

Highway 104 at Antigonish  
Community Liaison Committee Meeting  
June 29, 2011

**Attendees:**

Trudy Spooner, Ken Donnelly, Dwayne Cross, Roger Garby, Ian McCallum, Ken Proctor, Bill MacFarlane, Heather Mayhew, Melanie Lantz (Project Manager with NSTIR)

**Regrets:**

Hugh MacDougall, Alan Bond, Mary McCarron, Len Robertson, Gerry Grant, Rose Julian, Alicia Grant, John Bain, Debbie Kampen

1. Intro

- Dwayne is on a 6 month contract working for the Central District (HRM, Hants County), but will remain on the Highway 104 project.
- Melanie is a program manager for Highway 104 in Antigonish and for Phase II of Highway 104. She is attending at the invitation of Roger Garby to learn more about what the CLC does.

2. Review of the Open House

- Lightly attended but those who came were very interested and had a lot of comments and suggestions
- The presentations went very well. People were highly engaged in discussions with the CBCL representatives
- The low number of attendants may indicate that there are no burning issues with the highway
- The report from CBCL on the wetland work at Antigonish Landing should be ready soon
- 2 culverts and potentially a small bridge are expected to be constructed this year on the walking path at Atigonish Landing
- The budget for hosting the Open House comes from the overall project budget, not the wetland compensation budget.
- There have been questions in the community about why more of the project money isn't being spent locally (on local consultants, local procurement, etc.).
- **ACTION: Answer the question "Why are wetlands consultants and other work projects not being procured more locally?"**

### 3. Roundabout Education

- In the past TIR has made an effort to provide roundabout education, in particular when the roundabout was near a school or had a high volume of pedestrian traffic.
- To get the word out to the public about roundabout education sessions we can use **radio, print, local newspapers and videos**
- TIR could invite people to a roundabout for a demonstration on how to use them for walking and driving
- If TIR produced a video on how to use roundabouts it could be used province-wide
- Or, it may be possible to use a pre-existing video on how to use roundabouts. This could be placed on the Highway 104 website and town website.

#### *The Roundabout Design*

- The roundabout is going to have grass stone (waffle shaped concrete with grass inside the holes) around the edges in case oversized vehicles need to drive over the middle of the roundabout. Otherwise the roundabout is big enough for all standard size vehicles and trucks
- The Town of Antigonish would like to put decorative items in the middle of the roundabouts. NSTIR indicated that items cannot obscure the view of drivers or provide a distraction
- Other than those 2 points, there are no guidelines produced on what can and cannot go inside a roundabouts, items are reviewed on a case by case basis
- The timing of the traffic lights at the existing intersection of Trunk 7 and the TCH will be reconfigured to facilitate traffic flow after the new highway opens. There will be a few months where traffic might accumulate while people adjust to how to use the roundabout, but this will normalize
- **ACTION: CLC to ask TIR for guidelines on what can go in the middle of a roundabout**
- **ACTION: CLC to put a notice in local paper about what is going to happen with the roundabout, the traffic light coordination and education opportunities**

### 4. Noise

- There have been complaints from the public about night construction
- In late June Nova began 24hr construction
- The noise came from the use of scrapers and trucks

- Stantec did noise testing and the sound was coming in at around 68 decibels, which is compliant with the Town bylaw of remaining below 70 decibels. However, it is still a disturbance for people so changes will be made
- Scrapers will not be used at night; instead it will be a Rock Truck, which makes less noise.
- Also, the trucks will now travel north, further away from the houses
- The 24hr construction may continue for another two to three weeks depending on weather
- It is important to inform the citizens this is happening. They may be able to mitigate the noise within their homes.
- **ACTION: CLC will put information on the radio to tell people about the noise and 24hr construction. Information will also go on the website.**
- **ACTION: Roger to get a schedule for the 24hr construction and give to Bill MacFarlane**
- There is now also concern about how noisy the highway will be once it is constructed
- People can review the EA to see what the noise predictions are. TIR did choose to pave the road with pavement and not use concrete because pavement is less noisy
- The jersey barriers will also mitigate noise from the tires

## 5. Update on Wetlands

### *Wetlands I*

- Wetlands I (at Addington Forks) application for approvals has been submitted and a project engineer has been named. Stantec will be advising on the progress
- Work will be very carefully (which is indicated in the RFP) to ensure that more damage is not done. If there are too many problems then the activities will stop.
- The goal is to fix as much of the damage as possible (reducing the height of the berm)
- The authority to stop remediation if it is too harmful will come from NSE, though the contractor will also be closely monitoring the situation
- The work should take place at the end of September
- Monitoring will be continuous during the work, and a monitoring plan will be created for after the work is complete

### *Wetlands 6 (at Trunk 7)*

- The information in the EA about the amount of wetlands to be disturbed was incorrect. The EA predicted approximately 0.7ha would be disturbed but it will actually be approximately 1.14ha.
- This change is due to an error in calculations by the consultant, not because there have been changes made to the design of the highway.
- The increased number may trigger a HADD from DFO. Ian and Sheena are having a meeting with Nova Scotia Environment to discuss how to deal with this situation.
- More compensation will now be needed to correct for the increased area of wetland disturbed
- The compensation may be done in Phase II, but this is not yet decided or confirmed

#### 6. Miscellaneous

- We should try to keep the meetings to the third Wednesday of every month. It is difficult to keep track of meetings when they change so often. Although, coordinating schedules is a large challenge.
- Attendance lately has not been very high; we should try to increase the level of attendance. Ken will call members and encourage them to come.
- Perhaps we could include someone from the community health field on the CLC. With the roundabouts it may be a good idea.

NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2011 AT 11AM