

CLC Meeting Minutes, June 19, 2019

Highway 101 Twinning – Three Mile Plains to Falmouth

West Hants Municipal Chambers – 6 PM to 8 PM

Attendees

Community Liaison Committee (CLC) Members:

Dave Crouchman Shelley Bibby Kathy Kehoe Kathy Munroe (for Randy Hussey)

Liz Galbraith Louis Coutinho Mike Oulton Gail Tupper

Sheldon Hope Martin Laycock Colin Hines Chris Mansky (for Sonja Wood)

Regrets: Sonja Wood, Andrew Sheehy

Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR): Mark Brace, Bob Pett, Justin Tanner, Lyle Russell

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA): Kevin Bekkers

Design Consultants (CBCL): Rick Giffin

Independent Chair: Ken Donnelly

Minutes taken by: Ken Donnelly

1. Introductions

Members of the CLC introduced themselves.

2. Review Agenda

The agenda was approved without change.

3. General Project Update – Justin Tanner

Using a PowerPoint presentation (see Appendix), Justin Tanner provided an update on the overall project.

In April 2019 the Federal Government announced \$32 million in Federal funding under the Disaster Mitigation & Adaptation Fund (DMAF) for the Avon River Aboiteau, Causeway and other improvements to the surrounding dyke system.

This investment will help strengthen the resilience of the dyke system and reduce risks to public safety by protecting the Town of Windsor, Falmouth and surrounding areas from Bay of Fundy coastal flooding.

Overall it is a 5-year project with completion currently planned by Fall 2022. The area between the Windsor Railway and Falmouth Railway crossings (Section 2) will be completed in years 3 to 5 (including the Avon River Aboiteau, Causeway, Interchanges).

Partial infilling for the widening of the causeway is planned to begin later this summer as it will require time for consolidation (settlement) due to soft sediments in the salt marsh.

4. Highway 101 Twinning Construction Update (TIR – Lyle Russell)

Lyle Russell provided an update on construction.

Work Completed to Date:

- Subgrade for Section 1: Highway 101 westbound lanes, from Trunk 14 (Exit 5) to the Windsor Railway Overpass
 - Excavation and fill placement (earthworks) – 3.4 km
 - Drainage work & initial erosion/sedimentation controls
- Bridge Structures at Exit 5 (Trunk 14) and Exit 5A (Wentworth Road) for new westbound lanes
 - Piles, abutments, and girders installations

Work Scheduled for 2019:

- Completion of Section 1 subgrade including drainage works, final excavation/placement, grading, gravels & site stabilization
- Completion of Exit 5 (Trunk 14) & Exit 5A (Wentworth Road) structures including bridge decks, barrier walls, approach slabs, crash blocks and final site clean ups and stabilization
- Subgrade for Section 3: Highway 101 eastbound lanes, from Falmouth Railway Overpass to Existing Twinning – 2.4 km
 - Excavation and fill placement (earthworks), drainage works, grading of subgrade
 - Watercourse realignment
 - Base gravels and final site stabilization
- Bridge Structures at Trunk 1 and Falmouth Railway Overpasses
 - Bridge foundations (pile installation, abutments)
 - Girders, bridge deck, barrier walls, approach slabs, approach gravels, final site stabilization & securement

Future Contracts (2019):

Section 1 Paving:

- Completion of gravels, paving, signage, guardrail, etc.
- Windsor Railway Overpass Structure
- Initial Causeway Widening
 - Infilling/surcharging for new westbound lanes along causeway and dyke system

5. Archaeological Program Update (TIR – Bob Pett)

Bob Pett presented on the Archaeological Program. The presentation was detailed with many photos and maps. The presentation is attached in the Appendix.

6. Avon River Aboiteau and Causeway Upgrading Design Update (CBCL – Rick Giffin)

Justin Tanner provided an update on the aboiteau and causeway. He explained the work being done to plan for the causeway expansion, including the height of the new section, which will act as a dyke based on 100-year flooding and sea level rise expectations.

Justin also updated the committee on showed a graphic which indicated the placement of the aboiteau and described the intention of designing the chosen Hybrid Option D to be flexible enough to achieve current and future goals.

Rick Giffin of CBCL presented on work being done on geotechnical study, including borehole digging, water monitoring and hydrodynamic modelling.

7. Questions/Discussion

Chris Mansky asked about the source of the data being used for modelling. Rick Giffin said it is NOAA data and they are trying to design conservatively. Chris said he believes that the increases in sea level in the New Minas Basin could be smaller than anticipated due to the shape of the basin.

Chris also commented that the Option D design will restrict fish passage whenever the gates are closed and will cause sedimentation build up. Shelly Bibby said that there could be several potential situations that could arise from the design of the aboiteau.

Dave Crouchman asked if a surge pool could be included in the design to assist with fish passage. In response, the consultants said many options are being considered but they are at the study stage and don't yet have answers.

Gail said that Option D was chosen without consultation with the CLC. She said she was concerned that the aboiteau will be a man-made structure, and there are problems with the current man-made structure. She raised a concern about gaspereau being affected and said that the fish study was finding that the gaspereau were not getting through the existing aboiteau.

Resident Darren Porter, who is involved with the fish study, was in the gallery and was granted permission to speak by the members of the committee.

Mr. Porter pointed out that the proposed aboiteau location is placed where he currently is fishing, and it would have a substantial impact on his livelihood.

He stated that there were only 7 gaspereau that were found on the lake side of the aboiteau from April 1 to May 17. Over 900 were caught on the other side of the aboiteau in one hour. This has raised concerns about violations of the lake level protocols.

Kevin Bekkers said DFO is currently investigating the operation of the aboiteau and they are providing information to DFO in full cooperation. He also said they are trying to get as much fish passage as they can with the existing system and expected to have improved fish passage with the new system.

Liz Galbraith said that the new system and management will have to address many community interests and include stakeholders that can address those interests. She also wanted to know why there was no fishing allowed in the St. Croix River, and why Nova Scotia Power is allowed to stop the flow of water. She said that the lake level operations are defined by the community, and that must continue going forward.

Liz Galbraith moved, seconded by Mike Oulton, that Darren Porter be welcomed back as a member of the committee. Mr. Porter said he would like to return to the committee. The motion was passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Appendix – Presentation Slides