

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

NOVEMBER 3, 2014

12:00PM

GRAND FORKS

<b>ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION</b>	Terry Van Horn, Economic Development Commissioner, Lower Columbia Initiatives Corporation Bryan Teasdale, Manager of Infrastructure and Sustainability, Kootenay Boundary Regional District
<b>MOTI REPRESENTATIVES</b>	Norm Parkes, Executive Director of Highways, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Hugh Eberle, District Manager, West Kootenay District, MoTI
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Carmen Bennett, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.
<b>KEY THEMES (3-6)</b>	
1)	<b>Airports:</b> Participants expressed that airport reliability is a key issue in the region, particularly in Castlegar and Trail, and this has significant economic impacts
2)	<b>Economic Growth:</b> Participants indicated that economic growth is directly connected to reliability.
3)	<b>Collaboration with Partners:</b> Participants expressed that maximizing opportunities for collaboration is important for undertaking infrastructure projects, such as paving and cycling trails. Participants noted that identifying partnership and grant opportunities is important.
4)	<b>Cycling and Pedestrian:</b> Participants noted that increased transportation options are important in this region, including improved transit connections and expanded cycling infrastructure, to support the needs of the communities.
5)	<b>Highways and side roads:</b> Participants noted inconsistencies with winter maintenance in this region, which impacts residents, tourists and businesses.
<b>CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airport reliability is a hindrance to economic growth in the region and is a high priority given its impact on business development.</li> <li>Moving goods from the region to B.C.'s gateway ports is a challenge, as rail transportation is limited and roads can be unreliable.</li> <li>Opportunity for partnerships on paving and infrastructure projects are important in the region.</li> <li>There are limited transportation options to serve the needs of a diverse and aging population. Increased connectivity through public transit and cycling infrastructure is desired.</li> <li>Inconsistencies with winter maintenance are a concern in some areas.</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 noted that airport reliability (Castlegar and Trail) is a key issue in the region. They noted that reliability issues are a hindrance to economic development. Either lowering the ceiling, or implementing the necessary technology will increase reliability and allow more planes in and out of local airports.</li> <li>One participant noted that reliability of snow plowing and maintenance operations in the winter is inconsistent. This is most notable for people getting to Red Mountain, impacting tourists and locals.</li> <li>One participant acknowledged that general reliability of roads in the Trail region is quite good.</li> </ul>
2)	<b>Growing the Economy</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One participant noted the importance of keeping LNG growth in mind and making sure highways can sustain that growth.</li> <li>One participant noted that growing the economy is directly related to reliability of airports and transportation corridors.</li> <li>One participant noted that maintaining the rail system in the region is important, as a lack of rail connections can stunt growth in terms of not being able to move goods to ports and across borders. The participant noted that it would be ideal to have a rail line that is more direct to Vancouver.</li> <li>One participant noted that it is important to make sure ports, such as Prince Rupert, can continue to grow to support economic development.</li> </ul>
3)	<b>Connecting and Strengthening Communities</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants noted that transportation is a significant need for seniors and youth, which was identified recently in the development of a community engagement strategy. Participants noted that the region is in need of a taxi service. If residents are unable to drive, transit is the only way to get around, but services are lacking.</li> <li>Participants noted that connecting roads and trails with a cycling network is important for recreation and tourism. A goal for Rossland is to become a cycling destination in the summer and to improve infrastructure for that purpose.</li> </ul>

4) Maximizing Collaboration and Investment with Partners and Stakeholders	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants noted that grant programs and partnerships would be good for airport funding. One participant suggested that grant programs should be long term (multi-year) and should enable communities to qualify. Allocation of resources for grants at the local level is something that needs to be addressed.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants noted there is a good relationship with the Ministry within communities. One participant suggested that it would be good to know when there are going to be big projects happening in communities, as partnerships could be established to maximize efficiency in terms of development. For example, sewer upgrades could be done in conjunction with plans to repave a section of provincial road, in order to maximize resources and efficiency. It is beneficial to know of any planned upgrades in advance so communities can take advantage of opportunities for collaboration. Participants noted that Montrose, for example, is in need of infrastructure, and it would be ideal to know when work is planned so that they can maximize on paving projects.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants noted that a second access to the hospital in Trail is important for the community and needed from a safety perspective. One participant inquired whether there could be an opportunity for partnership in the form of a grant program, acknowledging that this is not necessarily a Ministry asset.</li> </ul>	
<b>TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS</b>	
Regional:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addressing and improving airport reliability is a priority in the region.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximizing opportunities for collaboration is important for undertaking infrastructure projects, such as paving and cycling trails. Participants noted that identifying partnership and grant opportunities is important.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing connectivity within and between communities by providing transportation options, such as expanded public transit and cycling infrastructure, is important for serving the needs of a diverse population.</li> </ul>	
<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One participant noted they have established a West Kootenay Economic Development Board with representation from each of the communities in the region.</li> </ul>	