

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Sea-to-Sky Highway links communities from West Vancouver to Whistler. With its spectacular mountain landscape, the highway presents complex engineering and construction challenges.

British Columbia's Ministry of Transportation is undertaking improvements to the highway between West Vancouver and Whistler to improve its safety and reliability. By 2009 extensive improvements will make travel along the corridor safer for residents, commuters and tourists. To be completed before the Olympics, the highway improvements will serve population growth and economic development in the corridor over the long term as demand increases for resident and visitor travel and goods movement.

Improvements will include highway widening and straightening, improved sightlines, passing lanes and other design innovations to reduce hazards, shorten travel times and increase capacity of the Sea-to-Sky Highway.

The Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project will result in the following:

- 4 lanes Horseshoe Bay to Lions Bay
- 2 lanes Lions Bay to Porteau Cove (3rd lane on rail bed for Olympics)
- 3 lanes from Porteau Cove to Squamish
- 4 lanes within urban Squamish
- 3 lanes from Squamish to Whistler

The estimated capital project cost for the improvement project is \$600 million and will be completed by 2009 to meet population growth and travel demands until 2020, with additional improvements phased in as required over approximately 20 years. The project will create 6,000 new jobs throughout the province as a result of economic activity generated along the corridor, and will increase provincial GDP by \$300 million over the period of 2010 to 2025.

The primary goals for the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project include:

- Safety improvements;
- Reliability improvements;
- Capacity improvements;
- Project completion by 2009;
- Manage traffic flows during construction to minimize disruption and maximize predictability; and
- Complete the project on time and on budget.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Corridor-wide Consultation

Over the last two years, the Ministry of Transportation (MoT) has consulted about the scope of highway improvements with communities, businesses and residents along the corridor. The MoT project team has attended more than 400 meetings. Much of the consultation has complemented various technical

studies undertaken by the MoT on tolling, other route options, and transportation alternatives.

Community Groups have been established along the corridor, including within the Britannia Beach area. The groups are composed of individuals nominated by their organizations who participate in the design review process. The objectives of the work of the community groups are to identify and compare provincial and community needs, issues, goals and objectives.

In addition to these working groups, the MoT conducted a broader-based public consultation that included public open houses and town hall meetings between October 9 – 31, 2002. Further consultation took place in August 2003 as part of the environmental assessment process. Open houses provided information about the project and offered conceptual drawings.

As the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement project proceeds through various design stages and ultimately into construction, communities and key stakeholders will be consulted. The design stages include:

1. Project Definition Consultation
2. Pre-Design Consultation (CURRENT)
3. Preliminary Design Consultation
4. Detailed Design Consultation

PRE-DESIGN OPTIONS PROPOSED FOR THE BRITANNIA BEACH AREA

Pre-Design Consultation

The Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project Team is currently undertaking Pre-Design Consultation. In the overall context of project scope, schedule and budget, communities along the Sea-to-Sky corridor are involved in pre-design consultations to ensure that community objectives are considered as appropriate highway improvements are designed to meet the primary safety, reliability and capacity goals.

The purpose of the Pre-Design consultation is to:

- A. Inform the community and stakeholders about the design options** for improvements to the Sea-to-Sky Highway in the Britannia Beach Section;
- B. Gather input and feedback** regarding the design options for the highway improvements from the community and stakeholders; and to
- C. Summarize community and stakeholders' input** for consideration by the Ministry of Transportation. The Consultation Summary Report will be posted on the project website for consultation participants, the Community Advisory Group, stakeholders and the public.

SAFETY/ACCESS

> Community Issues

- Provide safer entry and exits
- Reduce lengthy delay entering highway during heavy traffic
- Facilitate enforcement to encourage speed reduction
- Safe pedestrian crossing of highway near Main Street
- Improve gateway/amenity signage to improve driver decision-making and traffic calming
- Safe location for bus stop and provide bus shelter

> Benefits/Results

- Consolidate and improve accesses to make entry and exits safer
- Improve deceleration/acceleration lanes and alignment to reduce delays and permit safer vehicle movements through the community
- Provide RCMP enforcement pullouts within community at the 99er Restaurant for northbound traffic and north of Britannia Creek for southbound traffic
- Provide safe pedestrian crossing of highway through new crosswalk at Main Street
- Corridor signage and gateway requirements will be undertaken with community input
- Provide bus stop and bus shelter at Main Street

Key Characteristics of Design Improvements in Britannia Beach:

- (1) Highway improvements include 2 lanes plus new alternating passing lane with wider shoulders for cyclists and disabled vehicles
- (2 and 13) Implement landscape treatments and proposed gateways north and south of the community to support traffic calming objectives, create a sense of arrival in the community, and improve aesthetics
- (3 and 4) Provide a channelized T-intersection and an additional right-out access at the 99er Restaurant
- (5) Temporary widening of the existing highway near Main Street between 99er Restaurant and Britannia Creek to meet the minimum 3-lane requirements during the Olympic period
- (6) Provide a right-in/right-out access to foreshore south of Main Street
- (7) Manage highway speed by implementing landscape and other traffic calming measures along highway at Main Street
- (8) Provide a bus stop and bus shelter at Main Street for northbound and southbound travel
- (9) Consolidate accesses and provide a full movement intersection at Main Street to improve highway safety and mobility



NOISE

> Community Issues

- Reduce noise from heavy traffic

> Benefits/Results

- New pavement surface will reduce noise. Current and projected noise levels are within MoT policy limits
- Traffic calming measures and police enforcement will reduce speed and associated noise
- Improved passing opportunities north and south of the community should reduce driver frustration, speed and noise through the community

ENVIRONMENTAL

> Community Issues

- Protect natural environment
- Enhance highway landscaping

> Benefits/Results

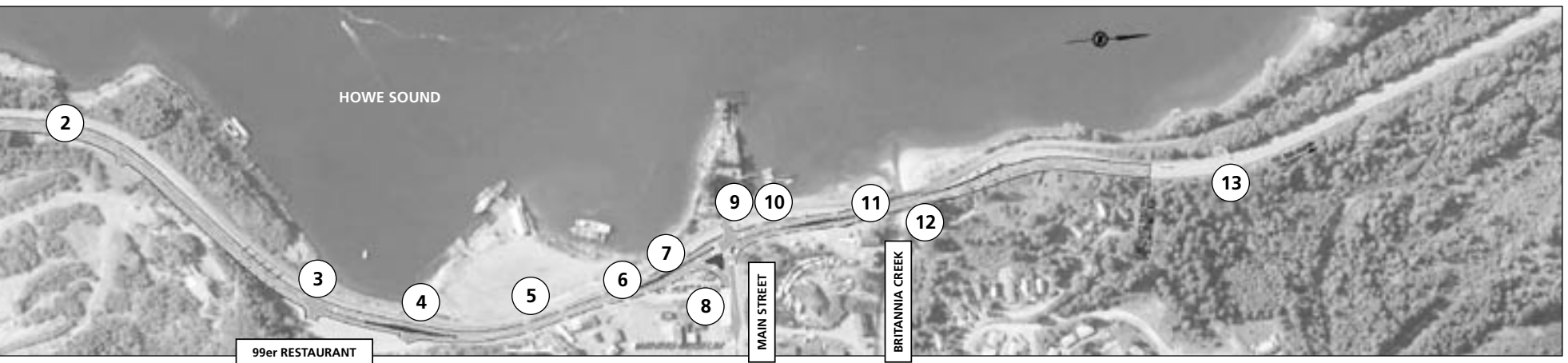
- Minimize fisheries impact at Britannia Creek crossing. Use of existing highway and retaining walls will limit disturbances
- Corridor-wide landscaping design criteria has been developed; specific community feedback will be sought in preliminary and detailed design consultation

- (10) Provide safe pedestrian crossing of highway through new crosswalk at Main Street
- (11) Reduce noise through the use of quiet pavement, traffic calming and RCMP enforcement areas
- (12) Temporary one-lane bridge for northbound traffic (for the Olympic period) over Britannia Creek located to the east of the existing highway

sea-TO-SKY HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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Please complete this feedback form by marking your preference with an "X" in the appropriate box. Space is provided for additional comments.

1. GATEWAY - SOUTH

The Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project proposes to construct a gateway south of the Britannia Beach community. The purpose of the "gateway" is to calm or slow traffic entering the community and to create a sense of arrival. There are several options for the location of this gateway.

Would you like to have a gateway at the southern entrance to your community?

YES NO

There are several options for the location of this gateway. Where would you like the south gateway to be located?

- 400 metres south of the 99er Restaurant.
- At the top of the hill just south of Britannia Beach.
- Some other location. Where?_____

2. GATEWAY - NORTH

The Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project proposes to construct a gateway north of Britannia Beach.

Would you like to have a gateway at the northern entrance to your community?

YES NO

There are several options for the location of this gateway. Where would you like the north gateway to be located?

- 400 metres north of the Britannia Creek Bridge.
- At the top of the hill, north of Britannia Beach, across from the District of Squamish sign.
- Some other location. Where?_____

3. TRAFFIC CALMING

In addition to gateways, we would like to add further traffic calming measures such as banners and landscaping along the highway corridor through Britannia Beach.

Do you support banners and landscaping as part of the highway improvements?

YES NO

4. HIGHWAY TRAFFIC NOISE

Highway traffic noise has been identified as a concern by Britannia Beach residents. Baseline noise levels indicate that the current and projected noise levels are within MoT policy limits.

There are several methods that can be used to reduce noise levels, if necessary. These include traffic calming, the use of quiet pavement and RCMP enforcement areas.

Do you support the use of traffic calming to control speed and to reduce noise?

YES NO

Do you support the use of quiet pavement to reduce noise?

YES NO

Do you support the use of RCMP enforcement to control speed and to reduce noise?

YES NO

5. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

It is possible to include a pedestrian crosswalk at Main Street to allow for safe pedestrian access across the Sea-to-Sky Highway to the foreshore.

Do you support a pedestrian crosswalk as part of the highway improvements?

YES NO

Where is your preference for the location of the pedestrian crosswalk?

- At Main Street
- At some other location. Where?_____

Please include other comments or suggestions regarding highway improvements in Britannia Beach.

Contact Information

Optional: _____
name
phone
mailing address
e-mail