

CONSULTATION REPORT

Kicking Horse Canyon Project

Community Input Open House

March 30, 2005

Prepared by:

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Introduction

A community input open house was held at the Golden Seniors' Centre from 4 pm to 8 pm on March 30, 2005, to display and receive feedback on design concepts for future improvements to the Golden Hill section of the Trans Canada Highway.

The project team was represented by:

Jon Jensen, Project Manager
Darcy Grykuliak, Lead Engineer
Elise Paré, Project Technician
Luke Denton, Project Technician
Alex Izett, Roadway Design/Geometrics Engineer
Kelly Yuzdepski, Senior Transportation Engineer (Phase 3 West)
Jack Stuempel, Stakeholder Relations Representative
Cam Macleod, Property Advisor
Ron Taphorn, Operations & Maintenance Advisor
Starla Weigel, Administrative Assistant

In addition, the MoT Rocky Mountain District was represented by:

Glenn Olleck, District Operations Manager
Art McClean, Area Manager

Design concepts displayed included five alternatives for the Highway 95/TCH intersection (Lower Golden Hill) and two alternatives for Upper Golden Hill.

Publicity and Notification

The public was notified of the consultation opportunity with newspaper and radio advertisements, direct mail, the project website and the Golden Homepage Event Calendar, a community events web page sponsored by CKRA-EZRock. Approximately 165 addressed direct mail invitations were sent to property owners and other stakeholders with an identified interest, with an additional 55 issued by email. While the extended closure of the Golden Post Office due to a noxious chemical incident resulted in the inability to deliver many of the intended invitation letters, personal visits by the project's Property Advisor and follow-up telephone calls ensured a high level of awareness among those whose properties are potentially affected by the improvement concepts.

A media advisory was issued to local media by the MoT Public Affairs office.

Attendance and Results

There were approximately 151 attendees, and there was much discussion with project team representatives. However, relatively few feedback forms were completed. Respondents generally favoured grade-separations over signals for both Lower and Upper Golden Hill, frequently citing the steep grades and winter conditions. Also, as with the open house held January 26, 2005, there was significant interest in accommodation of cyclists, pedestrians and wildlife.

Open House Results Summary		
Total Attendees	Feedback Forms (including post-session responses)	Feedback %
151	15	10%

Feedback at a Glance – Subjects of Interest		
Subject/Opinion	Number of Comments*	% of Total Respondents
<i>-- Lower Golden Hill Options --</i>		
Favour Option C1 (fall-back C2)	1	7%
Favour Option C2	3	20%
Favour Option D	2	13%
<i>-- Upper Golden Hill Options --</i>		
Favour Option 1	9	60%
<i>-- Other --</i>		
Need to accommodate cyclists & pedestrians	5	33%
Wildlife protection (e.g. sheep)	3	20%
Grade & winter conditions on Golden Hill	3	20%
Impact of anticipated growth on North Bench	3	20%
Relationship with Highway 95 through town	2	13%
*Note: Many forms contained multiple comments		

Sustaining Activities/Follow-up

- The Open House panels and fact sheet were posted to the project website on March 31 and April 1, 2005, respectively.
- Preparations are being made to establish a liaison committee for ongoing dialogue with key stakeholders.
- The project website is undergoing minor reorganization and enhancement to:
 - reduce redundancy of information between the MoT and Partnerships British Columbia websites associated with Phase 2 procurement, and
 - improve access to background and design reports.
- The next open house is expected in early fall 2005, to display and obtain input on preliminary designs for Golden Hill, as well as concepts for Phase 2.

Evaluation/Measurement

Attendance

Attendance was significantly (37%) higher than the January 30, 2005 open house. Improved publicity, interest generated by the earlier open house, direct contacts by project representatives and the recent resumption of Phase 1 construction work were all likely factors in the increase.

Media contacts and monitoring

The open house was attended by the editor of the Golden Star newspaper, which featured an article with a graphic in its subsequent edition.

Feedback forms

The rate of feedback forms (including post-session responses) was a surprisingly low 10%, down from the January 30, 2005, session. It had been expected that the presentation of options would generate more comment. However, while there was considerable input, most was delivered verbally. The written feedback appeared to be reasonably representative of the verbal input.