



Highway 16 Action Plan Advisory Group

Ministry of Transportation

Conference Call

Thursday, December 8, 2016

2:00 pm – 3:30 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 – absent

John Mah, Vice President, First Nations Benefits, First Nations Health Authority

Steve Raper, Chief Communications Officer – Northern Health Authority

Maureen Haley, Northern Health Authority – joined Steve Raper on the phone

Joseph Bevan, Chief Kitselas First Nation – absent

Shane Brienens, Mayor - District of Houston

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

Carol Leclerc, Mayor - City of Terrace

Rob MacDougall, Mayor - District of Fort St. James – absent

Reg Mueller, Saik'uz First Nation

Taylor Bachrach, Mayor – Town of Smithers

Mary Teegee, Executive Director - Carrier Sekani Family Services – absent

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Staff:

Silas Brownsey, Executive Director - Transit and Crown Agency Policy

Cam Filmer, Executive Director – Policy and Programs

Carl Lutz, District Manager, Bulkley-Stikine District

Cailey Brown, District Development Technician, Bulkley-Stikine District Office

Reg Faubert, Manager Air/Marine Policy – Policy and Programs

Jodi Newnham, Senior Manager, Aboriginal Relations

Meeting Commenced at 2:00 pm

Welcome – Review Agenda/Last Meeting Minutes/Update – Deborah Bowman

- Review of agenda, and request for any additional agenda items.
- Review of meeting in Smithers in October, informal gathering with Minister Todd Stone and Deputy Minister Grant Main.
- Office of the Auditor General analysis and report released today with acknowledgement of work completed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
- Check ins with Mayors and Advisory Committee Chair are in the process of being completed.
- Thanks to the members of the advisory that are working diligently to ensure that the conversations and outreach are underway.
- Discussion regarding Prince Rupert's decision on transit.

Update: Community Vehicle Grant Program – Cam Filmer

- It appears that our engagement strategy was extremely successful. Thanks to Reg and a number of folks at local level, we were able to have a highly successful educational session through the corridor.
- We have received 29 applications for an estimated ask of \$4.0 million dollars.
- We have begun the application assessment process.
- Initial assessment has been completed by Policy staff; all applications have an initial scoring. Staff have also reached out to ensure completeness of submissions.
- Assessments and applications forwarded on confidential/draft basis to 5-person team from Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training (JTST), PSSG, CSCD, MOTI North Region, and MOTI Transit Branch; meeting with this group scheduled for Friday this week.
- This group has regional and corridor/local experience. We are also looking for people with vulnerable populations and subject matter expertise.
- From the Advisory Committee, we are looking for First Nations and local government representatives to support, that do not have any perceived conflict. Cam has touched base with a number of representatives, but still has a number to go (messages have been left).
- We are looking to get to the specific Advisory members the initial screening summary by next Tuesday – with calls Thursday and Friday.
- BC Transit will also provide comment based on where they perceive a need for local service to supplement their service (gaps analysis) this week.

Update: First Nations Driver Education – Cam Filmer

- Ongoing conference calls have been occurring with Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS), MARR and MOTI project leads. Bi-monthly calls will continue.
- CSFS is currently contacting/meeting with communities along the Highway 16 corridor to gauge the level of interest in the driver training opportunity and to identify a First Nations liaison person from each participating communities.
- CSFS will develop a Memorandum of Understanding with each participating community to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations for accessing driver training.
- CSFS is preparing a draft work plan as this reconnaissance work is being undertaken, expecting it will be submitted to MOTI and MARR by end of December.
- We agree that upfront planning work is the key to the successful delivery of this program. We expect that training will commence in early January 2017.
- Ongoing calls are to be complemented by the delivery of written progress reports by the CSFS on a monthly basis the first of which will be delivered December 31, 2016.

Update: Collaboration Working Group – Cam Filmer

- Two working group meetings have occurred since the last Advisory meeting.
- FLNRO GeoBC staff is again fully engaged in supporting our work.
- Initial draft daily transportation option maps have been produced, with current and project additional services included.
- A second optional product is being worked on – it uses Google Earth products. Two solid working drafts using both approaches will be ready for Advisory Council viewing and comments.
- We will ensure the draft daily use maps are available to the community vehicle grant representatives so they can see daily transportation options.

Update: VIA Rail Potential Opportunities – Cam Filmer

- Given logistical support challenges, we are moving the trial and analysis of the system to later January and February. We will look to engage an additional First Nations representative, and require 2 local government representatives.
- It is suggested that names that are forwarded have experience with vulnerable populations.
- Given the inability to confirm arrival times, that will remain the ongoing top area of consideration.

District Transit Shelters and Webcams Update – Cailey Brown

- As previously discussed, shelters are installed in Moricetown, Gitau and Wet'suwet'en First Nation.
- Shelters in Fraser Lake, Vanderhoof and Kitimat were installed the week of November 28th.
- Remaining shelters in Burns Lake, Houston and Kitwanga are ready for installation as new service is implemented.
- Special thanks to Mark Savage and local minor works contractors for all their work on this project during a challenging wet fall.
- We are currently working with community representatives and maintenance contractor to install posts at transit stop locations this winter, with sign faces to be installed when the new service starts running.
- On December 13th four new camera locations with a total of 13 views will launch.
- We have viewed images from the new webcams and are happy with the images.
- Upcoming Plans:
 - Identifying additional locations for transit shelter installs on new routes.
 - Lighting improvements.
 - Installation of more webcams.
 - Examining other improvements such as: crosswalks, intersection upgrades and signage along the corridor to support transit upgrades.

BC Transit Update – Silas Brownsey

- The work has continued in earnest since we met in October in Smithers.
- Around that time BC Transit had just taken all the information from the community engagement sessions and produced a revised service options document with the request that it be brought to council so the preferred service options could be approved by December. This milestone has been met.
- As part of our discussions, there was an idea for a fifth segment for the corridor. Between Kispiox and Smithers as well as a commuter service between Moricetown and Smithers. We were able to accommodate that in the action plan.
- Along the east side, the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako formed a Regional Transportation Committee. A funding plan was put together and councils have been taking forward their cost allocations for approval.

- Along the west side, we have been advised Prince Rupert will not be proceeding; however Terrace to Hazelton will be. We also understand the Regional District is following up over the next month with potential First Nation partners.
- Expecting the first new transit service to be Moricetown to Smithers in January 2017.
- There is a requirement for a competitive bid process once the Regional District signs agreement for the Burns Lake to Smithers and Burns Lake to Prince George sections.
- Mayor Bachrach expressed how thrilled they are with the announcement regarding Moricetown.

Roundtable - All

- Steve Raper advised that Maureen Haley has been completing a lot of work with FNHA behind the scenes, things have been progressing and they are currently in the early stages identifying the communities that they can work with as well as developing some community first practice. Also began an advertising campaign for Northern Connections and are working with FNHA to share with First Nations communities with a hope to increasing the ridership.
 - Appreciates this advisory group has been a very good opportunity and is now in the process of expanding the conversation to the northeast and down to Vancouver.
- John Mah advised he will be connecting with Cam Filmer to see how FNHA can facilitate and assist.
- Reg Mueller was pleased that there has been a lot of progress and good work, and hopes that somehow that what we are doing right now brings attention to help employment going forward as well.
- Mayor Taylor Bachrach questioned if there was a marketing strategy for the promotion of the implementation of the new transit systems.
 - **ACTION:** Invite the Regional District chairs as well as Mayors or First Nation representatives to the meeting to discuss marketing and implementation of transit.
- Carl Lutz reminded the Advisory Committee that if there are any municipalities interested in transit infrastructure, webcams, pullouts, etc., please forward information to him.
- Cam Filmer reminded members to review the OAG report – our advisory committee is mentioned in two parts, the middle of the report and a summary of details in the back that is fairly substantial, listing all the work we've done in the last two years.

Next Steps & Review Action Items – Deborah Bowman

- Wishing you all the very best from the ministry and your colleagues for the New Year.
- Thanks for continuing to support this work, and we will meet again in February.

Meeting adjourned: 3:20pm

Next Meeting: February 2017 – TBD