

Community Liaison Committee

Minutes

Meeting # 8	Location: Video conference (Google Meet)
Date: April 22, 2020	Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Mountain

Members & Alternates		
Alan Ure	RM School District #6	
Atma Sandher	Highway accommodation sector	✓
Betty Watson	RCMP	✓
Brian Weir	BCTA	
Chad Parent	Golden District Rod & Gun Club	✓
Charles Hamilton	CSRD	
Chris Cochran	Town of Golden (A)	
James Acton	Golden Cycling Club	
Jeff Watson	RCMP (A)	✓
Jill Dewtie	Golden Community Social Services Co-op	✓
Joanne Sweeting	Tourism Golden	✓
Jon Wilsgard	Town of Golden	✓
Ken Schroeder	Golden and District Air Quality Committee	
Kyle Hale	Golden & Area Emergency Management	
Marion Eunson	Ktunaxa Nation	✓
Meg Langley	Wildsight	✓
Mike Pecora	Golden Fire Rescue	
Mike Rubenstein	Kicking Horse Mountain Resort	✓
Nick Phillips	Parks Canada	✓
Robert Haney	RCMP	
Ron Oszust	BC Emergency Health Services	✓
Ryan Johannesen	Kicking Horse River Outfitters	✓
Shawn Billy	Shuswap Indian Band	
Steve Jackson	RM School District #6 (A)	
Tess Davies	Kicking Horse Country Chamber of Commerce	✓
Toby Barrett	Kicking Horse Mountain Resort (A)	✓
Treena Coney	Highway accommodation sector (A)	✓

TI Corp/MoTI/Project Team		
Art McClean	Operations Manager, MoTI	✓
Jack Stuelmpel	Communications/Engagement Lead, OE team (facilitator)	✓
Kipp Fennell	Indigenous Relations, MoTI	
Lindsay Parker	A/Associate Project Director, MoTI	✓
Lisa Payne	Associate Project Director, MoTI	✓
Mars Otten-Andrew	Manager, Transportation Planning, OE team	✓
Mike Lorimer	Project Director, TI Corp	✓
Robin Taylor	Environmental Lead, OE team	✓
Tim Stevens	Lead Engineer, OE team	✓

1.	Welcome & introductions	Action by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting participants introduced themselves. 	
2.	Confirmation of agenda	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agenda was adopted as circulated. 	
3.	Previous minutes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous minutes were accepted as circulated. 	
4.	Status of action items	
	<p>a. <u>Emphasize TCH "open" (Jack)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applying advice received from the group at its previous meeting, project messaging has been streamlined and more effort has been made to clarify that driving conditions in spring and summer 2020 will be as normal, and that extended multi-day closures won't occur until spring 2021. Expanded sharing of the project website address has helped to spread the information, and the impact of misleading headlines appears to have been mitigated. While the pandemic is creating new issues, the project team is also collaborating with a Tourism Golden initiative to create an information card for widespread distribution. Tourism Golden also plans a program or session to educate its members/stakeholders on finding and sharing relevant information. Discussions are underway with the ministry's information technology group regarding the possibility of generating a small project status widget that tourism operators might put on their own websites to drive people to the project information page. The group emphasized the value of being able to report progress and additional detail about the project as it proceeds. 	
5.	Project Update and Discussion	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and the project team is monitoring for potential impacts, the project remains on track for a contract award in late summer or early fall 2020, with some construction expected to begin in the fall. The business-to-business session held in Golden on February 26 to introduce Indigenous and non-Indigenous local businesses to the proponents bidding on the Kicking Horse Canyon Project contract was well-attended and well-received, and good involvement is expected for the local community during construction. A similar event, with a focus that extended beyond the highway project, was hosted by the Ktunaxa nation the previous day. Much of the team's recent effort has been in responding to questions from the proponents to clarify expectations and ensure the final contract supports realistic outcomes. There has been significant discussion with proponents about traffic management, as they seek additional closure time to get more daylight hours to meet safety and schedule requirements. While recognizing the legitimacy of the safety concerns, the project team has been reluctant to make major changes to the traffic management outline that resulted from months of consultation with the Liaison Committee, and has been holding firm on keeping the Trans-Canada Highway through the Canyon free of planned interruptions during the daytime in the summer. However, the team is preparing to concede an extra 1-2 hours of closure in the early morning, as long as the highway is reopened by 7 a.m. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent project outreach and engagement has included an information session hosted by the Secwépemc communities in January, and a presentation/meeting with Tourism Revelstoke and its stakeholders in February. The nature of future engagement, including a planned meeting with regional emergency services, will be affected by the pandemic. More use of videoconferencing is expected. As the warmer weather approaches, some crews will be present in the Canyon. While required to practice safe distancing, they will be collecting technical information in and around the project zone. The project team reported that Highway 95 improvements to occur before the start of the Kicking Horse Canyon Project, including the Radium Roundabout, remain on track to be carried out this year. 	
6.	Data sharing with Wildsight	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been some dialogue with Wildsight about data sharing and further follow-up is planned. 	
7.	Round Table: issues, opportunities, considerations	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was reported that there are questions in the community about the certainty of funding and the project moving forward in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as noted in the project update, the project and its funding remain on track. Moreover, the project is considered to have an important role in the economic recovery process. There are lingering concerns over the adequacy of the project's plans for wildlife passage and preventing vehicle-wildlife collisions despite fencing. These concerns will be included in the follow-up dialogue with Wildsight. The Rod and Gun club is still collecting data on collared sheep and plans to report results in June. The project team was reminded that while Kicking Horse Country may be most directly affected by project construction and traffic management, the Trans-Canada Highway is a major gateway service many points further west and this needs to be recognized in the project communications strategy. Ktunaxa Nation is interested in a list of local accommodations taking guests during the pandemic restrictions, as its members will be doing archaeological work in the area. Tourism Golden has such a list, and Jack will provide Marion and Joanne one another's contact information. The group generally felt that the virtual meeting approach worked reasonably well while face-to-face meetings are not possible during the pandemic. 	Jack
7.	Next steps / next meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group agreed the next meeting would occur on a date to be determined, but soon enough to ensure the members are kept in the loop. 	

Notes by Jack Stuempel