

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

OCTOBER 28, 2014

2:00PM

CACHE CREEK

<b>ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION</b>	Councillor Alice Durksen, Village of Ashcroft Councillor Jerry Fiddick, Village of Ashcroft Mayor Andy Anderson, Village of Ashcroft Councillor Diana Guerin, Village of Clinton Mayor Jessoa Lightfoot, Village of Lytton Councillor Wayne Marchant, Village of Clinton CAO Dan Plamondn, Village of Cache Creek Mayor John Ranta, Village of Cache Creek Councillor Lisa Dafoe, Village of Cache Creek Councillor Al Smith, District of Logan Lake Councillor Garry Youd, District of Logan Lake Councillor Charlie Wier, District of Logan Lake
<b>MOTI REPRESENTATIVES</b>	Paula Cousins, District Manager, Transportation, Thompson Nicola District, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Brad Bushill, Area Manager, Roads, Cariboo District, MoTI
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Carrie Peacock, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.
<b>KEY THEMES (3-6)</b>	
1)	<b>Highways:</b> Participants stressed the need for more passing lanes and pullouts (particularly for logging trucks) on Highway 97C.
2)	<b>Highways and side roads:</b> Participants requested that rest areas and washrooms be accessible and maintained year round for tourists and others travelling in the Fraser Canyon. Participants requested that litter barrels be provided and emptied regularly.
3)	<b>Bridges:</b> Participants requested that the Bonaparte River crossing be widened and stated that this needs to be kept on the list of government priorities.
4)	<b>Highways and side roads:</b> Participants asked that speed issues near Clinton be addressed.
5)	<b>Highways:</b> Participants requested that efforts be made to match new infrastructure to existing where they join on highway systems.
6)	<b>Airports:</b> Participants stressed the importance of providing support for rural airports particularly for medevac access (i.e. the airport strip at Ashcroft).
<b>CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants noted that quality of the line painting was an issue.</li> <li>Participants indicated a challenge with consistency in rolling out signage initiatives in the area.</li> <li>Participants noted a challenge with the use of LED signage and speed reader boards.</li> <li>There is a challenge with the deregulation of the taxi industry. Participants noted a need to enable carrier plates.</li> <li>Participants desired a consideration of multi-plates instead of bridges.</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 indicated that the maintenance of roads designed for lighter traffic, needs to be prioritized (i.e. between Highway 97C and Merritt).</li> <li>One participant noted that there should be year-round maintenance around communities, since citizens travel the roads year-round.</li> <li>The Mayor of Ashcroft noted that it is impossible to stop the rutting that occurs on Highway 97. It is the result of the tonnage using the road. This participant noted that the road needs to be maintained regularly, especially when the road begins to “steer” you.</li> <li>Participants noted a need to make travel between Merritt and Logan Lake safer.</li> <li>Participants indicated that Highway 97 North/South has been addressed, but other areas have not.</li> <li>Many small towns along Highway 97 are concerned about bypasses. The four lanes will improve traffic flow, but there are bottlenecks in some little towns.</li> <li>A participant urged the Ministry to be mindful of the impacts in the area if the north-south corridor is going to be four-laned., as the traffic impacts roads in the area.. There is continued rehabilitation, which does nothing for the traffic. The road is not built to highway standards. The mine wants to transfer land and build a boat landing. Bring the road up to highway standard – add passing lanes, pullouts, and widen it. Passing lanes are all on blind corners. The road was never designed for high traffic volumes. There is a portion of the road where drivers need to slow from 90 km/hour to 20 km/hour in a 150 feet stretch. There is a lot of mine traffic certain times of the day. There are big trucks that have to stop, as there are no right hand turning lanes.</li> <li>Lillooet noted that there are concerns about Fountain Slide.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The District of Lillooet stressed that Highway 12 as an alternate, given its condition, is not conducive as a primary route.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lillooet also indicated that the quality of the line paint being used needs to be considered.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The District of Lillooet noted that the road from Goldbridge to Lillooet comes up often at Council meetings.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lillooet also noted the need for safety improvements.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant noted that it would be helpful to know when four-laning in Cache Creek will happen. Traffic from Clinton to Cache Creek has changed. Highway 97 divides Clinton. A four-lane highway would address our concerns about accidents. There is an area where accidents seem to occur frequently.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of Cache Creek noted that page 15 of the discussion guide indicates the Cariboo Connector project is complete. The Ministry website, until recently, indicated the section from Cache Creek to the Highway 99 junction was a Phase 1 project. This has been removed. The Mayor noted a need to do something with the Cariboo Connector.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of Cache Creek noted that the narrow bridge at the north end of town over the Bonaparte river is stifling the village. There is no opportunity for a left turn lane there. The Mayor also noted that a major international retailer left due to such traffic considerations.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of Cache Creek indicated that anything to widen the crossing across the Bonaparte is needed and should be supported.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant noted that the bridge in Cache Creek is the community's biggest concern.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of Ashcroft noted suggested that, instead of replacing bridges, the Ministry should consider using a multi-plate with the same kind of bridge footings. The Mayor requested to make it a four-lane bridge. This would be just a paved road across the river, and would eliminate bridge maintenance.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of Lytton noted that the single-lane Bailey bridge in the community has been in place for over a decade, and needs to be replaced.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of Lytton noted that work has been done on both ends of Highway 12 and there is a lot of truck traffic. If drivers go off the road where there isn't a fog line, there is a 2-foot or 3-foot drop. This participant noted that the slide had been spoken about earlier, and it could create a lot of traffic from Lillooet to Lytton.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of Lytton noted that rest stops are a big issue for the travelling public and need to be maintained (and garbage collected). A few rest stops are closed through the winter. There are still busloads of people coming through the Fraser Canyon, but no washrooms. This needs to be addressed. Years ago, rest stops were parks with washrooms, picnic tables and garbage cans. Visit the old campground on the east side of the river near Spuzzum, and you will see the garbage in the bushes. Lake of the Woods washrooms have been closed, and the garbage needs to be collected.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant noted that the quality of the line painting is concerning. Lines painted in the spring are often gone by winter. The participant inquired whether the Ministry is developing another paint that lasts longer.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant pointed out that paint at intersections wears out a few months after it is applied.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant indicated that even freshly painted lines appear to have a different reflectivity. On Highway 97C the centerline is not visible.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant noted that rumble strips are helpful in the fog, and there is a hope that they continue throughout BC's major highways. They save lives.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant noted that the train tracks on Highway #8 outside Spences Bridge have seen a number of fatalities. The participant suggested rumble strips across to make people more aware.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of Lytton noted that, at the top of Britannia Hill, the road is twisty and has sharp turns. Last year a truck went off the road. The Mayor requested that the Ministry address the curve (i.e. put posts on the curve). The Mayor added that roadbed may not be wide enough.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant indicated that the transition zones at the north and south approaches to Clinton have been taken away. The participant noted that it had already been suggested to the Deputy Minister that signage was important particularly at Walkers Corner. The participant noted that, with the right sign, people will see it.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One participant noted that signage in Falkland is poor, and it may need to be brighter and bigger. The participant pointed out that LED signage could work at Walkers Corner, and that a full size photo of a police cruiser has worked before.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant noted that a speed-reader board had been suggested by the RCMP, who have studied the speeds in the area. This participant noted that there is a reliance on Ashcroft highway patrol. The participant indicated that the engineers may not take their studies into account, and that enforcement has not been increased.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of Lytton pointed out that stationary speed monitors are helpful at informing speeding drivers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of Lytton noted that Council wants to lower the speed through the town on Highway #1, as 50km/hour is too fast. Efforts are being made to convince Council to reduce the speed limit to 30 km. The Mayor indicated that the current Council wants to suggest 40 km/hour, although the new Council may do otherwise.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant noted that speed limits are too high, particularly on the Yellowhead/Coquihalla. The participant indicated that the highway is designed for 120 km/hour but it's not maintained for 120 km/hour speeds. This participant noted that there are truck ruts developing. The participant added that there are about four different climates in 20 kilometres along the highway, and that winter could create further challenges.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of Cache Creek expressed support for the higher speed limits, and noted that he had informed Minister Stone of this. The Mayor noted that as a onetime bus driver, he recognized that, most often, on a sunny day on the Yellowhead, one can drive 140 km/hour safely. The Mayor indicated that different night speeds and day speeds should have been imposed, and would accommodate the reduced night-time vision of aging drivers. A different speed limit in the snow can be concerning.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of Ashcroft noted that he used to own a low bed company in Revelstoke, which hauled heavy equipment. The Mayor noted that when they drove in the snow, they pushed the machines forward, putting more weight on the drives. The</li> </ul>

<p>Mayor urged the Ministry to consider allowing truck drivers to do the same, in order for trucks to spin out less. The participant noted that this would not impact the roads, as the roads would be frozen.</p>	
<p>2) Growing the Economy</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant noted getting stuck behind logging truck creates tension on the road.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One participant noted that logging and other trucks need pullouts, and that the lack of passing lanes is concerning. The participant indicated that there is minimal space to pass logging trucks.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant noted that there have been rumble strips installed in the community intersection, but trucks just drive straight through.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of Cache Creek requested that the Minister make some kind of plan or do something to address constraints to community sustainability. The Mayor noted that if the area is trying to develop LNG, it should not have a tiny little bridge in Cache Creek.</li> </ul>	
<p>3) Connecting and Strengthening Communities</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant noted concerns about taxi licenses, as carrying plates cannot be obtained. The participant noted that Logan Lake wants this. The participant pointed out that the taxi in Logan Lake ran in Ashcroft, and it had to have an office and dispatch in Ashcroft, but he could not have one in Logan Lake. The participant noted that there have already been inquiries made.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant indicated that regulations related to taxi licenses should be deregulated in small communities, since it is unlikely that 50 taxi companies will suddenly pop up in a small community.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of Ashcroft pointed out that some small communities rely on medevac services, and their airports need attention. The Mayor noted that, in Cache Creek, Wastech did an expansion to the runway, however there is difficulty getting government (or anyone else) to pave it to accommodate medevac services. The Mayor noted that he hopes this process includes consideration of these small airports. The Mayor noted that it just needs an additional 425' of pavement, that is 75' wide.</li> </ul>	
<p>4) Maximizing Collaboration and Investment with Partners and Stakeholders</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant noted that it is important for these communities that their concerns are heard, and that government to stick to their commitments.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS</b></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants prioritized widening the narrow bridge over the Bonaparte River.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants noted a need to maintain highway rest stops throughout the area, and to provide (and maintain) washrooms.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants noted issues with general highway maintenance (such as rutting on Highway 97 and other areas, and problems with highway marking visibility)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants indicated that small community airport runways need investment in order to accommodate medevac services.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION</b></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant noted that four-laning Highway 97 was a good idea.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One participant indicated that direct interaction with the road maintenance staff is helpful.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant pointed out that the Ministry has helped redesign entrances and exits to the highway, and has provided advance notice when issues occurred.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of Cache Creek noted that some of the pilot projects coming up are refreshing.</li> </ul>	