along Highway 7 was in front of an Elder's CP property. It was questioned why this was there as it belongs to the Elder. Trucks leave their garbage behind. There have been accidents along this stretch as well.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was noted that Chawathil is forming a committee to study the effects of knotweed and ways to eradicate it. Ms. Mounteney noted that Mike Kelly, MoTI, would be a positive addition to the committee due to the effects knotweed has on the highways.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation questioned whose responsibility it is to repair fences when an accident occurs. Ms. Mounteney noted that she would investigate how repairs would occur.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants from Chawathil First Nation noted that members are not pleased with rumours that highways on the reserve are being widened. Ms. Mounteney noted that MoTI would not proceed without first consulting with First Nations.</li> </ul>	