

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

OCTOBER 23, 2014

11:30AM

VANCOUVER

<b>ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION</b>	President Jack Davidson, B.C. Road Builders
<b>MOTI REPRESENTATIVES</b>	Norm Parkes, Executive Director of Highways, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Ian Pilkington, Director, Rehabilitation & Maintenance, MoTI
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Carmen Bennett, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.
<b>KEY THEMES (3-6)</b>	
1) <b>Economic growth:</b> Growing the economy is most important thing. Economic growth contributes directly to quality of life.	
2) <b>Meeting demand for engineers:</b> Industry leaders anticipate challenges with having enough skilled engineers to meet demand.	
3) <b>Transportation planning:</b> It is important to have a clear plan so that industry players will be able to see what projects are on the horizon.	
<b>CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participant noted that industry leaders anticipate challenges with having enough skilled engineers to meet demand in order to deliver projects.</li> <li>The participant noted that the movement of services and service providers is a challenge to consider, not just the movement of goods.</li> <li>The participant noted that B.C. Road Builders would like a clear idea of projects in the plan, in order to adequately prepare. Currently, projects are not being discussed.</li> <li>The participant highlighted that reliability is based on expectation, and that no matter where the bar is moved, expectation will move with it.</li> <li>The participant noted that wait times and volume at border crossings are a concern.</li> </ul>	
<b>MOVING FORWARD – STRATEGIES</b>	
1) Moving People and Goods Safely and Reliably	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B.C. Road Builders suggested that more focus should have been placed specifically on the Asia-Pacific region in development of the discussion guide. Focus on the resource and manufacturing sectors is important.</li> <li>Norm Parkes responded that this has been incorporated into the larger picture of growing the economy. He noted that trucking and movement of goods by road are key factors to further development.</li> <li>B.C. Road Builders noted that moving of services and service providers is almost more important than the movement of goods by trucking.</li> <li>The participant suggested that Burnaby and New Westminster need through routes, so that they do not continue to fight traffic in their communities.</li> <li>B.C. Road Builders noted that reliability is based on expectation and that no matter where the bar is moved, expectation will move with it.</li> <li>The participant noted that heavy volume and wait times at border crossings is an issue for the trucking sector. The participant noted that Nexus lanes are not accommodating or efficient for truck drivers and it is costly to have trucks waiting at border crossings.</li> </ul>	
2) Growing the Economy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B.C. Road Builders noted that growing the economy is the most important thing, as this contributes directly to quality of life.</li> </ul>	
3) Connecting and Strengthening Communities	
4) Maximizing Collaboration and Investment with Partners and Stakeholders	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B.C. Road Builders noted that 2008-2009 were the best years for the industry and he expressed concern that projects are not yet being discussed, whereas in 2008, projects had been on the table for a long time. The participant noted he does not believe these discussions are already at the same place, so a plan is definitely needed and the industry is eager to see it. B.C. Road Builders would like to see the inventory of projects grow.</li> <li>B.C. Road Builders noted that maximizing federal dollars needs to be a key component of carrying out this plan.</li> <li>B.C. Road Builders expressed that the Association sees 2016-2020 as being a significant building time for B.C., but he noted there is expected to be a shortage of skilled, professional engineers due to demand over this period. The concern is that engineers will be covering a period of significant growth, and they will also be needed to carry out projects in the transportation plan. B.C. Road Builders expressed concern that the quality of engineering may slide, given that foreign engineers will be brought in to meet demand, and training skilled engineers to understand this particular working environment will take time. Therefore, it will be necessary to work together to mitigate the challenges that the B.C. Road</li> </ul>	

Builders see ahead.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norm Parkes noted that this will certainly be something to work together on. Through leadership, it will be necessary to foster an understanding that this is about working together to get a product built.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.C. Road Builders suggested an idea to take a highly skilled project supervisor and assign different engineering teams and projects to that one person, so that different teams are being managed by the same leader for consistency. Expertise will be necessary, and it will also be necessary to find ways to limit fighting and relationship challenges.</li> </ul>	
<b>TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisting B.C.'s natural resource and manufacturing sectors through highways and rail links is a priority.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating congestion in cities to accommodate the flow and movement of goods and services is a priority.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic growth is the highest priority, as this contributes directly to quality of life.</li> </ul>	
<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.C. Road Builders noted that his expectation is that the ministry has the expertise to develop and execute this plan. The Association's view with this plan is that it will commit the Province to what they are doing.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.C. Road Builders noted that the Association sees the importance of engaging and submitting feedback.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.C. Road Builders questioned whether the plan will be particular in terms of projects. Norm responded that it will be granular enough in the short term to highlight specific projects.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.C. Road Builders noted that they will not get involved in naming which projects need to be built, as the association's focus is on the economy and on quality of life.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.C. Road Builders noted that rehabilitation should continue to be undertaken under the assumption that good roads cost less.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.C. Road Builders will encourage members to keep sending in responses during the engagement process.</li> </ul>	