

Minutes
Task Force for the Completion of Highway 101
February 17, 2014

Attendees:

Municipality of the District of Digby	Warden Linda Gregory Councillor Maritza Adams Linda Fraser, CAO
Town of Digby	Mayor Ben Cleveland
Municipality of the District of Clare	Warden Ronnie LeBlanc
Also Present	Gordon Wilson, MLA Clare Digby Bonnie Miles-Dunn Manager Highway Planning & Design NS Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal Adam Osborne, Engineer, NS Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal Peter MacLellan, Communication Digby
Regrets	Councillor Mike Bartlett Councillor Dan Hill Tom Ossinger, CAO Town of Digby Connie Saulnier, Municipality of Clare

Welcome & Introductions	Warden Gregory welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Introductions were made
Minutes	Moved and Seconded that the minutes of June 25, 2013 be approved as circulated. Motion Carried CAO Fraser indicated that the committee had met with Deputy Minister Paul LaFleche on July 30 th . Bonnie Miles-Dunn and Adam Osborne were also in attendance at that meeting.

NEW BUSINESS	
Update – Gordon Wilson, MLA	Gordon Wilson, MLA thanked the committee for bringing this issue to the forefront. Mr. Wilson stated that during the election campaign Stephen McNeil made a statement in support of the project. After the election Premier McNeil reiterated the government's support by mentioning the completion of Highway 101 from Digby to Weymouth in the Throne Speech. Mr Wilson stated that he has discussed the issue with Minister Geoff MacLellan, Deputy Minister LaFleche, and had an opportunity to raise the issue with MP Greg Kerr while they were travelling together. The Province has made the commitment and the next step is to get a commitment from the Federal Government. It is vital that this project be included in the negotiations with the Federal Government for the Build Canada Fund.

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	<p>Bonnie Miles Dunn and Adam Osborne are part of the project team that is meeting every two to three months.</p> <p>Mr Wilson suggested that TIR staff produce a check list of what needs to be done so that the committee can have a better idea of the process as well as the timing involved.</p>
Update – Bonnie Miles-Dunn and Adam Osborne	<p>Highlight of Issues discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good progress has been made in the planning process since the meeting in July. This project is no longer dormant. • Ben Whitmore, Engineer & Survey Tech has been working on the “ground” working on a land use plan. This process takes about one to two years to complete and is approximately 65% done. • Planning -> Functional Design (2014) -> Construction Ready by 2017-18 fiscal year • Additional environmental studies will be needed. Last done in 2002 and new regulations will require more studies • As properties come up for sale the province will buy them • Project costs estimated to be in excess of \$ 100 million dollars for the 26 km stretch of highway • Project will be done in phases, which complicates the project and adds additional costs with respect to connecting with the existing highway
New Alignment	<p>The committee reviewed and discussed the maps of the proposed route. Suggestions included the location of a full interchange at the Middle Cross Rd to allow traffic from Digby Neck and Islands to more easily access the new highway. Also Digby is one of the few communities to only have one interchange.</p>
Other Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project needs to be included in the provincial 5 year Capital Plan • BCF needs to be negotiated and commitment from Federal Government secured • Gordon Wilson to raise the issue of a 2nd interchange with government • Task Force to meet at least every 6 months to get updates
Communication Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to report back to the community on the progress • Peter MacLellan to work on a communication to send to the stakeholders who attended the public meetings as well as the general public
Next Meeting	<p>April 7, 2014 @ 12:00 noon — April 15, 2014 @ 12:00 noon</p> <p>TIR Staff to provide the checklist Gordon Wilson to have more detail on the Build Canada Fund</p>
Adjournment	<p>Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm</p>