

Highway 104 at Antigonish  
Community Liaison Committee Meeting  
September 20, 2011

**Attendees:**

Trudy Spooner, Ken Donnelly, Roger Garby, Ian McCallum, Susan Ross, Hugh MacDougall, Alicia Grant, John Bain, Ken Proctor, Anne-Marie MacKenzie, Dwayne Cross, Bill MacFarlane

**Regrets:**

Mary McCarron, Rose Julian, Len Robertson, Gerry Grant

1. Update on Construction

- Construction is ongoing
- Piles for West River Bridge were slow to go in but construction has moved quickly since and the timeline for completion is still on track
- Bridge will be completed by the end of July 2012
- The waterline at Church St. extension is finished
- Most dirt and gravel in this section is done, with a small amount left at Church St. and Trunk 7
- The detour is in place and will last until the end of the Fall, but the roundabout will be completed this year
  - i. The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) is calling a paving tender to open that section of highway – paving should be completed by next year
  - ii. It will take time to acquire the aggregate needed
  - iii. By calling the tender this Fall, aggregate production can take place through the winter
- The paving will go out as one large contract worth approximately \$25M
- The detour for next year is not yet determined
- Signage will be handled by maintenance, but some signage decisions still need to be made.
- TIR is carrying a lump sum contingency budget to deal with signage

2. Phase II

- TIR is looking to call a clearing contract this winter, but they are still deciding what exactly they need to call for

- They will definitely be calling for South River because it will be a 2 year project
- They will change the sequence of construction from the original plan
- It is uncertain what will happen next year, but construction will definitely begin
- Phase II is scheduled to be completed by the Fall of 2014

### 3. Antigonish Landing

- Work is being conducted in the area to armour the banks and clear brush along the road. Crews also mowed an area across the road from the area to be armoured so that rock could be brought in.
- The area must be closed during the work to pedestrian traffic, especially while the excavator is at work
- There have been radio ads and signs to announce the closure but there have been concerns from residents
- Closure should only last two weeks (it is already in progress)
- The Nova Scotia Agriculture College research program on treating Japanese knotweed will be starting soon
  - Students will use different herbicides on test plots
  - Killing Japanese knotweed is extremely difficult. There are problems with it in Point Pleasant Park and throughout Europe
  - In Europe there have been biological controls (bugs that eat the plant) used, but they are not approved in Canada and it may take several years before that becomes available
  - **ACTION: Trudy to acquire the research proposal**
- The CBCL (consultant group) draft plan has been submitted to Nova Scotia Environment, they are now in the process of adding more detail and will resubmit
- Once Nova Scotia Environment has the final report, it will be posted on the CLC website

### 4. Wetlands

#### *Wetland 1 at Addington Forks*

- Regarding the mud wave
  - Test pitting was conducted where they cut into the edge of the mud wave to see the profile
  - A test area was used where top layer of clay was removed and then replaced with a layer of peat.
  - So far the test area has been successful

- The plan is to remove the mud wave and cut away the excess berm, returning the wetland to its original elevation
- A tender will be put together to do the work
- Ian met with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and main wetland work will not happen until next year
- Surplus material (ie. Clay) will go back to the pit where it was excavated for the berm

#### *Wetland 6 (beside Trunk 7)*

- DFO stated that no HADD (remediation required due to altering fish habitat) was necessary because a culvert is in place
- More area compensation will occur at the Antigonish Landing, but as a result phase II of construction will need to find more wetlands for compensation

#### *General*

- It is confusing referring to wetlands by their numbers
- **ACTION: Trudy to find map of wetlands in the Environmental Assessment and bring to future meeting**

#### 5. Roundabout Education Plan

- Roundabout education is important for the Highway 104 project but it is also a province-wide issue
- TIR is going to meet with Communications Nova Scotia to do a province-wide education plan and is looking for suggestions

#### *Suggestions*

- Put information in the tourist brochures, maps, and website
- Have a booth at “Meet the Teacher” night where all the parents congregate
- Put a person in the traffic circle for the first two weeks they are open and have them wave people through
- Get information on radio, print and TV
- Make a video
- Get information out to pedestrians also
- Show on CLC website how the intersection on Trunk 7 will work

#### 6. Gateway Update

- Two separate meetings were held by the RDA with the Town and the County regarding the Final Report

- Concrete priorities developed: Visitor information centre, iconic features to go in roundabouts, and signage
- Alisha has spoken with Keith Boddy and he is open to discussing the decorations inside the roundabouts. She may also work with Paul Colton.
- A meeting will be held on Thursday Sept 22 to develop action committees for each of the priorities. Alisha is in charge of iconic features. Shannon McIntyre will work on signage and Colleen Mitchell is heading the Visitor Information Centre group
- Decisions about what goes in the roundabouts should be made quickly. Whatever goes in there should be installed before the highway opens or else it will be very difficult. Traffic cannot be shut down to do installation after the highway is open.

#### 7. Graffiti

- There is graffiti on the Beech Hill overpass
- Ken Proctor said that the new bridge in the town also has graffiti on it. His group is thinking of putting up a camera to find the culprit(s)
- It is possible to paint the bridges with a coating that makes removal easier, but that is a lot of effort
- Suggestion: Follow the example of the Vancouver Rioters and make any pictures or information about the vandals public

#### 8. Conclusion

- The Chamber of Commerce is hosting a meeting on Sept 21, 2011 to discuss signage on the Highway

NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY October 18, 2011 AT 11AM