

B.C. on the Move: Engagement Meeting Notes

DECEMBER 1, 2014

10:30 AM

PORT ALBERNI

ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION	Chief Jeff Cook/Huu-ay-aht First Nation Charlie Clappis/Huu-ay-aht First Nation Jeffrey Cook/Huu-ay-aht First Nation James Edwards/Huu-ay-aht First Nation
MOTI REPRESENTATIVES	Renée Mounteney, Deputy Director South Coast Region, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI)
NOTE TAKER	Christel Guenette, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.
KEY THEMES (3-6)	
1)	Highways and side roads: Participants expressed concern for public safety on roads that are owned by the Huu-ay-aht First Nation that need to be declared public roads
2)	Highways and side roads: Participants expressed the need for support in terms of roadways in the Huu-ay-aht First Nation's potential economic opportunities in resource development and tourism.
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from Huu-ay-aht First Nation noted that they owned 3.5 km of the Bamfield Road, and had liability that goes with it. While there has been a commitment to maintain the status quo on the road, it is not acceptable. There has been a decrease in logging in TL44 but highway trucks are using this private road, causing the road to fall into disrepair.
MOVING FORWARD – STRATEGIES	
1)	Moving People and Goods Safely and Reliably
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from Huu-ay-aht First Nation expressed the need for the Bamfield Road to become public, to ensure that the RCMP could patrol the road and keep motorists safe. Participants from Huu-ay-aht First Nation expressed concern regarding the portion of Bamfield Road that was paved as a side agreement of treaty. Enforcement of the road is difficult. It is not wide enough to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. There are numerous blind hills along this route, which creates a danger for pedestrians and cyclists. It was suggested a separate trail for cyclists and pedestrians would create a safer route.
2)	Growing the Economy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from Huu-ay-aht First Nation stressed the need to improve the transportation corridor to Bamfield, as the Huu-ay-aht First Nation is examining economic opportunities in the area. Properties have been acquired which would necessitate roads being declared public and managed by MOTI. Companies in the area are supportive of a public road. Huu-ay-aht First Nation has agreed to a three-year interim use agreement, as long as a long-term goal is that the province declares it a public road. Participants from Huu-ay-aht First Nation noted that they are actively investigating two major capital projects that would require road access to these projects. These projects will provide employment to hundreds of residents. Participants from Huu-ay-aht First Nation noted the West Coast Trail ends at the northern end of Bamfield by the Huu-ay-aht First Nation campground. There are tourism opportunities that could be taken advantage of, if there was a reliable road to the area. Strong parallels could be made between Bamfield and the road development to Tofino and Ucluelet. If visitors know the road is safe, they will use it.
3)	Connecting and Strengthening Communities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from Huu-ay-aht First Nation noted the need to invest in transportation infrastructure to create a community where band members would want to return. Reliable access is needed to Bamfield-Anacla to support members returning to the community. Participants from Huu-ay-aht First Nation noted that roads have been developed through the Cowichan Valley Corridor and could be developed into a circle route from Victoria to Cowichan and Bamfield. The geographic area would be opened up bringing more tourism and development opportunities to the area.
4)	Maximizing Collaboration and Investment with Partners and Stakeholders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from Huu-ay-aht First Nation noted the potential for Port Alberni to become a transshipment hub that would help alleviate traffic to Port Metro Vancouver. Huu-ay-aht First Nation is looking for support and engagement with Asia-Pacific Gateway.

TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from Huu-ay-aht First Nation expressed the need for support from MOTI to improve the transportation corridor to Bamfield. This would improve public safety and increase tourism and economic opportunities for resource development. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from Huu-ay-aht First Nation expressed the desire to be included in the Asia-Pacific Gateway, to develop a deep-sea port in Port Alberni. 	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A participant noted that Huu-ay-aht First Nation has a good relationship with the local MOTI representative. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A participant noted that Huu-ay-aht First Nation has experienced difficulties in participating in the engagement sessions conducted by MOTI. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A participant expressed concerns regarding the timing of this consultation. With the plan set to come out in early 2015, time has not been afforded to have meaningful engagement with First Nations. It would have been appreciated if meetings could have been scheduled earlier. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A participant noted that crown corridors are part of treaty and as yet, the Province of BC has not reserved a corridor along Bamfield Road. Huu-ay-aht First Nation is prepared to consider making it a crown corridor. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A participant noted that other funding opportunities had been investigated. For the Bamfield Road to become public, it does not rely on one solution by one person. It is a collaboration between partners to meet and maintain road standards. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A participant requested that a meeting be scheduled with Ms. Mounteney, MOTI, FLNR and MARR prior to the release of the 10-year transportation plan. 	