

Project Name **Transportation in the Central and North Coast – Initial Scoping Assessment**

Program Area Human Well-Being
Project No. HWB 03 (d)

Related Projects HW03A: Inventory Regional/Local Economic Initiatives
 HW03B: Benefit Sharing Models

Start Date October 1, 2008
Completion Date January 31, 2009

Overview

The EBM Working Group recently completed a strategic review of economic activities and initiatives being pursued in the Central/North Coast. Transportation was identified as one of the key factors in coastal development. The NC and CC PIMCs have also identified transportation as a key component of economic and social development on the coast as have members of the EBM WG. The efficient and cost effective movement of people and goods and services is seen as critical for coastal development. As the population of the coast has declined due mainly to declines in the fishing and forest industries the transportation system has also declined. A key component of the HW component of EBM is to develop sustainable coastal communities and economy.

The purpose of this project is to complete a strategic, scoping analysis of the existing transportation systems on the Central and North Coast, with a view toward recommending regional transportation initiatives that could support the economy and communities on the coast.

The project will analyze transportation issues in the Central and North Coast and make recommendations on potential transportation initiatives that can deliver benefits to coastal communities.

Objectives

1. Provide a comprehensive, strategic overview of:
 - existing transportation systems on the coast including ferries, air travel, barging systems for moving equipment, goods and services to and from the coast, as well as systems within coastal communities
 - seasonal issues
 - environmental and safety concerns
 - customer demand and regulatory issues

- constraints, subsidies, costs and benefits (regional and local)
 - options, and opportunities for new, clean, alternative transportation within coastal communities given rising fuel costs (e.g. some are introducing electric vehicles)
2. Recommend:
- Cost effective strategies to improve coastal transportation services,
 - policy and regulatory options and alternatives that could lead to improved coastal transportation services

Expected Use/User/Benefits

Overall, the project will inform strategic discussions between the Province and First Nations and local communities in the Central and North Coast regarding development and implementation of a regional transportation initiative.

Key Tasks (to be executed by contractor):

1. Overview of Existing Transportation Services
 - ferries and air services: communities served, schedules, number of passengers going back 10 years, etc.
 - barging and movement of goods and services
 - cruise ships and the tourism industry
 - remote communities issues including internal transportation modes
 - Prince Rupert and Kitimat issues
 - Role of transportation services in shaping the coastal economy
2. Overview of Transportation Issues, Constraints, Costs and Potential Benefits
 - cost and scheduling
 - existing players and their plans—BC Ferries, Airlines, barging companies, others
 - environmental issues, (tankers for example)
 - regulatory and financial scope issues
 - opportunities to enhance transportation services (bus transportation between Bella Coola and Williams Lake)
 - identify alternative transportation options within coastal communities, explore viability and recommend transition strategy
3. Potential Demand and Regulatory Issues
 - community growth and increased demand
 - economic sector issues: forestry, tourism, fisheries, energy development,
 - potential positive synergies between sectors that are unrealized
 - regulatory Issues—federal and provincial,
 - long term growth projections and relationships to benefits (including social and environmental).
4. Conclusions and Recommendations
 - benefits from improved services (economic, employment, social and environmental)

- potential approaches to addressing cost issues
- recommended regulatory and policy alternatives that could stimulate improved services
- attracting investment

Milestones and Deliverables

<u>Deliverable</u>	<u>End date</u>
Project Workplan	October 15, 2008
Draft report	December 31, 2008
Final report	January 31, 2009

Method of Implementation

- Contract: Direct Award or RFP
- Expert Panel / Workshop
- Internal EBMWG Task

Contractor qualifications: (to be confirmed/recorded to project file by EBM WG Director):

- Knowledge of international, provincial and regional energy issues.
- Experience and familiarity with coastal issues.

Peer Review

Draft copies of the report will be circulated to identified peer reviewers (Province, First Nations, Energy sector) the EBMWG members and project partners for review and comment.

Budget

<u>Item</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Source</u>
Consultant/contractor:	\$50,000	EBMWG