



Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group

Ministry of Transportation – Fraser Boardroom
2nd Floor (Suite 213) - 1011 4th Avenue, Prince George
Wednesday, February 3, 2016
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Conference Call Information: [REDACTED] – Participant ID [REDACTED]

These minutes are considered to be complete and correct. Please advise the writer of any error or omissions, otherwise these minutes will be considered to be an accurate record of the discussions.

Chair:

Deborah Bowman, Assistant Deputy Minister – Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Members:

Penny Anguish, Chief Nursing Executive & Chief Operating Officer - Northwest Health Services
Shane Brienen, Mayor - District of Houston
Wanda Good, Deputy Chief Council - Gitanyow Band
John Mah, Vice President – First Nations Health Authority
Carol Leclerc, Mayor - City of Terrace
Rob MacDougall, Mayor - District of Fort St. James
Reg Mueller, Saik'uz First Nation
Luke Strimbold, Mayor - Village of Burns Lake
Mary Teegee, Executive Director - Carrier Sekani Family Services

Ministry of Transportation Staff:

Carl Lutz, District Manager – Bulkley-Stikine District
Ron Marshall, District Manager - Fort George District Office
Scott Maxwell, Regional Director - Northern Region
Jodi Newnham, Senior Manager - Aboriginal Relations
Kevin Volk, Executive Director – Transit and Crown Agency Policy
Cam Filmer, A/Executive Director – Policy and Programs

Guest: Kevin Schubert, Director – Regional Transit Systems BC Transit

Scribe: Pamela Castle, Regional Director's Assistant, Ministry of Transportation

Absent: Richard Jock, Chief Operating Officer - First Nations Health Authority

Meeting Commenced at 1:00 pm

Welcome and Introductions – Deborah Bowman

- Thank you to everyone for attending
- Recognized the meeting taking place on traditional Lheidli T'enneh territory
- Welcome to Cam Filmer, A/Executive Director – Policy and Programs MoTI

Review Agenda/Last Meeting Minutes – Deborah Bowman

- No comments/changes/additions to January 15th, 2016 minutes
- Review today's agenda

Family Gathering Update – Wanda Good and Mary Teegee

- The Family Gathering was held Feb 1st and 2nd in Prince George; the focus of the gathering was on supporting healing for the families of murdered and missing Aboriginal women.
- More than 500 people attended, including Ministers Rustad, Anton, and Morris and ministry staff. Aboriginal leadership also attended, including Assembly of First Nations, Union of BC Indian Chiefs, First Nations Summit, and Metis Nation BC.
- Minister Rustad will share what he heard from families when he meets Minister Carolyn Bennett in Ottawa regarding the proposed National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- The Family Gathering was provincial in its focus. The Highway of Tears Initiative has indicated that it would still like to see a follow-up event to the Highway of Tears Symposium (2006) that is focused on the north, including a review of the status of the recommendations from the Symposium.
- Key Themes: Mary Teegee and Reg Mueller
 - Steps in the right direction
 - Measurable and reporting outcomes (communications will be key)
 - Transportation – as part of a greater issue

**ACTION 1: MoTI to provide links to the following:
“Forsaken: the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry” -
Highway of Tears Symposium -**

ACTION 2: MoTI to request draft report by UNBC on Hitchhiking.

First Nations' Representation – John Mah

- Based on feedback from existing Advisory Group members, John Mah suggested that the Advisory wants to recommend to Minister Stone to consider appointing two First Nations Chiefs to participate in the Advisory Group going forward.
- Advisory Group may also want to explore how Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) can be involved as the recent funding changes may make federal involvement possible.

ACTION 3: MoTI invited Advisory Group members to submit six names of Chiefs along the Highway 16 corridor for the Minister's consideration before February 9, 2016.

Transit Expansion – Feedback from Committee –

Luke Strimbold/Carol Leclerc/Rob MacDougall/Shane Brienen

- At the last Advisory Group meeting, Mayors were asked to go back and consult their communities and local government colleagues along the Highway 16 corridor.
- Common themes were provided in attached summary document. Key issues include:
 - Ensuring all communities have their needs met.
 - Certainty about future funding and sustainability beyond year two.
 - Partnerships are critical given the expansion requires shared funding.
 - Impact on budgets, particularly on smaller communities.
 - Need to look east-west, along with north-south.
 - Equitable contributions.
 - Evaluating success of efforts.
- MoTI clarified that no additional funding beyond \$1.6 million over two years could be committed to at this time however, the program will be evaluated after two years to determine the level of ridership and ongoing funding.
- MoTI also recognized the importance of engaging the federal government and indicated that Minister Stone has raised this initiative in his recent meetings in Ottawa.
- Due to annual vs. fiscal year budget cycles, MoTI suggested that it may be possible for the Province to provide a higher amount of contribution in the first year to offset un planned budget pressures at the community level.

ACTION 4: Penny Anguish invited to bring suggestions for evaluating outcomes and process of the Action Plan.

Transit Expansion – Update – Kevin Volk

- Reviewed and circulated the proposed route options and funding breakdowns for expansion options
- Provided information requested by Mayors:
 - In BC Transit’s legislation, the agency that BC Transit contracts with must be a regional district or municipality, but there are no restrictions on who the local government can partner with for funding (First Nations, other municipalities, industry)

ACTION 5: Kevin Volk (MoTI) and Kevin Schubert (BC Transit) will work directly with the mayors to support additional pod meetings and/or regional district meetings.

Community Transportation Grant Program – Update – Deborah Bowman

- General discussion occurred. Majority of members indicated they had to date focused their time on transit aspects versus this area.
- Partnerships with industry should be identified as well as creating a communications strategy to support information about the community vehicle program, eligibility and deadlines.

ACTION 6: Advisory Group members are asked to share information regarding any known costs of operate community vehicles to Cam Filmer by Wednesday February 10th. Cam will circulate an overview in advance of the next meeting.

ACTION 7: To assist staff with defining the criteria for the Community Vehicle Program, a Working Group was formed including Reg Mueller, Mary Teegee and Robert (Bob) Marcellin, Administrator, for Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine (nominated by Carol Leclerc). Cam Filmer will lead this work and set-up a meeting with the Working Group in advance of the next Advisory Group meeting.

Overview of Community Vehicle Program “Seniors Helping Seniors” – Fort. St. James - Mayor MacDougall

- Handout provided. Contact Mayor MacDougall at mayor@fortstjames.ca if you want to discuss or have any questions please call.

Carrier Sekani Family Services Driver Training Program – Mary Teegee

- Joan Brett is the coordinator.
- To date, they have worked with 10 communities. Some of the challenges identified included:
 - Literacy;
 - Getting to the program;
 - Existing fees / fines;
 - Opportunity to Drive;
 - Self-confidence.

First Nations Driver Education Program – Update Deborah Bowman

- Ministry will be posting an Request for Proposal (RFP) through BC Bid by the end of March 2016. The contract will be \$50,000 over three years. Preference would be given to a contractor that is experienced and can supply vehicles and is able to deliver the training in multiple locations along the Highway 16 corridor. Kermode Friendship Centre in Terrace is delivering a drivers education program.

ACTION 8: MoTI (Cam Filmer) will bring back draft RFP for the Driver Training Program to the next Advisory Group meeting.

ACTION 9: MoTI (Cam Filmer) will follow-up with the Kermode Friendship Society in Terrace to learn more about their driver training program.

ACTION 10: MoTI (Kevin Volk) to follow-up with ICBC about testing options, driving instructors and facilities along the Highway 16 corridor.

Collaboration to Increase Interconnectivity of Services – Update - Kevin Volk

- Both the First Nations Health Authority and Northern Health have analysed their data on where their patients are travelling to and from.
- This information will be compared to the services available along the corridor, including BC Transit and Northern Health Connections.
- There have been some early conclusions, such as the high frequency of travel between some nearby communities, and the ridership profile of the Health Connections Bus as it travels along the corridor
- When the work is complete, Northern Health will be able to determine whether any amendments to their passenger criteria should be considered

- The First Nations Health Authority can use this information in its community education and awareness work

ACTION 11: The FNHA, NHA and BC Transit working group will provide a presentation at the next meeting to update the committee on its findings and next steps.

Highway Infrastructure Safety Improvements, Including Webcams & Transit Shelters
Update – Scott Maxwell

- We expect to install 10 shelters with webcams; however, final numbers and specific scope and locations will be determined following the direction on the transit and community grant programs. Some of the transit shelters have been ordered.
- We are tentatively planning to install the shelters and webcams in both service centres and in remote communities.
- Working with RCMP on legalities of the use of the webcams for investigations.
- MoTI will be responsible for the capital costs, and the community the shelters are installed in will be responsible for ongoing maintenance.

Meeting adjourned: 4:10 pm

Next Meeting: February 24, 2016 – 1:00 – 4:00 pm, Prince George