

2014 UBCM Minister Meeting



Meeting with Honourable Todd Stone Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure—September 2014

Requested Action

That the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) confirm the following commitments:

- MoTI support for collaborative and cooperative participation in development of the Spallumcheen Transportation Plan that included identifying future infrastructure improvements to the Provincial Highway corridors in the Township;
- MoTI support and financial assistance for implementing short, medium and long term infrastructure improvements to enhance safety and mobility in the corridors; and
- MoTI commitment to early consultation with the Township of Spallumcheen prior to finalizing proposed changes in the highway corridors.

Proposed Solution

In the short-term, there were three specific locations in the Highway 97A corridor where the Township identified safety and mobility concerns although other areas of concern and improvements will likely be identified in the Transportation Plan. McLeod Road intersection was identified as one of those locations:

MCLEOD ROAD:

- McLeod Road intersection with Highway 97A – This intersection provides access to the Township's largest residential neighbourhood. Concerns about safety and wait times at this intersection have been presented to Ministers in the past. These concerns have increased and may to some extent be an unanticipated result of other factors such as the extension of a four lane portion of Highway 97A north of Armstrong and the construction of a protected T intersection at the entrance to Armstrong that may have increased vehicle speeds and eliminated gaps in traffic flow. The Township has proposed for consideration various alternatives to MOTI for intersection improvements such as a protected T intersection, signalization or a round a bout.

The Township advised they were interested in establishing a communication framework with MoTI about changes proposed in the highway corridors. MoTI at the time had increased the maximum speed from 90 km/hr to 100 km/hr for the stretch of Highway 97A in Spallumcheen between Armstrong & Enderby without consulting the Township. This stretch of highway includes the McLeod Road intersection.

Background

The Township has for a number of years raised concerns to the Ministers regarding safety and mobility concerns at a number of intersections in Spallumcheen in the highway 97 and 97A corridors. At the same time certain, highway infrastructure improvements have been undertaken in these corridors.

While the Township acknowledges and appreciates a number of these improvements, in some cases they have had unanticipated and detrimental impacts on safety, mobility and access to and from the provincial highways in other areas such as the McLeod Road intersection.

The Township has recognized its role in working with the Ministry and the need to identify short, medium and long term solutions to safety and mobility in the provincial highway corridors. Therefore rather than approach the Minister on an annual basis with individual concerns, the Township undertook a comprehensive review of the corridors and their impacts on the community. This review, which formed part of the Township's 2014 Community Development (Strategic) Plan, was included as one of Spallumcheen's high priorities i.e., the development of a Spallumcheen Transportation Plan.

The purpose of the Transportation Plan was to develop a plan, in collaboration with the Ministry. The Plan was proposed to identify issues and concerns and potential long term strategies to improve safety, mobility and access to and from the corridors to provide a safe transportation network with reasonable mobility and access, for all users including vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians and transit. Another objective of the Plan was to highlight potential improvements required to support other Township priorities namely the promotion of industrial economic development initiatives and management of growth in Spallumcheen.

The Terms of Reference for the Spallumcheen Transportation Plan were approved by the Township Council in 2014 and a Request for Proposals was prepared to seek a qualified consulting firm to assist in completing the Plan, at an estimated cost of \$50,000 being funded by the Township. Since the Plan study area included provincial highway corridors, the Township invited the participation of MoTI staff who provided input for the terms of reference and participated in the development of the plan. The plan was set to be completed in 2015.