



HIGHWAY 17 JOINT PENINSULA STEERING COMMITTEE (Central Saanich, North Saanich, Sidney, Tsawout First Nation)

Minutes of the **HIGHWAY 17 JOINT PENINSULA STEERING COMMITTEE** Meeting
Thursday, November 19, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.
Sidney Council Chamber

PRESENT:

Central Saanich

Mayor Jack Mar
Thomas Kouk, Community-at-Large Representative
Gary C. Nason, CAO
Ruby Shea, Recording Secretary

North Saanich

Mayor Alice Finall
Councillor Peter Chandler
Bob Williamson, Community-at-Large Representative
Heather Gartshore, Community-at-Large Representative

Sidney (host)

Mayor Larry Cross
Councillor Steve Price

Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

John Treleaven

Tsawout

Chief Allan Claxton
Gary Jung, Director of Operations
Nick May, Consultant

Call to Order

The Chair of the Steering Committee, Mr. Thomas Kouk, called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. and requested all attendees to introduce themselves.

Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting held on October 22, 2009

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the October 22, 2009 meeting of the Steering Committee be adopted as circulated.

Develop Workplan for Steering Committee

The Chair opened discussion on various issues pertaining to the development of a workplan for the Steering Committee and the following points were noted:

- a) What would be the overall timeline for completion of the “final deliverable”?
 - The Terms of Reference states the final deliverable would be completed by the end of December 2009
 - Christmas time is very busy, therefore it was agreed that there would be no meeting in December, however, Committee members could e-mail and/or phone during the month
 - It was agreed that the last meeting is to be in late March 2010, to prepare the final document and deliver it to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoT) by April

- b) What Should the final deliverable comprise?
 - As noted on Page No. 2 of the Terms of Reference, “The report shall present commentary and prioritized recommendations in regards to what the Steering Committee considers should be the collective ‘Peninsula position’ on the various alternative interchange concepts and locations, proposed cross-street closures, highway accesses, and interconnecting streets and supporting side-road networks which form the basis of the Recommended Corridor Strategy. The intent of the report is that it be endorsed by the four governing bodies and be submitted to the Ministry of Transportation for consideration by the Province in it’s ‘post-Olympics’ capital planning for Highway 17.”
 - Imply a timeframe / date targeting the implementation of the work to be done (i.e. five year outlook)
 - Implementation to be started as soon as possible – implied lack of funding for two to three years
 - The earlier submission of an application, the better (first come / first served)
 - Unanimous recommendation from the three municipalities and Tsawout First Nations
 - During the meeting with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure at the UBCM Convention, it was noted that:
 - MoT to take direction from the municipalities
 - Focus on priorities
 - Be specific as possible
 - 10 year horizon
 - Safety is the focus

- Interested in smaller proposals (concerned about children crossing the highway at Beacon Avenue twice a day)
- Experience has been that overpasses are installed after a death has occurred
- Lets be proactive and request an overpass be installed at Beacon Avenue prior to losing a child
- Province, BC Ferries, Victoria Airport Authority, ICBC would be able to provide statistics
- Sidney will work on a letter to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in December, to be signed by all four Councils, regarding the proposed installation of a pedestrian overpass at the Beacon Avenue intersection
- It was suggested that prior to the October 22, 2009 Committee Meeting Mr. Edgar (MoT) had no idea children were crossing the Pat Bay Highway at Beacon Avenue twice a day
- Now is the opportunity to reinforce this safety issue; the highway must be made safe
- Add the Beacon Avenue safety issue to the agenda for the upcoming Tri-Municipal Meeting scheduled for November 30, 2009
- Pedestrian overpass needs to be installed at Beacon Avenue as a separate item to the issue of interchanges before there is a death
- There will be additional traffic at the Beacon Avenue intersection generated by the closing of McTavish Road on November 30, 2009

MOVED AND SECONDED

That correspondence, on letterhead with all four logos, be submitted to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure requesting the installation of a pedestrian overpass at the intersection of Beacon Avenue and the Patricia Bay Highway, to be signed by representatives from the District of Central Saanich, District of North Saanich, Town of Sidney, and Tsawout First Nation, with a copy to the Honourable Murray Coell, MLA.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- c) Technical Support to Steering Committee (Engineering Staff /External Consultant(s))
- The meeting with Mr. Dave Edgar, Transportation Planning Engineer, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, was productive and informative; any additional support could come from the Peninsula's Engineering Staff
 - What new information would a consultant provide? A consultant could be hired at a later date should it be necessary
 - MoT is available for assistance as needed
 - Highway 17 is unsafe by design – strongest argument is safety
 - Need a clear grasp of the technical safety issues
 - Share and pool resources
- d) Administrative / Secretarial Support to Steering Committee
- Mr. Nason advised that Central Saanich would continue to provide Administrative and Secretarial support to the Steering Committee.
- e) Public Input Opportunities to Steering Committee
- North Saanich has had requests from several individual residents asking to speak to the Committee

- Once priorities have been determined Open Houses would be appropriate and useful
- Allow any resident to attend
- Advertise via Website; Notice board; Newsletter
- It would be useful to have input from the Communities; however we should have the priorities completed before an Open House (possibly in March prior to the finalization of the draft)
- Engage the City of Victoria and other communities in the CRD to encourage interest and views; build support
- Suggested that this issue should be discussed by the current four communities, as including other communities may waste time and distract focus
- Advertise at the local Peninsula level (Peninsula News Review)?
- Draft generic advertising for the websites and notice boards
- Possibly install a notice on the highway (sign)

f) Future Meeting(s) with MLA?

- It was agreed that correspondence should be copied to Ministers Murray Coell and Gary Lunn to keep the Provincial and Federal members informed about the Committee and also the Beacon intersection issue.

g) Further Meeting(s) with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure?

- The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure has already made her position clear and it would not be productive to meet with her at this time.
- It may be prudent to have Mr. Edgar back to discuss priorities after the draft report is completed.
- It was agreed to meet with Mr. Edgar after the draft priorities have been completed for his input.

The following points were noted in regards to next steps for this project:

- The four Administrators to meet to discuss the next Steering Committee meeting and engineering information for the next Steering Committee meeting
- Engineering Staff from each community to attend the January Steering Committee meeting to address the following concerns:
 - Safety
 - Clear understanding of conditions prior to the McTavish interchange implementation
 - Traffic volume counts
 - MoT's design standards
- Notice of the next Steering Committee meeting, Minutes of past meetings, and an invitation for public input opportunities to be posted on the District's website, as well as the websites of North Saanich, Sidney and Tsawout First Nation.
- District of Central Saanich to coordinate the signing and forwarding to the Ministry of the letter on the Beacon Avenue intersection
- After the letter is sent to MoT, the District of Central Saanich to organize a meeting of the three Mayors and Chief with Ministers Murray Coell and Gary Lunn

Chief Claxton advised that although safety and design of the highway are important, there is still an issue of bad drivers on the highway.

Date / Time / Location of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Steering Committee would be held on Thursday, January 21, 2010, at the North Saanich Municipal Hall at 2:00 p.m.

Other Business

Chief Claxton advised that the Tsawout First Nation has a preliminary plan for an access road from the Tsawout reserve, abutting the highway, to Island View Road.

Mr. Nick May, Consultant for the Tsawout First Nation, gave a detailed overview of a conceptual drawing for a proposed road through the western edge of the Heritage Acres property along the bike lane, to allow access to a proposed commercial development in the south west area of the Tsawout reserve, and responded to questions from members of the Committee.

Adjournment

On motion, the Highway 17 Joint Peninsula Steering Committee held on November 19, 2009, adjourned at 3:40 p.m.