

# HIGHWAY 104 AT ANTIGONISH COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

## MEETING NOTES - MEETING #1 FEBRUARY 19, 2008

Attendees: John Bain  
Alisha Grant  
Hugh MacDougall  
Bill MacFarlane  
Anne-Marie MacKenzie  
Kuli Malhotra  
Mary McCarron  
Ken Proctor  
Len Robertson  
Brian Segal  
Wes Surrect  
Elizabeth Pugh  
Dwayne Cross  
Roger Garby  
Ken Donnelly

Regrets: Frank Gallant

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began with a welcome by Ken Donnelly, Community Liaison Committee Chair. Ken thanked the members for applying for membership on the Community Liaison Committee, and congratulated them on being selected. Ken pointed out that the success of such a committee relies on the community spirit that members bring to the process, and expressed his appreciation for their willingness to take time out from their busy schedules in order to serve on the committee.

The members of the committee and the representatives from Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal then took turns in introducing themselves.

Ken Donnelly stated that the purpose of this first meeting was two-fold. First, the meeting was to serve as an orientation to the committee, its charter, and the scope of work. Second, committee members were to identify a list of issues which would be discussed at future meetings.

### UPDATE ON STATUS OF PROJECT

In order to familiarize CLC members with the current status of the Highway 104 at Antigonish project, project coordinator Dwayne Cross presented an update to the committee.

Dwayne reviewed the alignment of the Highway as approved, and pointed out the order in which specifics works would be undertaken. He used a map to illustrate the two phases of the project, and informed the committee members that in the 2008 construction period work would begin on the structures in Phase 1. Dwayne showed traffic account information and pointed out that more up to date information had just become available and that he would get that information for the committee. **Action: Dwayne Cross**

Dwayne offered to provide the committee with a copy of his PowerPoint presentation. **Action: Dwayne Cross**

Dwayne answered questions from the committee members about the status of the project, including plans for interchanges, intersections, and funding.

Elizabeth Pugh brought committee members up-to-date on the status of the environmental assessment. Elizabeth explained that while the project has received provincial environmental assessment approval, it is not yet been reviewed for federal environmental assessment. This is because the federal environmental assessment was not triggered until there was a commitment of federal funds to the project. Now that the federal funding is committed, the project can proceed to the federal environmental assessment process. Elizabeth noted that there were federal staff involved in the provincial assessment, and that might assist in the timeliness of the federal environmental assessment.

#### **ORIENTATION TO THE PROJECT AND MANDATE OF THE CLC**

Ken Donnelly briefly described the mandate of the Community Liaison Committee. Ken pointed out that the CLC is not a decision-making body, but serves as a liaison between the local community and to the Highway 104 at Antigonish project team. The CLC will identify issues that are important to the community and community members, and bring them to the attention of the project team for consideration, response and potential action. The CLC members have a responsibility to communicate the status of the project to the stakeholders they represent.

#### **DRAFT CLC CHARTER REVIEW**

Committee members reviewed the draft charter and made suggestions:

1. The title "Conflict of Interest" will be changed to "Disclosure and Transparency". The intent of the section remains that committee members will identify any potential interests they might have in particular issues that are being discussed by the CLC.
2. Meetings are to be held in public. Discussion will be among the members of the committee only. Members of the public will be able to make a

presentation to the committee, by contacting the Chair in advance of the meeting.

There was some discussion about decision-making. The discussion was specific to whether the committee would operate by consensus, or by more structured rules of order which would incorporate formal motions and votes. The original intent was that the committee would operate by consensus, and after discussion that was not changed. However, it was noted, that in the event of the committee not being able to come to a unanimous consensus position, the committee may choose to hold a vote in order to resolve an issue and move forward.

There was also discussion about outreach and communication. There was a suggestion that perhaps the committee could develop its own newsletter. Others suggested that it would be more efficient to use existing vehicles to get information out. It was decided that communications would be an issue that would be addressed later.

The issue of insurance for the committee was raised. The concern was that there may be some liability for committee members because of decisions that could be made. After brief discussion, John Bain offered to look into the issue.

**Action: John Bain**

#### **IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION OF ISSUES**

A list of issues to be examined at future meetings was generated by the committee members. The list follows, with the two highest priority issues discussion identified with an asterisk:

1. Signage
2. \* Communication and Awareness
3. Exits, Landscape Design
4. Environmental and Health Impacts
5. Economic Impacts
6. \* Dispute Resolution Policy
7. Gateway Concept, viewplanes
8. Finalising the Charter

#### **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.