

B.C. on the Move: Engagement Meeting Notes

NOVEMBER 18, 2014

1:30 PM

LILLOOET

ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION	Mayor Margaret Lampman, District of Lillooet Kevin Anderson, District of Lillooet Bain Gair, Lillooet and District Chamber of Commerce Bob Sheridan, Lillooet and District Chamber of Commerce
MOTI REPRESENTATIVE	Paula Cousins, District Manager, Transportation, Thompson Nicola District, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI)
NOTE TAKER	Carrie Peacock, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.
KEY THEMES:	
1)	Transportation planning: Participants requested a long-term plan for addressing the Fountain Slide. Further erosion of the slide area could impact the community's main connection to Kamloops (including the hospital, goods, and tourism).
2)	Highways and side roads: Participants expressed safety concerns regarding the "backwards underpass" just outside of Lillooet.
	- Highways and side roads: Participants expressed safety issues related to Duffy Lake Road, including:
3)	Passing lanes are needed (particularly where curves are too tight for a pullover lane);
4)	Reflective strips are needed (similar to those just south of Clinton);
5)	Near the bridge, at the east facing bank, there is a tight corner that requires attention;
6)	The road requires approximately 17 kilometers of resurfacing; and
7)	Pullouts with garbage cans and a restroom are needed (and must be maintained).
8)	Highways: Participants requested more year-round pullouts (with garbage cans and washrooms) on all rural highways and that these must be maintained.
9)	Cycling and pedestrian: Participants supported cycling/pedestrian paths and shoulder-widening to help support tourism. The Sea to Sky trail in Whistler offers a viable alternative to travelling on the highway.
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding to achieve safety improvements to existing or new infrastructure is a primary concern.
MOVING FORWARD – STRATEGIES	
1)	Moving People and Goods Safely and Reliably
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mayor of Lillooet confirmed that approximately 17 kilometers of resurfacing is needed on Duffy Lake Road. The community has also been promised that the last bridge will be replaced by 2015/16. It would be helpful to hear details on this as soon as possible. Summer tourists are unaware of the changing grades of the roads, and end up over-using their brakes. The MoTI Representative noted that further details could be provided on the bridge. It was suggested that signage could assist tourists by informing them of downgrades in advance. The Mayor of Lillooet noted that the MoTI should be aware of an increase in motorcycles choosing to take Duffy Lake Road, then the canyon. The Mayor of Lillooet expressed safety concerns regarding Fountain Slide. A long-term plan is needed on how to address this. This would impact the community's main connection to Kamloops (including the hospital, goods, and tourism). The Mayor expressed that it will continue to erode. A plan is needed to address this. The Mayor of Lillooet expressed safety concerns regarding the "backwards underpass" just outside of Lillooet. Veneer trucks travel to Savannah on that route. Many drivers (particularly seniors) feel uncertain about driving through the underpass. The location is treacherous and too narrow for buses and other vehicles. Greater width is needed to provide improved sight lines around the corner. Participants from the District of Lillooet added that drivers had been killed after hitting deer on the road. Participants from the District of Lillooet explained that particularly during the summer, there are more drivers that are unfamiliar with the roads. They often drive too quickly. Traffic congestion causes road rage issues. Participants urged the Ministry to consider posting a sign at the entrance to the Duffy Lake Road stretch indicating, "If you can't maintain the speed limit, pull over". Signs should be posted in advance of designated pullouts. Paula Cousins noted that the Province is piloting on Highway 19 (after a speed and safety review) a sign asking drivers to pull out if they have more than five cars following. Participants from the District of Lillooet expressed concerns regarding Duffy Lake Road, noting that as you travel towards Mount Currie, it's all downhill with the exception of a few slow slopes. Drivers unfamiliar with the road are unaware of what is ahead. Drivers going down the hill often over-use their brakes. Accidents are occurring. People are pulling over due to overheated brakes. Trucks should gear down. Signage could help avoid accidents there.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the District of Lillooet expressed concerns regarding Duffy Lake Road. Passing lanes are needed, particularly where curves are too tight for a pullover lane. Better reflective strips (similar to those just south of Clinton) are needed to assist drivers. Near the sand shed, after going down the hill, there is a straight stretch and a bridge – at the east-facing bank there is a tight corner that needs attention.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the District of Lillooet noted that the next two single-lane bridges needed to be addressed. As construction can only occur every other year (to avoid impacting the pink salmon, the next bridge replacement should be scheduled in 2016. Canal Bridge (aka Busters Bridge), Cayoose Bridge and Graham Bridge are the three bridges in the area. Canal is the worst for its approach.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the District of Lillooet noted that there had been some improvement in the crush used on road, during winter conditions; however, the amount applied is often inadequate and insufficient to provide traction, when the roads are treacherous. Participants indicated that people should pay less for replacement of damaged windows. The MoTI Representative noted that some contractors are considering other anti-icing programs, rather than de-icing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the Lillooet and District Chamber of Commerce (LDCC) added that Highway 12 is desperately in need of resurfacing. The big slide on Highway 12 also needs to be addressed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC asked for feedback on how the Seaton River Bridge at the adjacent band may change the flow of traffic. Council did not want to see traffic diverted around Lillooet.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC confirmed that Duffy Lake Road needs to be resurfaced and the bridges completed, for safety reasons. Motorcyclists and others travelling too quickly had been in accidents after hitting a patch of ruts or old pavement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC confirmed the community's previous requests for additional pullouts with garbage cans and washrooms on the Duffy Lake corridor. Approximately 400 tourist buses pass through the Duffy Lake corridor (from Whistler to Kamloops) each year. Additionally, the pullout near the lake needs to be expanded to accommodate multiple RVs at the same time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC expressed concerns regarding the stretch of the road near the Rogers Creek Bridge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC expressed safety concerns regarding horses grazing adjacent to the highways, and noted that this should not be allowed to continue. Horses have been seen on the road on Highway 99 between Lillooet and Cache Creek. A driver that hits a horse needs to pay to fix the car and pay for the horse. This is also a problem on Texas Creek Road.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC noted that a number of car clubs had visited the area, en route to Whistler via the scenic Duffy Lake Corridor. Pull outs, washrooms and garbage cans should be made available year round. Vehicles are need to access pullouts year round. A traffic count on Duffy Lake would be interesting to see.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC noted that from a highways perspective, the Fountain Slide is the biggest priority for the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from LDCC questioned the status of the Fountain Slide and strongly urged an optional route that avoids the area. Participant noted that it drops, it gets maintained, and then it drops again. Paula Cousins commented on her understanding of the technical aspects of the slide.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC requested an update on the status of the base of Station Hill Corridor, and asked when the community could provide feedback. Paula Cousins noted that the local MoTI representative could contact them further to discuss opportunities for feedback.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC requested consideration of "Welcome to Lillooet" signage.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC requested that consideration be given to hosting a public forum for gathering opinions on MoTI's current maintenance contractors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC requested that when designing the approaches to the new bridge, efforts be made to not bypass the bottom of Station Hill. It was suggested that BC Hydro be asked to contribute to the construction of the new bridge. Paula Cousins confirmed that efforts would be made to ensure that the District's involvement in discussions/negotiations regarding the bridge was considered.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC stressed the need for more signage on the major routes to Lillooet, and less restriction on signage along major routes. Participants noted it would be helpful to post signs letting tourists know how to get to Whistler.
2) Growing the Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC noted that a number of car clubs had visited the area, en route to Whistler via the scenic Duffy Lake Corridor. Enhance economic opportunities by improving Duffy Lake Road.
3) Connecting and Strengthening Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mayor of Lillooet confirmed that she and the Mayor of Lytton had discussed the importance of ensuring seniors had access to year-round transit service a few times a week, with a specific route.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the District of Lillooet requested that a separate strip (or wider shoulders) be provided to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists, being mindful of its placement as sometimes cars moving quickly can slide out of control. Coming into Lillooet it is clearly defined where cars and where people should be. Paula Cousins referenced opportunities for regional districts and others to discuss jointly operating shared paths.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the District of Lillooet supported shared pedestrian / cycling paths and shoulder widening. For example, the Sea to Sky Trail in Whistler helped support tourism.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC stressed the need for improved transit within and outside the community of Lillooet. A small bus operates twice a week between Lillooet and Kamloops for medical appointments. It is the only public transportation for the community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC suggested that access be given to provide a path for dog walking by Craig's Lodge (this is BC Rail property with band and BC Hydro access).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the LDCC supported partnerships to help build cycling and walking trails. A 10 km trail along route from the winery to the old bridge is needed, and would complete the trail route from bridge to bridge. Currently there are some sections where people are forced to cycle or walk on the road.
<p>4) Maximizing Collaboration and Investment with Partners and Stakeholders</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from LDCC suggested that it would be helpful to know if the province's budget numbers were broken up by "rehabilitation projects" and "new projects". Participants inquired what percentage of total projects are rehabilitation? Paula Cousins confirmed that asset condition ratings determined how the funding will be divided. For example the resurfacing fund for the year may be higher where the pavement infrastructure is in poorer condition. Participants from LDCC noted that it would helpful to know when/if there is a large resurfacing project coming forward.
<p>TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Fountain Slide is a key priority for the Lillooet and adjoining communities. Safety improvements are needed to Duffy Lake Road. Highway 12 is desperately in need of resurfacing.

<p>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from the District of Lillooet expressed concerns regarding a lack of access to rescue and emergency response services in the South Cariboo. Previously, BCAS had a dedicated rescue team. The MLA and the RCMP had been asked to take the lead on improving emergency preparedness. Current the response time is too long as search and rescue responders come from Chilliwack. Participants noted that they need medics available on the ground sooner to assist when vehicles drive over cliffs. Participants from the District of Lillooet commended government for its efforts to reduce the carbon footprint. The Mayor of Lillooet noted that the highways maintenance contractors communicated with the community of Lillooet about twice a year. Participants from the LDCC commended the MoTI for some of the changes already completed. Participants from the LDCC noted that the local MoTI representative (Brad) has done a great job with some small projects that benefited the community. Near Applespring he was able to make the corner wider, which will hopefully prevent some accidents.