

2017 UBCM Minister Meeting



Meeting with Honourable Claire Trevena

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure—September 2017

Meeting Topic

The Township requested an update from the Ministry of Transportation about the development of the Highway 97A upgrades.

Background

Highway 97A is a major tourist, trade and commuter route. It forms part of the National Highway System, linking the Okanagan Valley to the Trans Canada Highway. The four laning of the Highway 97A corridor is a priority for the Ministry. The segment of Highway 97A through the Township of Spallumcheen between Armstrong and Enderby is the first two-lane cross section of the highway north of Kelowna, making this upgrading project a high priority for the Ministry.

The Ministry is currently completing a planning and preliminary engineering study for a 6.7km section of highway between Landsdowne Road/Powerhouse Road and Stepney Cross Road (Segment 1224 km 14.2 – 20.9) and is currently characterized as a 2-lane, undivided, rural arterial highway.

The purpose of this study is to recommend 4-laning improvement options and access management solutions for Highway 97A between Landsdowne Road/Powerhouse Road and Stepney Cross Road. The study will investigate all feasible options to support the future highway corridor inclusive of highway widening solutions, side road/frontage road requirements as well as the development of an access management strategy to support the future 4-laning. Potential improvement options need to consider engineering feasibility given the constraints, such as Fortune Creek and the ALR.

The key objectives of the study include the following:

- Identify and evaluate risks related to options developed in this assignment. Assess risk in terms of the potential impact on scope, constructability, potential project staging, schedule, and budget.
- Identify potential mitigation strategies and any next steps required to better understand these risks.
- Investigate and recommend a project staging strategy that addresses both the technical needs of the study area and financial obligation of project budget.
- Recommend a “preferred” solution to proceed into preliminary design.

The Township of Spallumcheen has been participating in the Technical Advisory Committee Meetings and is fully supportive of the study and the process completed to date.