



PENINSULA COMMITTEE TASK FORCE

Thursday May 28, 2009
Central Saanich Fire Training Centre
1903 Mount Newton Cross Road

MINUTES

Members: **District of North Saanich**
Mayor Alice Finall
Councillor Cairine Green
Bruce Williams, CAO

Town of Sidney:
Mayor Larry Cross
Councillor Steve Price
Murray Clarke, CAO

District of Central Saanich
Mayor Jack Mar
Councillor Terry Siklenka
Gary Nason, CAO
Janet Veld, Recorder

In attendance by Invitation
District of Saanich
Mayor Leonard
Councillor Leif Wergeland

Tsawout First Nation
Tony Underwood
Gary Jung

1. **Call to Order**
Mayor Jack Mar called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.
2. **Identification and Prioritization of Improvement/Upgrading Projects for Highway 17 (Pat Bay Highway)**

a) **Background to “Joint Task Force” Proposal**

At the last (April 23, 2009) meeting of the Peninsula Committee Task Force there was support in principle for holding another meeting to further discuss the concept of forming a (Tri-municipal) Highway 17 Steering Committee or Task Force, and that representatives from both the District of Saanich and the Tsawout First Nation be invited to attend this meeting to ascertain their possible interest in participation, and to finalize some proposed Terms of Reference.

Discussion began with the name of the Peninsula Committee Task Force. Murray Clarke suggested the Task Force be renamed and it was agreed that "Highway 17 Steering Committee" would be more concise and would be specific to the access, egress, and safety of Highway 17.

b) Confirm Interest and Support for:

- **Proposed Approach**
- **Participation on Task Force**

Gary Nason discussed the benefit of having all four municipalities and the Tsawout First Nation come together to "speak as one voice" to present a co-ordinated, mutually agreed-upon plan for Highway 17 to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Tony Underwood discussed the Tsawout First Nations' long wait for an overpass that had been promised over 20 years ago.

Mayor Leonard expressed Saanich's interest in participating on the Steering Committee as liaison only. Councillors Judy Brownoff and Leif Wergeland currently represent Saanich as liaisons to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. It was decided that Saanich would participate in the Steering Committee as liaison.

Discussion followed about which representatives from each Municipality would participate on, and who would be invited to, the Steering Committee and it was agreed that:

- One member of each of the Councils of:
 - District of North Saanich
 - District of Central Saanich
 - Town of Sidney
 - Tsawout First Nation

In the case of the three Local Government jurisdictions, the Council member may be either the Mayor or a Councillor, and each of the four jurisdictions may also designate an alternate member who may attend the meetings of the Steering Committee.

- Four "Community-at-Large" Representatives from each of:
 - District of North Saanich
 - District of Central Saanich
 - Town of Sidney
 - Tsawout First Nation

The “Community-at-Large” representatives will be selected by the respective governing bodies in a manner as deemed appropriate by each body.

- One Representative from the Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
- Two members of the Municipal Council of the District of Saanich, who shall not be members of the Steering Committee but who may attend meetings of the Steering Committee in a liaison capacity.
- Resource / Pro Tem Only (Not Members of Steering Committee)
 - Chief Administrative Officers and Municipal Engineering Staff from the Four Sponsoring Local Governments / First Nation
 - Secretarial Staff to Arrange Meetings / Record Minutes
 - Technical Staff from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to attend meetings of the Steering Committee on an as requested basis

The mandate of the Steering Committee is to prepare a report on the 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.

c) Terms of Reference for Proposed Task Force

It was agreed that Gary Nason would make amendments to the draft Terms of Reference, based on discussions and decisions made at today’s meeting, and circulate them with minutes from the meeting.

d) Potential Resource Implications

- **Technical and Administrative Support to Task Force**
- **External Consultant(s)?**
- **Participation of Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

It was agreed that potential resource requirements could be discussed at the first meeting of the Highway 17 Steering Committee.

There was discussion around benefits of meeting both with the local MLA, and with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure at the upcoming UBCM Convention in regards to the activities of the Steering Committee. It was agreed to meet and liaise with the local MLA and with his constituency office staff as soon as the Steering Committee is up and running. If considered warranted, the Committee could meet with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure at the 2009 UBCM Convention.

e) Next Step(s)

- **“Who’s Going To Do What” – Division of Responsibilities**
- **Timeline(s) for Next Steps**
- **Timeline for Completion of “Final Deliverable”**

Possible timeline for completion of Final Deliverable resulted in agreement of December 2009. The target date for first meeting is August 2009 and will allow discussion by the Steering Committee on the Terms of Reference, and establish parameters and timelines for future meetings and the process for soliciting technical, agency stakeholder and public input into the process.

At least one public open house will be held and/or other appropriate community consultation and public input opportunities as approved by the four sponsoring Local Governments / First Nations. The Steering Committee will also endeavour to consult, as deemed appropriate, with the Tsartlip, Tseycum and Pauquachin First Nations

3. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

4. Meeting was adjourned by Mayor Jack Mar at 10:14 a.m.