

2020 UBCM Minister Meeting



Meeting with Honourable Claire Trevena,
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure—September 2020

Meeting Topics

The Township discussed with the Ministry of Transportation the development of the Highway 97A upgrades and the request to address the McLeod Road access with an interim measure to ensure public safety and a long term solution.

Proposed Solutions

As the construction project has been in the development process for many years the Township requested an interim/permanent measure to ensure the public's access and egress into the McLeod Road/Highway 97 and Pleasant Valley Road/Highway 97 areas of our community. Our master transportation plan has identified issues with traffic operations including high collision history for both these intersections. The plan recommends mitigation to be installed at both these locations to improve safety and mobility.

MCLEOD ROAD:

The Township's residents have realized a fatality at this location which may have been avoidable with safety measures implemented. With the increases in tourism in the region this places additional pressures on communities to find solutions to ensure the safety of the public. The Township understands that the full construction of a safety measure is unlikely but requested that MOTI and the Province consider the request to install a temporary safety measure to ensure public safety.

Background

The four laning of the Highway 97A corridor was a priority for the Ministry. The segment of Highway 97A through the Township of Spallumcheen between Armstrong and Enderby was the first two-lane cross section of the highway north of Kelowna, making this upgrading project a high priority for the Ministry. While the study was still being completed there were still growing safety concerns with specific intersections that access Highway 97.

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

The purpose of this study was to recommend 4-laning improvement options and access management solutions for Highway 97A between Lansdowne Road/Powerhouse Road and Stepney Cross Road. The study investigated 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 needed to consider engineering feasibility given the constraints, such as Fortune Creek and the ALR.

The key objectives of the study included 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 participated in the Technical Advisory Committee Meetings and is fully supportive of the study and the process completed to date.