



Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group

Ministry of Transportation – Fraser Boardroom
Aleza Room, 4th Floor-1011 4th Avenue, Prince George
Wednesday, May 11, 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 – regrets

- attending: Steve Raper, Northern Health Authority

Joseph Bevan, Chief Kitselas First Nation - regrets

Shane Brienen, Mayor - District of Houston - absent

Wanda Good, Deputy Chief Council - Gitanyow Band - absent

Richard Jock, Chief Operating Officer - First Nations Health Authority regrets

- attending: Devi Goberdhan/John Mah - by phone

Carol Leclerc, Mayor - City of Terrace – regrets

- attending: Heather Avison by phone

Rob MacDougall, Mayor - District of Fort St. James

Reg Mueller, Saik'uz First Nation – by phone

Karen Ogen – Chief of Wet'suwet'en First Nation - absent

- attending: Reg Ogen by phone

Luke Strimbold, Mayor - Village of Burns Lake

Mary Teegee, Executive Director - Carrier Sekani Family Services - regrets

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Staff:

Silas Brownsey, Executive Director - Transit and Crown Agency Policy

Cam Filmer, A/Executive Director – Policy and Programs

Carl Lutz, District Manager - Bulkley-Stikine District Office - absent

Scott Maxwell, Regional Director - Northern Region

Jodi Newnham, Senior Manager - Aboriginal Relations

Guests:

Chris Fudge, Regional Transit Manager

Kevin Schubert, Director – Regional Transit Systems BC Transit - regrets

Meeting Commenced at 1:00 pm

Welcome – Review Agenda/Last Meeting Minutes - Deborah Bowman

- Review and amend agenda
- Minutes adopted as distributed

Update on First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)/Northern Health Authority (NHA) Collaboration – Devi Goberdhan and Steve Raper

- Steve Raper stated a summary of completed, in progress and future tasks was provided to the advisory group
- On May 10, 2016, the NHA Connections bus attended the FNHA Northwest Caucus
- NHA provided a 10 pack of tickets to the FNHA to use in an effort to increase ridership
- All NHA Connections drivers have now completed cultural competency training
- Pleased to announce an MOU is in progress regarding collaborating along the corridor between NHA and FNHA, it is in DRAFT at this time
 - In addition to the work that has been done, NHA is reviewing current data and will be connecting with FNHA to possibly collaborate in other areas as well
- Discussion regarding a Northern Region Caucus for FNHA being planned, to be held in Prince George
- Steve Raper is working with Via Rail to discuss how the NHA Connections bus and Via Rail can collaborate going forward.
- Deborah Bowman congratulated FNHA and NHA on all the work that has been done, and wished them good luck going forward.

Update on BC Transit Expansion – Pods – Luke Strimbold and Silas Brownsey

- North Central Local Government Association AGM in Dawson Creek, May 4-6th
 - Mayor Strimbold advised that Mayors from Prince George to Smithers and Regional District representatives had opportunity to discuss and ask and answer questions
 - Noted that everyone shared common goals
 - Mayor MacDougall stated that education will be very important going forward, but was pleased with the excitement and engagement
 - Silas advised that there was a healthy interest in the Community Vehicle Program and how it may connect with the transit available on the Highway 16 corridor
- Slide show presentation made by Chris Fudge
 - Memorandums of Understanding
 - Burns Lake to Smithers – Signed MOUs from Town of Smithers, District of Houston, Village of Burns Lake, Village of Telkwa, Area A (Smithers Rural), Area G (Houston Rural)
 - Hazelton to Terrace – Signed MOU with Regional District of Kitimat Stikine
 - Burns Lake to Prince George – Signed MOUs with Village of Burns Lake, Village of Fraser Lake, District of Fort St James
 - Discussed ongoing work
 - Telephone interviews with MOU signatories
 - Service Discussion Document
 - Discussed next steps
 - Service Discussion Document (distribution and endorsement)
 - Subject to endorsement (confirm lead local government contract holder, public consultation, possible competition for management and service provision and implementation phase)
- Questions and discussion regarding timing, contract service providers, messaging, governance.
- Update on Transit Shelters provided by Scott Maxwell

- Scott advised that the Ministry has been getting ready in the background
 - There are three (3) shelters on order
 - As transit contracts are signed off, consultation with the communities will take place to determine the best place for shelters to be installed
 - In the process of trying to partner with INAC
 - Flexibility in the \$500K funding available over the two years
 - Webcams and placement to hopefully include the transit shelters, may need to deal with connectivity
 - Three (3) additional webcams will be installed in the Smithers area, this is not part of the initial \$500K funding, rather, general improvements

Update on community vehicle program draft forms, draft criteria and timelines. Discussions with INAC, First Nations Health Authority and BC Bid process for driver training – Cam Filmer

- Community vehicle grant program draft website has been completed – fully functional, however, require a government ID to access
 - Any final comments on the package would be appreciated as soon as possible, there is still time to make changes
 - Thank you to a great working group – Mary Teegee, Wanda Good, Bob Marcellin and Reg Mueller
 - The team is continuing to work on a communication plan
 - Deborah Bowman noted assistance from FNHA when assessing applications would be beneficial.
- First Nations Drivers Education Program
 - Request for proposal is ready
 - We have been speaking with the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and are hopeful for an increased level of support for the education program
 - This will go online at same times as other initiatives
- Discussions with INAC
 - Mary Teegee and Cam Filmer have combining and going to INAC using a multi-point communications strategy. Cam had a recent positive call with several senior INAC staff from Pacific Region on May 34d:
 - Shelters and webcams –
 - There is a possibility of partnering for INAC funding
 - There will need to be a more fulsome conversation between INAC and Scott Maxwell
 - Community Vehicle program –
 - As presented, this was met with mixed interest by INAC as to possible partnership
 - The view is FNHA may be best to work with INAC focussing on economic development point of view
 - IT support –
 - INAC has offered full support
 - Transit –
 - INAC stated that this appears the area of least opportunity for funding support
 - Deborah Bowman noted that there are other routes that can be sought for federal support for transit
 - Mapping –
 - INAC was very interested in the mapping side

- Drivers Education program
 - INAC saw this as an easy fit to fund and were cautiously optimistic about funding
 - Cell coverage –
 - This may be a possible area of support by INAC, they may have infrastructure to enhance cell coverage in the area
 - Upcoming federal call for new women’s shelters –
 - INAC will be announcing funding for five (5) new women’s shelters in the country, possibly one in this corridor
- FNHA discussions
 - Cam Filmer stated that Mary Teegee was primarily dealing with this task and cannot comment at this time on the status
 - John Mah advised that he was not aware of any conversations
 - Question surrounding if any savings realized due to the mapping exercise and FNHA/NHA collaboration could be redirected to programs for First Nations along the corridor.
 - Devi advised that there have been no discussions about that internally
- Via Rail
 - Discussion regarding last meeting’s offer from Michael Woelcke at Via Rail
 - Michael and Cam Filmer have been having ongoing discussions
 - Timeliness
 - Possible safety and risk
 - Funding commitment level
 - Clearly confirm what Via Rail is ready and willing to do
 - Conversations will carry on into the months going forward
 - Also, Michael has connected with Scott Maxwell for possible partnership opportunities regarding shelters

Communications/Engagement – Next Steps – Deborah Bowman

- Discussion regarding a tentative announcement date with Minister Todd Stone
 - Tentatively June 13, 2016 NOTE: New date is June 15, 2016
 - Prince George location
 - Preference to have the full Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group attend in person
 - Minister Stone has requested to speak privately with the Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group prior to the announcements
 - Media would be invited
 - FNHA and NHA senior officials would be invited to attend as well
 - Announcement to include
 - Signed MOUs on transit service along corridor
 - Discussion surrounding the safety component, more concrete information as to where the shelters will be located
 - Collaboration between NHA and FNHA
 - Perhaps an opportunity to announce partnerships with other ministries, or federal government
 - Preference to have as much done by that date as possible
 - Importance on engagement and partners
 - As much outreach as possible, use your network and connect with as much people on the ground to ensure we are getting the message out surrounding transit expansion, community vehicles, drivers education

- Asking FNHA to assist with ensuring that communication is shared, concern that some communities are not aware of the work being done by our Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group
 - Advised that Richard Jock may be the link into the regions, and support from the senior executives
 - Further discussion on how to share this messaging - don't overload, be thoughtful and strategic

Opportunities for Industry and Business Partnerships – Jodi Newnham

- Since the formation of the Advisory Group, along with feedback at the Transportation Symposium, we have heard that it is important to engage industry and businesses in supporting the action plan
- Based on some initial discussion with Chief Ogen and Mayor MacDougall, next steps include:
 - Develop a small working group that could work through some of the issues that have been identified as who we want to approach
 - Chief Ogen – spoke about involving PGNAETA (Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment Training Association)
 - Mayor Rob MacDougall has offered to be involved in the working group
 - Circulate a list of potential partners to working group for input
 - Approach potential partners, using a case study to demonstrate how this has worked based on Mayor Rob MacDougall's experience
 - Mayor MacDougall noted that there may be a requirement for two levels of engagement – one with the LNG as it is across the entire corridor; and the other level with independent partner potentials
- Purpose of the engagement is:
 - Industry and business are interested in providing support at the community level to be more socially responsible and this is a great opportunity for them
 - Partnerships are prioritized in the application process and this would assist communities with developing partnerships
 - May be a way to bring industry and community together in addition to the funds available with this program
 - Maybe more operating or another vehicle funding could be made available if industry partners were part of this process
- Suggestions for additional industry partners
 - Canfor
 - Bulkley Valley Credit Union
 - West Fraser Sawmills
 - Rotary
 - PGNAETA
 - Tricorp
- Preference for in-person meetings, with a package of information, with potential partners.
- A number of streams that the Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group needs to do outreach to
 - Industry
 - First Nations
 - Face to face engagement

Roundtable - All

- Mayor MacDougall emphasized the education piece – there can be one on one or a toolkit, etc. but noted most important is to be consistent and provide accurate information to everyone

- Mayor Strimbold thanked Silas Brownsey and Chris Fudge for their support over the last couple of weeks to get the local government piece for the transit together, and is looking forward to getting things going
- Heather Avison had a question about the announcement attendance and whether it was necessary for everyone to be there and if there would be a communication tool to provide their council
 - Deborah Bowman advised that she hoped the entire Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group could make it, including Mayor Leclerc if at all available
 - There will be Question & Answers (Q&As) provided in advance to answer questions.

Next Steps & Action Items

- Deborah Bowman noted that during the Estimate Debates, there were a number of questions asked by Maurine Karagianis, Opposition Spokesperson for Women and Early Childhood Development. During this process, Minister Todd Stone committed to making public the minutes of these Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group meetings
 - She recommended that a draft executive summary of the meetings of the advisory with the minutes summary with attachments as appendices would go public after the announcement by Minister Stone
 - Jodi Newnham suggested that the Summary of Proceedings from the Northern Transportation Symposium be referenced in the new summary to show the accomplishments of the Highway 16 Advisory Group and Transportation Action Plan

Meeting adjourned: 340 pm

Next Meeting: TBC – Announcement

Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group Action Items from May 11, 2016 Meeting

Update on FNHA/NHA Collaboration – Devi Goberdhan and Steve Raper

- ACTION #1: Steve Raper to inform the Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group of the number of drivers for NHA Connections.
- ACTION #2: Devi Goberdhan to clarify date and location for the FNHA Northern Region caucus and provide to the Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group. She will also connect Deborah Bowman with Megan Hunt or provide package of information regarding the Northern Region Caucus.

Update on BC Transit Expansion – Pods – Luke Strimbold and Silas Brownsey

- ACTION #3: Chris Fudge and Silas Brownsey to provide costing pieces and examples for other communities for transit. It may be folded into the report or may be a standalone report.
- ACTION #4: Silas Brownsey to provide information regarding governance.
- ACTION #5: Scott will connect with Transit to try to confirm routes and locations for shelters and then connect with communities prior to June 13th (working towards May 31st)

Update on community vehicle program draft forms, draft criteria and timelines. Discussions with INAC, First Nations Health Authority and BC Bid process for driver training – Cam Filmer

- ACTION #6: Cam Filmer to provide screen shots of the Community Vehicle Program application website to Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group by Friday, May 20th.
- ACTION #7: Cam Filmer to review the policy regarding prioritization and preferences for the assessment process for the Community Vehicle Program with the working group and get back to the Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group.
- ACTION #8: Cam Filmer will advise the Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group if a partnerships opportunity comes to fruition for the Drivers Education program.
- ACTION #9: Cam Filmer will be updating Mary Teegee with this information by May 13th as she has not yet been updated. Cam will continue to be the lead and actively engage INAC on the opportunities for federal funding.

Communications/Engagement – Next Steps – Deborah Bowman

- ACTION #10: Cam Filmer and Jodi Newnham will be working with Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE) to have a plan that can be shared
- ACTION #11: Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group is to share any communications leads or staff from your offices that you would like the Ministry or GCPE to connect with specifically. There will be a working group at that level to prepare for the announcement. Please provide this information to Agnes Fraser or to Deborah Bowman directly.

Opportunities for Industry and Business Partnerships – Jodi Newnham

- ACTION #12: Jodi Newnham will set up a meeting with Reg Mueller, Reg Ogen and Mayor MacDougall for next week. If any other members are interested in being part of this working group, please advise Jodi Newnham as soon as possible.
- ACTION #13: Jodi Newnham to distribute the list of industry partners drafted to the Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group to review and advise if they feel any names have been missed.