

B.C. on the Move: Engagement Meeting Notes

NOVEMBER 3, 2014

10:00AM

GRAND FORKS

ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION	Councillor Gary Schierbeck, Village of Midway Councillor Marguerite Rotvold, Village of Midway Sasha Bird, City of Grand Forks Mayor Brian Taylor, City of Grand Forks Roger Huston, City of Grand Forks Mayor Nipper Kettle, City of Greenwood CAO Robin Dalziel, City of Greenwood
MOTI REPRESENTATIVES	Norm Parkes, Executive Director of Highways, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Hugh Eberle, District Manager, West Kootenay District, MoTI
NOTE TAKER	Carmen Bennett, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.
KEY THEMES (3-6)	
1) Highways: Participants expressed that addressing the need for improvements to Highway 3 is a regional priority. The Highway 3 corridor is an alternate route when Highway 1 is closed, and this region in particular feels the impacts.	
2) Cycling: Participants expressed that cycling infrastructure, including widened shoulders on highways, is important for connecting communities and for recreation.	
3) Highways: Participants expressed that continued improvements to Highway 33 between Rock Creek and Kelowna are necessary, as this is an important corridor for accessing health care, goods and services. Traffic is a concern along this route.	
4) Highways: Participants noted that reliability of highways is important for moving goods and services to this region. Reliability can be affected by winter maintenance issues and road conditions. Participants expressed that truck traffic is a concern in the winter, and adequate pull-outs to encourage chaining up are important.	
5) Highways and side roads: Participants noted that wildlife collisions on highways and roads are a concern in the region.	
6) Transportation options: Participants expressed that increased transportation options between communities are necessary.	
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants noted that safety and reliability of highways (particularly Highways 3 and 33) are a concern in the region, especially during the winter months. 	
MOVING FORWARD – STRATEGIES	
1) Moving People and Goods Safely and Reliably	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants noted that when Highway 1 is affected, Highway 3 is the only alternative and this region feels the impacts. The Highway 3 Mayors and Chairs Coalition has been vocal regarding Highway 3 priorities. The Mayor of Greenwood noted that rumble strips on the shoulders of highways are a concern for cyclists. He suggested making them narrower and making the strip in the centre lane a continuous line. The Mayor would like to see improvements to cycling infrastructure, including widened shoulders on the highway. A participant from Greenwood noted that there are safety concerns with the Blueberry-Paulsen, a main corridor connecting communities in the region, noting that winter maintenance is an issue. This participant questioned whether the gravel used on roads in the winter has increased in size and noted that the number of windshield claims increased last year due to rocks. A participant from Greenwood noted that the reliability of highways is a significant issue concerning the movement of goods. The cities in this region do not have the resources, and if the trucking system is impacted it affects availability of goods in these communities during the winter. The Mayor of Greenwood noted that traffic calming on Highway 3 through the community is a priority. A participant from Greenwood noted that Highway 33 between Rock Creek and the Big White turnoff should have passing lanes in order for cars to get safely around trucks (this is a year-round issue). Hugh Eberle noted that potential sites for passing lanes are being looked at on Highway 33 and this work is at the early stage of assessment. A participant from Midway noted that rail traffic is underutilized in the province and has been removed in various places. In terms of capacity, rail is ideal for transporting goods, and heavy truck traffic can cause maintenance issues on highways. If heavy cargo were transferred to rail, increased truck traffic could carry more goods more efficiently on highways. The participant noted that rail is a more efficient means of moving containers, and is more environmentally friendly than trucks. A participant from Midway noted that winter maintenance is a significant concern that affects traffic flow. A participant from Midway noted that adding a passing lane on the highway east of Greenwood is necessary, as traffic can build in that area, decreasing efficiency and increasing safety concerns. The Mayor of Greenwood noted that traffic is slow coming out of Greenwood as the grade increase on the hill causes trucks to slow. A participant from Midway noted concerns with trucks not chaining up in winter and suggested that, in order to make the trucking sector more effective, improvements to pull-outs are necessary to accommodate and encourage chaining. One participant from Midway noted that webcams should be more strategically placed in the region, suggesting that a webcam before the bridge is more important than after the summit, as freezing is a concern. The participant also suggested 	

installing a webcam at Carmi of Beaverdell.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One participant from Midway noted that speed limit reductions between Midway and Greenwood are desirable, suggesting that 100 km/hr in the winter is unsafe. The participant noted that these communities wrote a letter during the Speed and Safety Review requesting that the speed limit be kept to 90 in this area. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One participant noted that traffic on Highway 33 is increasing and the road between Big White and Joe Rich needs continued improvement. Norm Parkes noted this is something that has recently been addressed. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One participant noted there are issues with weight restrictions at the border. Some trucks cannot enter the U.S. due to weight. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A participant from Grand Forks noted that the biggest concern is safety and reliability. There have been a number of head-on collisions on the highway, and the participant suggested that the use of concrete barriers to separate lanes is desirable. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A participant from Grand Forks noted that wildlife on highways is a concern, citing heavy overpopulation of deer in the area. Norm Parkes noted that different systems are being piloted for effectiveness in order to keep wildlife off highways. Another participant noted that logging and clearing the right of way has increased visibility on the road, significantly reducing the number of wildlife accidents. 	
2) Growing the Economy	
3) Connecting and Strengthening Communities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A participant from the City of Greenwood noted there is a lack of transit between the region and Kelowna. The participant noted that more transportation options are necessary as the population ages, and suggested that people will continue to drive if their licenses are revoked, as there are few options. The participant also expressed that people need to access health care in different communities, which requires open, safe, reliable roads with adequate signage. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mayor of Greenwood noted that cycling infrastructure within and between communities is important for safe transportation. This includes widening shoulders and narrowing the rumble strips along highways. 	
4) Maximizing Collaboration and Investment with Partners and Stakeholders	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mayor of Grand Forks noted that small airports are a priority in the region and expressed that the communities need to work closely with the ministry on airport improvements. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grand Forks would like to work with the Ministry to enhance signage in order to bring more people into the business area. 	
TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS	
Greenwood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mayor of Greenwood noted that over the next few years, a priority is to coordinate with the ministry regarding work on Highway 3 through Greenwood, particularly to address traffic calming needs. Speed reader boards on either side of the city are required, as speed is a concern within the community. The Mayor of Greenwood noted that Highway 33 between Rock Creek and Big White should have passing lanes in order for cars to safely get around trucks. The Mayor of Greenwood would like to see improvements to cycling infrastructure, including widened shoulders and narrower rumble strips on highways for cycling safety. 	
Midway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One participant noted an increase in truck traffic travelling north through Midway, connecting to Highway 33 in order to get to Kelowna and northern B.C. The participant noted increases in regular traffic on Highway 33 as well, as many people from Grand Forks and Midway travel to Kelowna regularly for goods, services, and health care. One participant noted that a rest stop on Highway 5A between Princeton and AP Ranch is in need of improvement, and a passing lane should also be considered in that area. One participant noted that, in order to make the trucking sector more effective, improvements to pull-outs are necessary to accommodate and encourage chaining in the winter. One participant noted that a pedestrian crossing has been requested in Midway, near the seniors' home. 	
Grand Forks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mayor of Grand Forks noted that small airports are a priority in the region and expressed that the communities need to work closely with the ministry on airport improvements. The Mayor noted there are pedestrian safety concerns where the Trans Canada Trail crosses the highway in Grand Forks, near the A&W. An intersection is currently in place with barriers, but pedestrians walk over the barriers. A possible solution is being discussed locally but is an expensive option. A participant from Grand Forks noted that upgrades to Central Avenue may be necessary and that there is a drainage issue on the highway near the A&W. Norm Parkes suggested that this could be discussed offline with Hugh Eberle. Grand Forks would like to work with the Ministry on signage to bring people into the business area. 	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mayor of Grand Forks expressed that the region seems to be getting its share of attention with regards to infrastructure and repairs. 	