

HIGHWAY 104 AT ANTIGONISH COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

MEETING NOTES - MEETING #4
MAY 28, 2008

Attendees: John Bain
Brian Segal
Allan Bond
Hugh MacDougall
Wes Surrect
Anne-Marie MacKenzie
Alisha Grant
Mary McCarron
Dwayne Cross
Philana Dollin
Ken Donnelly
Elizabeth Pugh
Ken Proctor
Brian Storrie
Sheena Sampson
Keith Boddy
Wanda Dwell

Regrets: Rose Julian, Kuli Mulhotra

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND REVIEW

Ken Donnelly welcomed the Community Liaison Committee back for a fourth meeting and introductions were made around the table, as there were a number of TIR representatives present as guests to this meeting. The Committee briefly reviewed the agenda and the meeting notes from the previous meeting. The meeting notes were approved with two discussion points:

1. Liability: One committee member was interested to know when information regarding the liability issue would be brought forward to the committee. *Elizabeth informed the Committee that she was to meet the following week with legal council and would bring the results of this meeting to the following CLC meeting.*
2. Budget: There was a discussion on the budget, including public availability of the budget, budgeting/estimating, the tender process, costing and the provincial budget-setting process. The CLC agreed that the more thorough the information that was provided to them, the more easily decisions made by the province can be explained to constituents. *It was agreed also, that a TIR representative would draw up a 1-pager to explain what factors, beyond cost, are contributing to the decision for the Highway to have an underpass vs. an overpass.*

3. Schedule: One committee member raised the question regarding the broad-level schedule promised by TIR for Highway construction. At a previous meeting Dwayne had agreed to post a broad-level schedule on the CLC website (this would include a disclaimer to qualify the schedule as the “most recent version” and able to change). At this meeting, he notified the Committee that the broad-level schedule will be based on a modified graph for annual cash flow. This graph is not complete and therefore he has been unable to attend to this action item.

SIGNAGE AND EXITS

The primary focus for the discussion around signage and exits was how to reduce the negative impact of moving the highway away from the Town of Antigonish, and to take advantage of opportunities that may arise. There is also concern that there is inadequate signage from Truro to Antigonish to notify travellers that Antigonish is en route to Cape Breton. The CLC was informed that all the same signage that currently exists on Highway 104 will be moved out to the new Highway, and that TIR is working with the Provincial and Local tourism department/bureau to identify any and all services, parks, existing and new features, etcetera that will need to have signage

TIR staff stated that they are in the process of drawing up a schematic of all the signage for the new Highway and that this will be ready to present this fall (most likely September) for discussion and suggestions. TIR is very interested in having the CLC involved in the review process both as a resource and as a liaison to the broader public.

The CLC asked questions and had a discussion around signage and exits, during which time several points were raised:

- Farmers and existing land-owners and their accessibility;
- The CLC would like the opportunity to discuss options for signage/exits, not just to review a finished document (e.g. schematic);
- Signage for Antigonish in the Truro area;
- Details around the Community Signage Program (frequency of signs, responsibility of signs – maintenance/replacement);
- Details around the Corporate Signage Program (cost, use for small businesses, maintenance);
- One suggestion was put forward: that TIR use the internet for advertising signage, as there are many people using the web for trip planning, booking, checking road conditions, etcetera and this could be a possible source of revenue.

ROUNDAABOUTS

Keith Boddy made a presentation to the CLC on roundabouts. The presentation described what they are, the benefits and some basic information on safety, economics, timing of travel, sign design, aesthetics and future considerations. A copy of this presentation will be sent around to the Committee.

Following the presentation, the CLC was given an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion. The questions/discussion focused around the following points:

- Centre island make-up
- Driveway/entranceway guidelines
- Costing
- Maintenance
- Winter conditions
- Land acquisition

The CLC was notified that currently, TIR is considering two roundabouts for each interchange on the new Highway. *Keith offered to return to the CLC once models and drafts have been made for the Antigonish area.*

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Ken has drawn up a schedule for future meeting leading out until the month of November. *If anyone has an issue with any of the dates provided, please contact Ken by email.*

At the June CLC meeting, Ken would like the Committee to discuss whether it is necessary to have a meeting in July and August.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

As part of the EA, it is necessary to develop a Dispute Resolution Policy as a means of dealing with public concern in a civilized manner. Elizabeth presented this policy to the CLC and went through the steps for resolution with the Committee. In addition to following the protocol in the policy, any issues can be brought to the CLC.

MEDIA RELEASE

Ken drafted a Media Release announcing the formation of, and information about, the CLC. A few suggestions were made at the meeting for the improvement of this document. Suggestions included:

- The website to be added in

- RDA to be written out in full

ACCESS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The TCH Access Plan is now available on the CLC website. It is now possible to have a public meeting about the Access Plan. Ken will try to find appropriate dates for a public meeting.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Next month's meeting will take place Wednesday June 18th at 11:00am.