

Guest List - Transportation Action Plan Highway 16 - Dec 14, 2015

RSVP	First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization	Email
Yes	Yousuf	Ali	VP Special Projects	First Nations Health Authority	Yousuf.Ali@fnha.ca
No	Penny	Anguish	Chief Operating Officer	Northern Health	Penny.anguish@northernhealth.ca
	Penny	Anguish	Chief Operating Officer, North West and Chief Nurse Exe	Northern Health	Penny.Anguish@northernhealth.ca
	Jordan	Bell	Chief of Staff	MOTI	Jordan.Bell@gov.bc.ca
Yes	Deborah	Bowman	ADM, Transportation Policy and Programs	MOTI	Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca
No	Patricia	Boyle	ADM, Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch	JAG	Patricia.Boyle@gov.bc.ca
	Shane	Brienen	Mayor	District of Houston	mayor@houston.ca
	Warren	Clarmont	Team Leader, Partnerships and Business Development	BCAAFC	Wclarmont@bcaafc.com
	Monica	Cox	Director, First Nations Social and Cultural Policy	MARR	Monica.Cox@gov.bc.ca
	Nicole	Cross	Regional Director, Northern Region, Regional teams	FNHA	Nicole.Cross@fnha.ca
Yes	Chastity	Davis	Chair, Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women	MACAW	s.22
	Raz	Diacu	Executive Assistant	MOTI	Raz.Diacu@gov.bc.ca
Yes	Beverley	Dicks	ADM, Children and Family Development	MCFD	Berverly.Dicks@gov.bc.ca
	Lauren	Dobell	Director of Strategic Partnerships and Advocacy	Van City	Lauren_Dobell@vancity.com
Yes	Sandy	Evans	Manager, Passenger Transportation Policy	MOTI	Sandy.Evans@gov.bc.ca
Yes	Greg	Gilks	Executive Director, Transportation Policy and Programs	MOTI	Greg.Gilks@gov.bc.ca
	Wanda	Good	Deputy Chief Council	Gitanyow	wanda.good@health.gitanyow.com
	Richard	Jock	Chief Executive Officer	First Nations Health Authority	Richard.Jock@fnha.ca
	Paul	Lacerte	Executive Director	BCAAFC	Placerte@bcaafc.com
	Jamie	Lipp	Director, Community Programs	JAG	Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca
	Rob	MacDougall	Mayor	District of Fort St. James	mayor@fortstjames.ca
Yes	John	Mah	VP Health Benefits	First Nations Health Authority	
	Grant	Main	Deputy Minister	MOTI	Grant.Main@gov.bc.ca
No	Brian	Mairs	Regional Health Liaison (Northwest), Regional teams	FNHA	Brian.Mairs@fnha.ca
	Michael	McMillan	Chief Operating Officer, Northern Interior	Northern Health	Michael.McMillan@northernhealth.ca
	Reg	Mueller	Representative	Saik'uz First Nation	muellerr1@cnc.bc.ca
Yes	Laurel	Nash	ADM, Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Division	MARR	Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca
Yes	Jodi	Newnham	Senior Manager, Aboriginal Relations	MOTI	Jodi.Newnham@gov.bc.ca
No	Arlene	Paton	ADM, Population and Public Health	MOH	Arlene.Paton@gov.bc.ca

Yes	John	Rustad	Minister	MARR	John.Rustad@gov.bc.ca
	Kit	Sauder	Ministerial Assistant	MOTI	Kit.Sauder@gov.bc.ca
Yes	Meghan	Saunders	Utility Project Analyst	MOTI	Meghan.Saunders@gov.bc.ca
Yes	Todd	Stone	Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure	MOTI	Todd.Stone@gov.bc.ca
Yes	Luke	Strimbold	Mayor	Village of Burns Lake	mayor@burnslake
	Mary	Teegee	Executive Director, Child & Family Services	Carrier Sekani Family Services	Mary@csfs.org
No	Cathy	Ulrich	Chief Executive Officer	Northern Health	Cathy.Ulrich@northern.health.ca
Yes	Lorna	Williams	Member, Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women	MACAW	s.22
	Brenda	Wilson	Coordinator	Carrier Sekani Family Services	Brenda@csfs.org



The Honourable Todd Stone

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

and

The Honourable John Rustad

Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

invite you to attend an important announcement regarding
the Transportation Action Plan for Highway 16.

12:40 p.m.

Monday, December 14, 2015

Hemlock room
Parliament Buildings
501 Belleville Street
Victoria, B.C.

Please RSVP to Deb Brendeland, Manager, Event Services
Deb.Brendeland@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan
Providing Safe Transportation Options

Location: Hemlock Room
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.

Date: Monday, Dec 14, 2015

Time: 12:40 p.m.

Time	Event Itinerary
11:00 a.m.	Deb Brendeland arrives onsite for event set up with AV specialists
12:20 p.m.	Media Relations: Karen van Marum Photographer: Don Craig
12:25 p.m. Pre-brief	Pre-brief with stage guests, led by Deb Brendeland Location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Todd Stone • Minister John Rustad (Emcee) • John Mah, VP of Health Benefits, First Nations Health Authority • Luke Strimbold, Mayor of Burns Lake • Chastity Davis, Chair of Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women
12:40 p.m.	Stage guests move to event area
12:40 p.m.	MC Rustad welcomes everyone, introduces stage guests and invites Minister Stone to the podium
12:41 p.m.	Minister Stone delivers remarks
12:46 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks Minister Stone and invites John Mah to the podium
12:46 p.m.	John Mah delivers remarks
12:49 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks John Mah and invites Mayor Strimbold to the podium
12:49 p.m.	Mayor Strimbold delivers remarks
12:52 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks Mayor Strimbold and invites Chastity Davis to the podium
12:52 p.m.	Chastity Davis delivers remarks
12:55 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks Chastity Davis, makes closing remarks and invites Minister Stone to take questions from the podium.
12:57 p.m.	Media availability from the podium.
1:07 p.m.	Stage guests gather for a group photo around posterboard. PHOTO-OP
1:10 p.m.	Event concludes

NOTE: There will be a dial-in for outside media

DEB BRENDELAND - CELL: s.22
MANAGER, EVENT SERVICES

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015TRAN0179-002092
Dec. 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

VICTORIA – The B.C. government has unveiled a new \$3-million plan to enhance transportation safety along the Highway 16 corridor from Prince Rupert to Prince George.

The plan consists of five actions the government will take to improve access to transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor and enable residents of First Nations communities and municipalities to travel safely to and from rural towns and villages along the corridor.

The five point action plan consists of:

- **\$1.6 million over 2 years for transit expansion:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to extend or enhance BC Transit services to better connect communities.
- **\$750,000 over 3 years for a community transportation grant program to purchase and operate vehicles:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to support community-based transportation programs operated by First Nations, local governments or non-profit organizations.
- **\$150,000 over 3 years for a First Nations driver education program:** These new funds will build upon the current driver training/education program to increase the number of Class 4 and Class 5 drivers in First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor.
- **\$500,000 over 2 years for highway infrastructure safety improvements including webcams and transit shelters:** These new funds will enable the ministry to increase the number of webcams on the highway and the frequency of photographs taken at these spots. New transit shelters will be built in communities that will be receiving new or expanded transit service.
- **Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services:** The ministry will work to increase coordination of existing transportation services through BC Transit, Northern Health, not for profit organizations and private service providers including efforts to better synchronize schedules and expand user eligibility criteria.

The ministry has appointed a new ten-person Highway 16 Transportation Advisory Group to oversee implementation of the action plan and ensure that the actions address the input received at the transportation symposium. The advisory group will report to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and will be meeting over the months of January and February to review the specifics of the action plan and ensure it is implemented consistent with the input the ministry received at a recent transportation symposium held in Smithers.

Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory group to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for all of the new funding. Once this work is complete, the ministry will reach out to First Nations communities and municipalities to

let them know how they can apply for the grant funding. By partnering with municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.

On Nov. 24, 2015, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the First Nations Health Authority co-hosted a transportation symposium in Smithers to engage with First Nations leadership, community members and local government representatives to help identify safe, practical and sustainable transportation options for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. Over 90 participants attended the forum, which was a big step forward in creating a safer environment for people living in communities along the nearly 800 km stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George. The ideas, recommendations and feedback from the transportation symposium were used to develop the foundation of the \$3-million action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.

Today's announcement builds on the \$5.2 million annual investment that the B.C. government makes towards transit services in communities along Highway 16, and is expected to connect communities not currently serviced by local transit service along the corridor.

Quotes:

Todd Stone, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister –

"We have committed to provide safe, practical and sustainable transportation services for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. And today, we are unveiling a five point action plan for safe transportation options along the corridor. There is no one size fits all approach to addressing the challenges along the corridor and this action plan provides flexibility for communities to determine how to best apply new funding to meet their specific needs."

Shane Gottfriedson, Regional Chief, BC Assembly of First Nations –

"Following the November 24th transportation symposium to engage First Nations and others in developing solutions for those at risk who travel along Highway 16, I am encouraged to hear of the much needed investment into an improved transportation system and an action plan to ensure that there is improved safety and security for our citizens when travelling. As the national lead for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, I am heartened to hear of this important first step to take action on the safety and transportation for our brothers and sisters of the north.

"I am pleased that the B.C. government and Minister Todd Stone have finally moved on a central recommendation from the Wally Oppal 2012 Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. It is imperative that indigenous women do not continue to face the fear and the risk of violence when they travel and I look forward to working in partnership with the advisory group, and the Government of B.C. to ensure that First Nations are fully engaged and supported as the action plan is implemented."

Mike Morris, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General –

"These changes are all focused on bringing safety benefits to the people living in northern towns and First Nations communities located along the Highway 16 corridor. As a former police officer, I have spent my career focused on preventing crime and enhancing public safety. This

action plan will help those efforts by creating new, safe and accessible transport services, increasing safety for people living in the north, and in particular, for women and teenage girls.”

John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation –

“I attended the transportation symposium on November 24th, and many great ideas were put forward and discussed during that forum, by members from First Nations communities and municipalities along the corridor. The main thing that we heard was the need for a more cohesive, inter-connected transportation system, to enhance safety along Highway 16, and to enable people to travel safely between communities. This new transportation action plan is responding to this need. The five actions will address the transportation challenges by introducing practical, safe transportation solutions for those living in communities along the corridor.”

Richard Jock, chief operating officer, First Nations Health Authority –

“We are encouraged by the action taken so quickly after the forum and by the substantial investment announced today. The FNHA looks forward to working with First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to enact this action plan and remove barriers to reliable and safe transportation options along the Highway 16 corridor.”

Luke Strimbold, mayor of Burns Lake –

“I am honoured to be a part of the ten person advisory group, and I will be happy to work on this council to ensure that the transportation services reflect what was recommended at the recent transportation symposium in Smithers. Highway 16 is an extremely important corridor and it links many rural communities in Northern B.C., including Burns Lake. I believe that the five transportation actions outlined today will help to create safer connections for people living in rural communities along the corridor, connecting them to their families, friends, and local services.”

Chastity Davis, chair of Minister’s Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women –

“The Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women is committed to working in partnership with the B.C. government on our collective goals to develop the necessary support systems to address the risks and violence that many Aboriginal women and their children are exposed to, and this includes the risks for women hitchhiking along Highway 16. Today’s transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor outlines five steps that were informed by First Nation communities through consultation efforts of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority. Our hope is that the five steps that are outlined today will directly benefit Aboriginal women and girls in the north, by creating safe and accessible transportation systems such as expanded transit and community-based transportation.”

Shirley Bond, MLA Prince George-Valemount –

“This action plan will help improve safety and transportation options for those who live along the Highway 16 corridor, helping provide them with practical and sustainable services. It is built on a foundation of collaboration, using the input received from the recent Highway 16

Transportation Symposium to ensure that the voices of municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations are heard.”

Learn More:

For a summary of proceedings from the transportation symposium, go to:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/passenger-travel/highway-16-corridor-transportation-services/pdfs/151124-northern-transportation-symposium-summary.pdf>

A backgrounder follows.

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release
2015TRAN0179-002092
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Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

New advisory group established

The new ten-member advisory group has been established.

The members of the advisory group are:

1. **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (chair):** Deborah Bowman, assistant deputy minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
2. **First Nations representative:** Wanda Good, Deputy Chief Council, Gitanyow
3. **First Nations representative:** Reg Mueller, Saik'uz First Nation
4. **First Nations Health Authority:** Richard Jock, chief operating officer, First Nations Health Authority
5. **Highway of Tears Initiative:** Mary Teegee, Highway of Tears Initiative and executive director of child and family services at Carrier Sekani Family Services
6. **Local government representative:** Rob MacDougall, mayor of District of Fort St. James
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- **\$750,000 over 3 years for a community transportation grant program to purchase and operate vehicles:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to support community-based transportation programs operated by First Nations, local governments or non-profit organizations.
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- **\$500,000 over 2 years for highway infrastructure safety improvements including webcams and transit shelters:** These new funds will enable the ministry to increase the number of webcams on the highway and the frequency of photographs taken at these spots. New transit shelters will be built in communities that will be receiving new or expanded transit service.
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Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory group to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for all of the new funding. Once this work is complete, the ministry will reach out to First Nations communities and municipalities to

let them know how they can apply for the grant funding. By partnering with municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.

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Today's announcement builds on the \$5.2 million annual investment that the B.C. government makes towards transit services in communities along Highway 16, and is expected to connect communities not currently serviced by local transit service along the corridor.

Quotes:

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Learn More:

For a summary of proceedings from the transportation symposium, go to:

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A backgrounder follows.

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release
2015TRAN0179-002092
Dec. 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

New advisory group established

The new nine-member advisory group has been established.

The members of the advisory group are:

1. **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (chair):** Deborah Bowman, assistant deputy minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
2. **First Nations representative:** Wanda Good, Deputy Chief Council, Gitanyow
3. **First Nations representative:** Reg Mueller, Saik'uz First Nation
4. **First Nations Health Authority:** Richard Jock, chief operating officer, First Nations Health Authority
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B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

VICTORIA – The B.C. government has unveiled a new \$3-million plan to enhance transportation safety along the Highway 16 corridor from Prince Rupert to Prince George.

The plan consists of five actions the government will take to improve access to transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor and enable residents of First Nations communities and municipalities to travel safely to and from rural towns and villages along the corridor.

The five point action plan consists of:

- **\$1.6 million over 2 years for transit expansion:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to extend or enhance BC Transit services to better connect communities.
- **\$750,000 over 3 years for a community transportation grant program to purchase and operate vehicles:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to support community-based transportation programs operated by First Nations, local governments or non-profit organizations.
- **\$150,000 over 3 years for a First Nations driver education program:** These new funds will build upon the current driver training/education program to increase the number of Class 4 and Class 5 drivers in First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor.
- **\$500,000 over 2 years for highway infrastructure safety improvements including webcams and transit shelters:** These new funds will enable the ministry to increase the number of webcams on the highway and the frequency of photographs taken at these spots. New transit shelters will be built in communities that will be receiving new or expanded transit service.
- **Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services:** The ministry will work to increase coordination of existing transportation services through BC Transit, Northern Health, not for profit organizations and private service providers including efforts to better synchronize schedules and expand user eligibility criteria.

The ministry has appointed a new ten-person Highway 16 Transportation Advisory Group to oversee implementation of the action plan and ensure that the actions address the input received at the transportation symposium. The advisory group will report to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and will be meeting over the months of January and February to review the specifics of the action plan and ensure it is implemented consistent with the input the ministry received at a recent transportation symposium held in Smithers.

Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory group to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for all of the new funding. Once this work is complete, the ministry will reach out to First Nations communities and municipalities to

let them know how they can apply for the grant funding. By partnering with municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.

On Nov. 24, 2015, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the First Nations Health Authority co-hosted a transportation symposium in Smithers to engage with First Nations leadership, community members and local government representatives to help identify safe, practical and sustainable transportation options for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. Over 90 participants attended the forum, which was a big step forward in creating a safer environment for people living in communities along the nearly 800 km stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George. The ideas, recommendations and feedback from the transportation symposium were used to develop the foundation of the \$3-million action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.

Today's announcement builds on the \$5.2 million annual investment that the B.C. government makes towards transit services in communities along Highway 16, and is expected to connect communities not currently serviced by local transit service along the corridor.

Quotes:

Todd Stone, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister –

"We have committed to provide safe, practical and sustainable transportation services for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. And today, we are unveiling a five point action plan for safe transportation options along the corridor. There is no one size fits all approach to addressing the challenges along the corridor and this action plan provides flexibility for communities to determine how to best apply new funding to meet their specific needs."

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"Following the November 24th transportation symposium to engage First Nations and others in developing solutions for those at risk who travel along Highway 16, I am encouraged to hear of the much needed investment into an improved transportation system and an action plan to ensure that there is improved safety and security for our citizens when travelling. As the national lead for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, I am heartened to hear of this important first step to take action on the safety and transportation for our brothers and sisters of the north.

"I am pleased that the B.C. government and Minister Todd Stone have finally moved on a central recommendation from the Wally Oppal 2012 Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. It is imperative that indigenous women do not continue to face the fear and the risk of violence when they travel and I look forward to working in partnership with the advisory group, and the Government of B.C. to ensure that First Nations are fully engaged and supported as the action plan is implemented."

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"These changes are all focused on bringing safety benefits to the people living in northern towns and First Nations communities located along the Highway 16 corridor. As a former police officer, I have spent my career focused on preventing crime and enhancing public safety. This

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“I attended the transportation symposium on November 24th, and many great ideas were put forward and discussed during that forum, by members from First Nations communities and municipalities along the corridor. The main thing that we heard was the need for a more cohesive, inter-connected transportation system, to enhance safety along Highway 16, and to enable people to travel safely between communities. This new transportation action plan is responding to this need. The five actions will address the transportation challenges by introducing practical, safe transportation solutions for those living in communities along the corridor.”

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“The Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women is committed to working in partnership with the B.C. government on our collective goals to develop the necessary support systems to address the risks and violence that many Aboriginal women and their children are exposed to, and this includes the risks for women hitchhiking along Highway 16. Today’s transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor outlines five steps that were informed by First Nation communities through consultation efforts of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority. Our hope is that the five steps that are outlined today will directly benefit Aboriginal women and girls in the north, by creating safe and accessible transportation systems such as expanded transit and community-based transportation.”

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Bowness, Lisanne GCPE:EX

From: Bowness, Lisanne GCPE:EX
Sent: 10 Dec 2015 16:20:15 -0800
To: Brendeland, Deb GCPE:EX
Cc: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX; Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Subject: Approved: Invitation and guest list
Attachments: Invitation TRANS Dec 14, 2015.doc, Guest List - Action Plan .xls
Hi Deb:

We added John Rustad to the invitation at the request of our Min Office

Here is the approved invitation and guest list - good to go out with invites – thank you!

*Lisanne Bowness
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Desk: 250-387-5710
Mobile: 250-889-1336*



The Honourable Todd Stone

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

and

The Honourable John Rustad

Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

invite you to attend an important announcement regarding
the Transportation Action Plan for Highway 16.

1:15 p.m.
Monday, December 14, 2015

Reception Hall
Parliament Buildings
501 Belleville Street
Victoria, B.C.

Please RSVP to Deb Brendeland, Manager, Event Services
Deb.Brendeland@gov.bc.ca

Guest List - Transportation Action Plan Highway 16 - Dec 14, 2015

RSVP	First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization	Email
	Chastity	Davis	Chair, Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women	MACAW	s.22
	Lorna	Williams	Member, Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women	MACAW	s.22
	Paul	Lacerte	Executive Director	BCAAFC	Placerte@bcaafc.com
	Warren	Clarmont	Team Leader, Partnerships and Business Development	BCAAFC	Wclarmont@bcaafc.com
	Rob	MacDougall	Mayor	District of Fort St. James	mayor@fortstjames.ca
	Luke	Strimbold	Mayor	Village of Burns Lake	mayor@burnslake
	Wanda	Good	Deputy Chief Council	Gitanyow	wanda.good@health.gitanyow.com
	Mary	Teegee	Executive Director, Child & Family Services	Carrier Sekani Family Services	Mary@csfs.org
	Brenda	Wilson	Coordinator	Carrier Sekani Family Services	Brenda@csfs.org
	Cathy	Ulrich	Chief Executive Officer	Northern Health	Cathy.Ulrich@northern.health.ca
	Penny	Anguish	Chief Operating Officer	Northern Health	Penny.anguish@northernhealth.ca
	Nicole	Cross	Regional Director, Northern Region, Regional teams	FNHA	Nicole.Cross@fnha.ca
	Brian	Mairs	Regional Health Liaison (Northwest), Regional teams	FNHA	Brian.Mairs@fnha.ca
	Meghan	Saunders	Utility Project Analyst	MOTI	Meghan.Saunders@gov.bc.ca
	Greg	Gilks	Executive Director, Transportation Policy and Programs	MOTI	Greg.Gilks@gov.bc.ca
	Sandy	Evans	Manager, Passenger Transportation Policy	MOTI	Sandy.Evans@gov.bc.ca
	Jodi	Newnham	Senior Manager, Aboriginal Relations	MOTI	Jodi.Newnham@gov.bc.ca
	Todd	Stone	Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure	MOTI	Todd.Stone@gov.bc.ca
	Jordan	Bell	Chief of Staff	MOTI	Jordan.Bell@gov.bc.ca
	Kit	Sauder	Ministerial Assistant	MOTI	Kit.Sauder@gov.bc.ca
	Richard	Jock	Chief Executive Officer	First Nations Health Authority	Richard.Jock@fnha.ca
	Yousuf	Ali	VP Special Projects	First Nations Health Authority	Yousuf.Ali@fnha.ca
	Grant	Main	Deputy Minister	MOTI	Grant.Main@gov.bc.ca
	Deborah	Bowman	ADM, Transportation Policy and Programs	MOTI	Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca
	Laurel	Nash	ADM, Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Division	MARR	Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca
	Monica	Cox	Director, First Nations Social and Cultural Policy	MARR	Monica.Cox@gov.bc.ca
	Jamie	Lipp	Director, Community Programs	JAG	Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca
	Arlene	Paton	ADM, Population and Public Health	MOH	Arlene.Paton@gov.bc.ca
	Beverley	Dicks	ADM, Children and Family Development	MCDF	Beverly.Dicks@gov.bc.ca

Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

From: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Sent: 14 Dec 2015 13:18:33 -0800
To: 'dirk.meissner@thecanadianpress.com'
Cc: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Subject: B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation
Attachments: 2015TRAN0179-002092.pdf
Dirk – here is the NR regarding today's announcement.

Best,

Trish

Trish Rorison | Communications Manager
Government Communications & Public Engagement
B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Telephone: 250.356.7707 | Mobile: 250.580.6723 | email: trish.rorison@gov.bc.ca

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“The Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women is committed to working in partnership with the B.C. government on our collective goals to develop the necessary support systems to address the risks and violence that many Aboriginal women and their children are exposed to, and this includes the risks for women hitchhiking along Highway 16. Today’s transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor outlines five steps that were informed by First Nation communities through consultation efforts of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority. Our hope is that the five steps that are outlined today will directly benefit Aboriginal women and girls in the north, by creating safe and accessible transportation systems such as expanded transit and community-based transportation.”

Shirley Bond, MLA Prince George-Valemount –

“This action plan will help improve safety and transportation options for those who live along the Highway 16 corridor, helping provide them with practical and sustainable services. It is built on a foundation of collaboration, using the input received from the recent Highway 16

Transportation Symposium to ensure that the voices of municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations are heard.”

Learn More:

For a summary of proceedings from the transportation symposium, go to:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/passenger-travel/highway-16-corridor-transportation-services/pdfs/151124-northern-transportation-symposium-summary.pdf>

A backgrounder follows.

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release
2015TRAN0179-002092
Dec. 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

New advisory group established

The new ten-member advisory group has been established.

The members of the advisory group are:

1. **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (chair):** Deborah Bowman, assistant deputy minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
2. **First Nations representative:** Wanda Good, Deputy Chief Council, Gitanyow
3. **First Nations representative:** Reg Mueller, Saik'uz First Nation
4. **First Nations Health Authority:** Richard Jock, chief operating officer, First Nations Health Authority
5. **Highway of Tears Initiative:** Mary Teegee, Highway of Tears Initiative and executive director of child and family services at Carrier Sekani Family Services
6. **Local government representative:** Rob MacDougall, mayor of District of Fort St. James
7. **Local government representative:** Luke Strimbold, mayor of Burns Lake
8. **Local government representative:** Shane Brienens, mayor of Houston
9. **Local government representative:** Carol Leclerc, mayor of Terrace.
10. **Northern Health Authority:** Penny Anguish, chief operating officer, North West and chief nurse executive

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

Page 040 to/à Page 041

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.3

Guest List - Transportation Action Plan Highway 16 - Dec 14, 2015

RSVP	First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization	Email
	Chastity	Davis	Chair, Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women	MACAW	s.22
	Lorna	Williams	Member, Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women	MACAW	s.22
	Paul	Lacerte	Executive Director	BCAAFC	Placerte@bcaafc.com
	Warren	Clarmont	Team Leader, Partnerships and Business Development	BCAAFC	Wclarmont@bcaafc.com
	Rob	MacDougall	Mayor	District of Fort St. James	mayor@fortstjames.ca
	Luke	Strimbold	Mayor	Village of Burns Lake	mayor@burnslake
	Wanda	Good	Deputy Chief Council	Gitanyow	wanda.good@health.gitanyow.com
	Mary	Teegee	Executive Director, Child & Family Services	Carrier Sekani Family Services	Mary@csfs.org
	Brenda	Wilson	Coordinator	Carrier Sekani Family Services	Brenda@csfs.org
	Cathy	Ulrich	Chief Executive Officer	Northern Health	Cathy.Ulrich@northern.health.ca
	Penny	Anguish	Chief Operating Officer	Northern Health	Penny.anguish@northernhealth.ca
	Nicole	Cross	Regional Director, Northern Region, Regional teams	FNHA	Nicole.Cross@fnha.ca
	Brian	Mairs	Regional Health Liaison (Northwest), Regional teams	FNHA	Brian.Mairs@fnha.ca
	Meghan	Saunders	Utility Project Analyst	MOTI	Meghan.Saunders@gov.bc.ca
	Greg	Gilks	Executive Director, Transportation Policy and Programs	MOTI	Greg.Gilks@gov.bc.ca
	Sandy	Evans	Manager, Passenger Transportation Policy	MOTI	Sandy.Evans@gov.bc.ca
	Jodi	Newnham	Senior Manager, Aboriginal Relations	MOTI	Jodi.Newnham@gov.bc.ca
	Todd	Stone	Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure	MOTI	Todd.Stone@gov.bc.ca
	Jordan	Bell	Chief of Staff	MOTI	Jordan.Bell@gov.bc.ca
	Kit	Sauder	Ministerial Assistant	MOTI	Kit.Sauder@gov.bc.ca
	Richard	Jock	Chief Executive Officer	First Nations Health Authority	Richard.Jock@fnha.ca
	Yousuf	Ali	VP Special Projects	First Nations Health Authority	Yousuf.Ali@fnha.ca
	Grant	Main	Deputy Minister	MOTI	Grant.Main@gov.bc.ca
	Deborah	Bowman	ADM, Transportation Policy and Programs	MOTI	Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca
	Laurel	Nash	ADM, Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Division	MARR	Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca
	Monica	Cox	Director, First Nations Social and Cultural Policy	MARR	Monica.Cox@gov.bc.ca
	Jamie	Lipp	Director, Community Programs	JAG	Jamie.Lipp@gov.bc.ca
	Arlene	Paton	ADM, Population and Public Health	MOH	Arlene.Paton@gov.bc.ca
	Beverley	Dicks	ADM, Children and Family Development	MCFD	Beverly.Dicks@gov.bc.ca

Guest List - Transportation Action Plan Highway 16 - Dec 14, 2015

RSVP	First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization	Email
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	Lorna	Williams	Member, Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women	MACAW	s.22
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	Warren	Clarmont	Team Leader, Partnerships and Business Development	BCAAFC	Wclarmont@bcaafc.com
	Rob	MacDougall	Mayor	District of Fort St. James	mayor@fortstjames.ca
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	Nicole	Cross	Regional Director, Northern Region, Regional teams	FNHA	Nicole.Cross@fnha.ca
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	Sandy	Evans	Manager, Passenger Transportation Policy	MOTI	Sandy.Evans@gov.bc.ca
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	Beverley	Dicks	ADM, Children and Family Development	MCDF	Beverly.Dicks@gov.bc.ca

Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX

From: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Sent: 14 Dec 2015 16:06:28 -0800
To: TRAN ALL Comm News Releases
Cc: Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX
Subject: Final - NR/BG on transportation action plan for Highway 16
Attachments: NR_BG_Action Plan_Dec 14 2015.pdf

The following news release/ backgrounder went out province-wide today at 12:45 pm

An event was held in the Hemlock Room at the BC Legislature at the same time.

The photos can be found here:

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/bcgovphotos/C94J31>

Lianne Bowness

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Desk: 250-387-5710

Mobile: 250-889-1336

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015TRAN0179-002092
Dec. 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

VICTORIA – The B.C. government has unveiled a new \$3-million plan to enhance transportation safety along the Highway 16 corridor from Prince Rupert to Prince George.

The plan consists of five actions the government will take to improve access to transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor and enable residents of First Nations communities and municipalities to travel safely to and from rural towns and villages along the corridor.

The five point action plan consists of:

- **\$1.6 million over 2 years for transit expansion:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to extend or enhance BC Transit services to better connect communities.
- **\$750,000 over 3 years for a community transportation grant program to purchase and operate vehicles:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to support community-based transportation programs operated by First Nations, local governments or non-profit organizations.
- **\$150,000 over 3 years for a First Nations driver education program:** These new funds will build upon the current driver training/education program to increase the number of Class 4 and Class 5 drivers in First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor.
- **\$500,000 over 2 years for highway infrastructure safety improvements including webcams and transit shelters:** These new funds will enable the ministry to increase the number of webcams on the highway and the frequency of photographs taken at these spots. New transit shelters will be built in communities that will be receiving new or expanded transit service.
- **Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services:** The ministry will work to increase coordination of existing transportation services through BC Transit, Northern Health, not for profit organizations and private service providers including efforts to better synchronize schedules and expand user eligibility criteria.

The ministry has appointed a new ten-person Highway 16 Transportation Advisory Group to oversee implementation of the action plan and ensure that the actions address the input received at the transportation symposium. The advisory group will report to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and will be meeting over the months of January and February to review the specifics of the action plan and ensure it is implemented consistent with the input the ministry received at a recent transportation symposium held in Smithers.

Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory group to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for all of the new funding. Once this work is complete, the ministry will reach out to First Nations communities and municipalities to

let them know how they can apply for the grant funding. By partnering with municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.

On Nov. 24, 2015, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the First Nations Health Authority co-hosted a transportation symposium in Smithers to engage with First Nations leadership, community members and local government representatives to help identify safe, practical and sustainable transportation options for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. Over 90 participants attended the forum, which was a big step forward in creating a safer environment for people living in communities along the nearly 800 km stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George. The ideas, recommendations and feedback from the transportation symposium were used to develop the foundation of the \$3-million action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.

Today's announcement builds on the \$5.2 million annual investment that the B.C. government makes towards transit services in communities along Highway 16, and is expected to connect communities not currently serviced by local transit service along the corridor.

Quotes:

Todd Stone, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister –

"We have committed to provide safe, practical and sustainable transportation services for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. And today, we are unveiling a five point action plan for safe transportation options along the corridor. There is no one size fits all approach to addressing the challenges along the corridor and this action plan provides flexibility for communities to determine how to best apply new funding to meet their specific needs."

Shane Gottfriedson, Regional Chief, BC Assembly of First Nations –

"Following the November 24th transportation symposium to engage First Nations and others in developing solutions for those at risk who travel along Highway 16, I am encouraged to hear of the much needed investment into an improved transportation system and an action plan to ensure that there is improved safety and security for our citizens when travelling. As the national lead for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, I am heartened to hear of this important first step to take action on the safety and transportation for our brothers and sisters of the north.

"I am pleased that the B.C. government and Minister Todd Stone have finally moved on a central recommendation from the Wally Oppal 2012 Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. It is imperative that indigenous women do not continue to face the fear and the risk of violence when they travel and I look forward to working in partnership with the advisory group, and the Government of B.C. to ensure that First Nations are fully engaged and supported as the action plan is implemented."

Mike Morris, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General –

"These changes are all focused on bringing safety benefits to the people living in northern towns and First Nations communities located along the Highway 16 corridor. As a former police officer, I have spent my career focused on preventing crime and enhancing public safety. This

action plan will help those efforts by creating new, safe and accessible transport services, increasing safety for people living in the north, and in particular, for women and teenage girls.”

John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation –

“I attended the transportation symposium on November 24th, and many great ideas were put forward and discussed during that forum, by members from First Nations communities and municipalities along the corridor. The main thing that we heard was the need for a more cohesive, inter-connected transportation system, to enhance safety along Highway 16, and to enable people to travel safely between communities. This new transportation action plan is responding to this need. The five actions will address the transportation challenges by introducing practical, safe transportation solutions for those living in communities along the corridor.”

Richard Jock, chief operating officer, First Nations Health Authority –

“We are encouraged by the action taken so quickly after the forum and by the substantial investment announced today. The FNHA looks forward to working with First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to enact this action plan and remove barriers to reliable and safe transportation options along the Highway 16 corridor.”

Luke Strimbold, mayor of Burns Lake –

“I am honoured to be a part of the ten person advisory group, and I will be happy to work on this council to ensure that the transportation services reflect what was recommended at the recent transportation symposium in Smithers. Highway 16 is an extremely important corridor and it links many rural communities in Northern B.C., including Burns Lake. I believe that the five transportation actions outlined today will help to create safer connections for people living in rural communities along the corridor, connecting them to their families, friends, and local services.”

Chastity Davis, chair of Minister’s Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women –

“The Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women is committed to working in partnership with the B.C. government on our collective goals to develop the necessary support systems to address the risks and violence that many Aboriginal women and their children are exposed to, and this includes the risks for women hitchhiking along Highway 16. Today’s transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor outlines five steps that were informed by First Nation communities through consultation efforts of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority. Our hope is that the five steps that are outlined today will directly benefit Aboriginal women and girls in the north, by creating safe and accessible transportation systems such as expanded transit and community-based transportation.”

Shirley Bond, MLA Prince George-Valemount –

“This action plan will help improve safety and transportation options for those who live along the Highway 16 corridor, helping provide them with practical and sustainable services. It is built on a foundation of collaboration, using the input received from the recent Highway 16

Transportation Symposium to ensure that the voices of municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations are heard.”

Learn More:

For a summary of proceedings from the transportation symposium, go to:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/passenger-travel/highway-16-corridor-transportation-services/pdfs/151124-northern-transportation-symposium-summary.pdf>

A backgrounder follows.

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release
2015TRAN0179-002092
Dec. 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

New advisory group established

The new ten-member advisory group has been established.

The members of the advisory group are:

1. **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (chair):** Deborah Bowman, assistant deputy minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
2. **First Nations representative:** Wanda Good, Deputy Chief Council, Gitanyow
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4. **First Nations Health Authority:** Richard Jock, chief operating officer, First Nations Health Authority
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9. **Local government representative:** Carol Leclerc, mayor of Terrace.
10. **Northern Health Authority:** Penny Anguish, chief operating officer, North West and chief nurse executive

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

From:Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Sent:14 Dec 2015 14:45:48 -0800
To:Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX
Cc:Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX;Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Subject:FW: Audio of tran event (Highway 16 action plan) - can we get it posted on soundcloud?
Attachments:Stone hwy 16 speech Q&A.MP4
If needed

From: Glover, Hannah GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 2:15 PM
To: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Brendeland, Deb GCPE:EX
Cc: van Marum, Karen GCPE:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Audio of tran event (Highway 16 action plan) - can we get it posted on soundcloud?

Hi Lianne,
Audio provided by TNO for your records.
The audio provided by the AV company will be better quality – I'll post it to soundcloud (link to follow).
Hannah

From: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 2:06 PM
To: Brendeland, Deb GCPE:EX
Cc: van Marum, Karen GCPE:EX; Glover, Hannah GCPE:EX; Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Audio of tran event (Highway 16 action plan) - can we get it posted on soundcloud?

Great thanks Deb!

From: Brendeland, Deb GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 2:04 PM
To: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Cc: van Marum, Karen GCPE:EX; Glover, Hannah GCPE:EX; Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Audio of tran event (Highway 16 action plan) - can we get it posted on soundcloud?

AV company will email recording of the event to me. They are just doing the next event right now. Will get it to you as soon as I can.

Thanks,
Deb
Cell. s.17

On Dec 14, 2015, at 2:00 PM, Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX <Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi all – thanks so much for the support at today's event!
Can we get the audio posted on Soundcloud?
We will want the Minister's speech plus the QA session at the end put up.
Thank you!

Lisanne Bowness
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Desk: 250-387-5710
Mobile: 250-889-1336

Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

From:Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

Sent:11 Dec 2015 16:29:03 -0800

To:Sauder, Kit TRAN:EX

Cc:Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX;Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX

Subject:FW: Emcee Notes - corrected

Attachments:SN_Emcee notes_Action Plan.docx

HI Kit – slightly updated to include John Ma, the FNHA representative recently confirmed to be there on Monday. Please ask MJR to use this version.

Trish

From: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX

Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 4:16 PM

To: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

Cc: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX

Subject: Emcee Notes - corrected

Lianne Bowness

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Desk: 250-387-5710

Mobile: 250-889-1336

Event Information / Speaking Notes (Emcee Notes)

Event: Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan

When: Monday, December 14, 2015 at 1:15 pm

Where: Reception Hall, BC Legislature, Victoria

Venue description:

- Reception Hall in the BC Legislature
- Poster board with 5 actions for Minister Stone to unveil

Speakers:

- **Minister Todd Stone**
- **Minister John Rustad (Emcee)**
- **John Mah, VP of Health Benefits, First Nations Health Authority**
- **Luke Strimbold, Mayor of Burns Lake**
- **Chastity Davis, Chair of Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women**

Audience size: Approximately 20 plus media

Contact: Deb Brendeland – Cell: s.22

Length of event: 25 minutes

Dress: Business professional

Speaking Notes

For

**John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and
Reconciliation**

Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan

Location: Reception Hall

Parliament Buildings

Victoria, B.C.

1:15 pm – Dec 14, 2015

Emcee Notes:

- Greetings.
- I want to recognize we are here today on the traditional territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.
- I am John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.
- I am pleased to serve as your Emcee for today's very important announcement.
- I would like to introduce our stage guests today...
 - Transportation and Infrastructure Minister - Todd Stone
 - First Nations Health Authority – John Mah, VP of Health Benefits
 - Mayor of Burns Lake - Luke Strimbold
 - Chair of Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women – Chastity Davis
- Now to start things off, I would like to welcome Minister Todd Stone to the podium.
- *(Minister Stone gives announcement – unveils poster board)*
- Thank you Minister.
- Next, would John Mah, VP of Health Benefits, First Nations Health Authority please come to the podium to say a few words.
- *(John Mah speaks)*
- Now, I would like to ask Mayor of Burns Lake - Luke Strimbold to come to the podium.
- *(Luke Strimbold speaks)*
- Thank you Mayor Strimbold.

- And now I would like to welcome the Chair of the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women – Chastity Davis to say a few words.
- *(Chastity Davis speaks)*
- Thank you Chastity.
- Thank you to all of you for attending today, and for being a part of this very important transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.

Boudreau, Marc GCPE:EX

From: Boudreau, Marc GCPE:EX
Sent: 14 Dec 2015 11:09:58 -0800
To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX; Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX
Cc: Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX; Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX; Chant, Jon GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: final copy - B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16
Attachments: 2015TRAN0179-002092.pdf
Hi Ryan,

Please find the final copy of your release attached.

We'll queue this to go at 12:45 PM today, provincewide including all ethnic media.

Have a great day!
marc

-----Original Message-----

From: Boudreau, Marc GCPE:EX [<mailto:Marc.Boudreau@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 11:09 AM
To: Boudreau, Marc GCPE:EX
Subject: B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

Please refer to the files attached to this email. The following is the summary of the News Release

Permalink: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/09974>

News ID: NEWS-09974
NR Number: 2015TRAN0179-002092
NR Type: News Release
State: Planned
Planned Release Date: December 14, 2015 at 12:45 pm Lead Organization: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Headline: B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

This email was auto-generated.

For Immediate Release
2015TRAN0179-002092
Dec. 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

NEWS RELEASE

B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

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The plan consists of five actions the government will take to improve access to transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor and enable residents of First Nations communities and municipalities to travel safely to and from rural towns and villages along the corridor.

The five point action plan consists of:

- * \$1.6 million over 2 years for transit expansion: These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to extend or enhance BC Transit services to better connect communities.

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- * Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services: The ministry will work to increase coordination of existing transportation services through BC Transit, Northern Health, not for profit organizations and private service providers including efforts to better synchronize schedules and expand user eligibility criteria.

The ministry has appointed a new nine-person Highway 16 Transportation Advisory Group to oversee implementation of the action plan and ensure that the actions address the input received at the transportation symposium. The advisory group will report to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and will be meeting over the months of January and February to review the specifics of the action plan and ensure it is implemented consistent with the input the ministry received at a recent transportation symposium held in Smithers.

Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory group to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for all of the new funding. Once this work is complete, the ministry will reach out to First Nations communities and municipalities to let them know how they can apply for the grant funding. By partnering with municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.

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Today's announcement builds on the \$5.2 million annual investment that the B.C. government makes towards transit services in communities along Highway 16, and is expected to connect communities not currently serviced by local transit service along the corridor.

Quotes:

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"We have committed to provide safe, practical and sustainable transportation services for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. And today, we are unveiling a five point action plan for safe transportation options along the corridor. There is no one size fits all approach to addressing the challenges along the corridor and this action plan provides flexibility for communities to determine how to best apply new funding to meet their specific needs."

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John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation -

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"The Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women is committed to working in partnership with the B.C. government on our collective goals to develop the necessary support systems to address the risks and violence that many Aboriginal women and their children are exposed to, and this includes the risks for women hitchhiking along Highway 16. Today's transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor outlines five steps that were informed by First Nation communities through consultation efforts of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority. Our hope is that the five steps that are outlined today will directly benefit Aboriginal women and girls in the north, by creating safe and accessible transportation systems such

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Shirley Bond, MLA Prince George-Valemont -

"This action plan will help improve safety and transportation options for those who live along the Highway 16 corridor, helping provide them with practical and sustainable services. It is built on a foundation of collaboration, using the input received from the recent Highway 16 Transportation Symposium to ensure that the voices of municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations are heard."

Learn More:

For a summary of proceedings from the transportation symposium, go to: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/passenger-travel/highway-16-corridor-transportation-services/pdfs/151124-northern-transportation-symposium-summary.pdf>

A backgrounder follows.

Media Contact:

Media Relations

Government Communications and Public Engagement Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

BACKGROUNDER

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The new nine-member advisory group has been established.

The members of the advisory group are:

1. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (chair): Deborah Bowman, assistant deputy minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
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Media Contact:

Media Relations

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250 356-8241

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015TRAN0179-002092
Dec. 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

VICTORIA – The B.C. government has unveiled a new \$3-million plan to enhance transportation safety along the Highway 16 corridor from Prince Rupert to Prince George.

The plan consists of five actions the government will take to improve access to transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor and enable residents of First Nations communities and municipalities to travel safely to and from rural towns and villages along the corridor.

The five point action plan consists of:

- **\$1.6 million over 2 years for transit expansion:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to extend or enhance BC Transit services to better connect communities.
- **\$750,000 over 3 years for a community transportation grant program to purchase and operate vehicles:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to support community-based transportation programs operated by First Nations, local governments or non-profit organizations.
- **\$150,000 over 3 years for a First Nations driver education program:** These new funds will build upon the current driver training/education program to increase the number of Class 4 and Class 5 drivers in First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor.
- **\$500,000 over 2 years for highway infrastructure safety improvements including webcams and transit shelters:** These new funds will enable the ministry to increase the number of webcams on the highway and the frequency of photographs taken at these spots. New transit shelters will be built in communities that will be receiving new or expanded transit service.
- **Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services:** The ministry will work to increase coordination of existing transportation services through BC Transit, Northern Health, not for profit organizations and private service providers including efforts to better synchronize schedules and expand user eligibility criteria.

The ministry has appointed a new nine-person Highway 16 Transportation Advisory Group to oversee implementation of the action plan and ensure that the actions address the input received at the transportation symposium. The advisory group will report to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and will be meeting over the months of January and February to review the specifics of the action plan and ensure it is implemented consistent with the input the ministry received at a recent transportation symposium held in Smithers.

Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory group to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for all of the new funding. Once this work is complete, the ministry will reach out to First Nations communities and municipalities to

let them know how they can apply for the grant funding. By partnering with municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.

On Nov. 24, 2015, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the First Nations Health Authority co-hosted a transportation symposium in Smithers to engage with First Nations leadership, community members and local government representatives to help identify safe, practical and sustainable transportation options for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. Over 90 participants attended the forum, which was a big step forward in creating a safer environment for people living in communities along the nearly 800 km stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George. The ideas, recommendations and feedback from the transportation symposium were used to develop the foundation of the \$3-million action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.

Today's announcement builds on the \$5.2 million annual investment that the B.C. government makes towards transit services in communities along Highway 16, and is expected to connect communities not currently serviced by local transit service along the corridor.

Quotes:

Todd Stone, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister –

"We have committed to provide safe, practical and sustainable transportation services for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. And today, we are unveiling a five point action plan for safe transportation options along the corridor. There is no one size fits all approach to addressing the challenges along the corridor and this action plan provides flexibility for communities to determine how to best apply new funding to meet their specific needs."

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A backgrounder follows.

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Transportation, ADM Policy and Programs TRAN:EX

From:Transportation, ADM Policy and Programs TRAN:EX

Sent:14 Dec 2015 12:15:50 -0800

To:Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX;Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX;Newnham, Jodi TRAN:EX;Gedney, Vanessa TRAN:EX;Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX;Evans, Sandy J TRAN:EX;Gilks, Greg E TRAN:EX;Jordison, Kim D TRAN:EX;Saunders, Meghan TRAN:EX

Subject:FW: Five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

Attachments:NR_BG_Action Plan_Dec 14 2015.pdf

Sorry for not have included you on the original outgoing. But this has gone out at 11:45

From: Fraser, Agnes TRAN:EX **On Behalf Of** Transportation, ADM Policy and Programs TRAN:EX

Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 11:48 AM

Subject: Five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

Today, the Honourable Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, will be announcing an Action Plan to address practical and sustainable transportation solutions along the Highway 16 corridor between Prince George and Prince Rupert. Please find attached an advance copy of the embargoed news release/backgrounder that will be publicly released this afternoon at approximately 1:00 p.m.

This action plan has been developed from the work done over the last two years and dialogue and recommendations shared by participants at the Highway 16 Transportation Symposium held in Smithers, B.C. on November 24th 2015. We respectfully ask that you ensure this information is kept confidential until after 1:00 p.m. today.

If you have any questions or comments please send them to
ADMPolicyandProgramsTransportation@gov.bc.ca

Thank you.

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
December 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and
Infrastructure

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EMBARGOED until 1:00 PM

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Media contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and
Infrastructure
250-356-8241

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www.gov.bc.ca/connect

Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX

From: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX
Sent: 10 Dec 2015 15:02:46 -0800
To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Cc: Newnham, Jodi TRAN:EX
Subject: FW: Hwy 16 Northern Transportation Advisory Group
Please see confirmation of name from Northern Health Authority and their alternate. Thanks, db

From: Ulrich, Cathy [mailto:Cathy.Ulrich@northernhealth.ca]
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 2:30 PM
To: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX
Cc: Paton, Arlene HLTH:EX; Feulgen, Sabine HLTH:EX
Subject: RE: Hwy 16 Northern Transportation Advisory Group

Thanks Deborah, for this invitation.

Penny Anguish, Chief Operating Officer, North West and Chief Nurse Executive will be the member from Northern Health to the Advisory Committee. Penny is based in Terrace, BC. Michael McMillan, Chief Operating Officer, Northern Interior will be her alternate. Michael is based in Prince George, BC.

Contact information for both follows:

Penny Anguish
Phone: 1-250-631-4150
Email: Penny.Anguish@northernhealth.ca
Executive Assistant: Gillian McCutcheon
Email: Gillian.McCutcheon@northernhealth.ca

Michael McMillan
Phone: 1-250-565-2806
Email: Michael.McMillan@northernhealth.ca
Executive Assistant: Angela Sterling
Email: Angela.Sterling@northernhealth.ca

From: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX [mailto:Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 10:14 AM
To: Ulrich, Cathy
Cc: Paton, Arlene HLTH:EX; Feulgen, Sabine HLTH:EX
Subject: Hwy 16 Northern Transportation Advisory Group
Importance: High

Hello Cathy;

I believe Arlene has spoken to you about this already and so this follow-up is to provide more context for you.

Minister Stone has asked me to contact you to extend an invitation to Northern Health Authority to have representation on a Hwy 16 Northern Transportation Advisory Group. I spoke about this group being formed at the recent Transportation Symposium in Smithers.

The advisory group would be chaired by me and consist of 8 members, including 3 local area Mayors (Houston, Burns Lake and Fort St. James), an FHNA representative, an NHA representative, a Highway of Tears representative and two First Nations community representatives.

The purpose of the advisory is to review the Hwy 16 transportation action plan that has been developed and funded by the ministry, and to ensure that the action plan is implemented in a way that's consistent with the feedback and recommendations coming from the symposium.

The advisory would be meeting 2 – 3 times in total over the months of Jan and Feb. Meetings will likely be held in Prince George and or by teleconference.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you, or your designate, would like to participate on the advisory, with thanks in advance, db

Deborah Bowman, Assistant Deputy Minister
Policy and Programs Department | Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Direct 250. 387-8490 | **Mobile** 250.818-1709

Sauder, Kit TRAN:EX

From:Sauder, Kit TRAN:EX
Sent:14 Dec 2015 10:34:18 -0800
To:Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Cc:Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX;Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX;Diacu, Raz TRAN:EX
Subject:FW: Hwy 16 NR Approval Rustad Quote
MJR Quote Approved.

John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

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Thank you,

Kit Sauder, Ministerial Assistant
To the Honourable Todd Stone
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
C: (250) 889-9133
Kit.Sauder@gov.bc.ca

Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

From:Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

Sent:14 Dec 2015 15:37:02 -0800

To:Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX

Cc:Gilks, Greg E TRAN:EX;Newnham, Jodi TRAN:EX;Fraser, Agnes TRAN:EX;Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX;Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX

Subject:FW: Media Availability: Stone - Hwy 16 transportation

Minister is confirmed to be on CFAV tomorrow morning at 8:50.

We are just waiting for list of what media dialed in to the announcement. Will let you know when we do.

Coverage so far:

CHNL (Kamloops)

14-Dec-2015 15:01

Copyright

CBYG (CBC Prince George)

14-Dec-2015 13:00

Copyright

Copyright

CKNW (Vancouver)

14-Dec-2015 13:01

Copyright

From: tno@gov.bc.ca [mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 3:21 PM
Subject: Media Availability: Stone - Hwy 16 transportation

Media Availability
Stone/Rustad/Mah/Davis - Reception Hall - BC Legislature
14-Dec-2015 12:44

Copyright

Page 080 to/à Page 085

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

New \$3-million transportation action plan for Highway 16 corridor:



Transit expansion
(up to \$1.6 million over 2 years)



Community transportation grant program
(up to \$750,000 over 3 years)



First Nations driver education program
(up to \$150,000 over 3 years)



Webcams and transit shelters
(up to \$500,000 over 2 years)



Collaboration to increase interconnectivity



Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan

Providing safe transportation options



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Bowness, Lisanne GCPE:EX

From: Bowness, Lisanne GCPE:EX

Sent: 9 Dec 2015 15:48:15 -0800

To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

Cc: Brendeland, Deb GCPE:EX

Subject: Hwy 16 - Posterboard and Podium Sign - for final signoff

Attachments: GD6324_HWY16_ActionPlan_Board.pdf,

GD6324_HWY16_ActionPlan_Podium.pdf

Ryan & Trish – here are Cal's revised version of the poster board/ podium sign as requested (just one logo now, and minor word edits on poster)

These are ready to go to the Min Office for final signoff if you are good with them

Thanks! LB

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Collaboration to increase interconnectivity



Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan

Providing safe transportation options



BRITISH
COLUMBIA



The Honourable Todd Stone

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

and

The Honourable John Rustad

Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

invite you to attend an important announcement regarding
the Transportation Action Plan for Highway 16.

1:15 p.m.
Monday, December 14, 2015

Reception Hall
Parliament Buildings
501 Belleville Street
Victoria, B.C.

Please RSVP to Deb Brendeland, Manager, Event Services
Deb.Brendeland@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan
Providing Safe Transportation Options

Location: Hemlock Room
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.

Date: Monday, Dec 14, 2015

Time: 12:40 p.m.

Time	Event Itinerary
11:00 a.m.	Deb Brendeland arrives onsite for event set up with AV specialists
12:20 p.m.	Media Relations: Karen van Marum Photographer: Don Craig
12:25 p.m. Pre-brief	Pre-brief with stage guests, led by Deb Brendeland Location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Todd Stone • Minister John Rustad (Emcee) • John Mah, VP of Health Benefits, First Nations Health Authority • Luke Strimbold, Mayor of Burns Lake • Chastity Davis, Chair of Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women
12:40 p.m.	Stage guests move to event area
12:40 p.m.	MC Rustad welcomes everyone, introduces stage guests and invites Minister Stone to the podium
12:41 p.m.	Minister Stone delivers remarks
12:46 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks Minister Stone and invites John Mah to the podium
12:46 p.m.	John Mah delivers remarks
12:49 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks John Mah and invites Mayor Strimbold to the podium
12:49 p.m.	Mayor Strimbold delivers remarks
12:52 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks Mayor Strimbold and invites Chastity Davis to the podium
12:52 p.m.	Chastity Davis delivers remarks
12:55 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks Chastity Davis, makes closing remarks and invites Minister Stone to take questions from the podium.
12:57 p.m.	Media availability from the podium.
1:07 p.m.	Stage guests gather for a group photo around posterboard. PHOTO-OP
1:10 p.m.	Event concludes

NOTE: There will be a dial-in for outside media

DEB BRENDELAND - CELL: s.17
MANAGER, EVENT SERVICES

Key Messages/ Questions and Answers
Transportation Action Plan
December 14, 2015

Key Messages

- The transportation symposium last month in Smithers was a big step toward creating a safer environment for people living in communities along the nearly 800 km stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George.
- The symposium was an essential element of the broader efforts of this government to address the recommendations in the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report.
- People were honest and open about conveying their experiences, and sharing their thoughts on practical, viable transportation options for the Highway 16 corridor between Prince George and Prince Rupert.
- Some great ideas came out of the symposium, and as promised, we got to work immediately to develop a transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.
- And today, I am pleased to announce that this action plan has been created – with five concrete transportation actions to enhance and expand transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor.
- The BC government has committed \$3-million towards the action plan.
- The plan includes:
 - Transit expansion (up to \$1.6 million over 2 years)
 - Community transportation operating and capital grant program (up to \$750,000 over 3 years)
 - First Nations driver education program (up to \$150,000 over 3 years)
 - Webcams and transit shelters (up to \$500,000 over 2 years)
 - Collaboration to increase efficiencies of existing services and create interconnectivity

QA's

1. Do you think your action plan is going to solve the transportation challenges in the communities?

- I think that these five actions will go a long way towards creating a safe environment for people living in rural communities along the corridor, and connecting them to one another.
- The plan sets out a range of initiatives which will result in additional safe, sustainable transportation options, such as expanded transit, community-based transportation, more driver training, and more collaboration.
- The plan also includes the installation of more webcams and better technology, and more transit shelters for increased safety along the corridor.

2. Do your actions reflect what you heard at the symposium?

- Yes, definitely.
- The symposium provided us with collaborative and grassroots input for practical transportation models to connect communities along the stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George.
- People were honest and open about conveying their experiences, and sharing their thoughts and recommendations on practical, viable transportation options for the Highway 16 corridor.
- Some excellent ideas came out of the symposium, and as promised, we immediately initiated work on developing a transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.

3. Why didn't you introduce a shuttle bus like the people were asking for?

- We heard during the symposium that there is not a one-sized fits all approach that would address the transportation challenges along the corridor.
- That's why we're announcing a much broader action plan that incorporates a combination of transportation options, including both intercommunity transit and community-based transportation services.
- This plan will go a long way to fill the transportation gaps along the corridor – addressing the community-based needs, as well as the broader Highway of Tears recommendation.

- For the transit expansion specifically, the Province will contribute up to \$1.6 million over 2 years to extend or enhance existing BC Transit services between communities along the Highway 16 corridor.
- The service will be implemented in partnership with the local governments using the BC Transit funding model for custom services (33% of funding coming from the local governments).
- And we are also funding community-based transportation services. The Province will provide up to \$750,000 over 3 years for cost-shared support of community-based transportation programs operated by First Nations, local governments or non-profit organizations.
- Cost-shared grants will be available to cover 70% of the purchase price of a vehicle to a maximum grant of \$70,000.

4. How will you prioritize the funding for the increased bus service and vans?

- Funding partners will have to identify the nature of the service to be provided, how that service will meet local needs, and how that service will support local residents who want to connect with other transportation services along the corridor.
- What works for one community may not work for another – there is no “one size fits all” approach here.
- We want communities to have their say on what services they would like – and what fits for their community.

5. s.13

7. When will you release details on how the communities can apply for the funding grants?

- Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory committee to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for the grant funding.
- I expect this work to be complete this spring. At that time, the ministry will reach out to local government and First Nations communities to let them know how they can apply for the grant funding.
- By working collaboratively with local governments and First Nations, we are ensuring this is done in partnership and will identify funding opportunities that are tailored to the needs of the community.

8. What will happen after 2-3 years when the funding is finished?

- We are focused on providing a quick response as we committed to following the transportation symposium.
- This \$3-million in funding will support establishing new services and extending existing services.
- Over the first two to three years, the service providers will be able to confirm their services meet local needs, and refine the services as they gain experience, and possibly bring on other partners in the future.
- We will continue to work closely with stakeholders as the programs roll out to ensure they are meeting local and regional needs.

9. Why are some components two years and others three years?

- We are delivering a transportation action plan that is focussed on the priorities identified during the transportation symposium.
- The 2 and 3 year timeframes are based upon the immediate needs and optimization of the funding commitment at this time.
- The plan delivers five concrete transportation actions to enhance and expand transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor.

- We will continue to work closely with stakeholders as the programs roll out to ensure they are meeting local and regional needs.

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11. s.13

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Advisory Group

1. What is the mandate of the advisory group?

- A new ten person advisory group has been appointed to oversee implementation of the action plan and ensure that the actions address the input received at the transportation symposium.
- The advisory group will report to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, and will be meeting over the months of January and February to review the specifics of the action plan.
- They will ensure it is implemented in a way that is consistent with the input and recommendations received at the symposium.

2. How did you choose the nine advisory group members?

- The members were chosen to represent local governments, First Nations, Northern Health and a representative from the Highway of Tears Initiative.
- This means a cross-section of voices and experiences are represented as well as community representation from those who will most benefit from the outcomes of this initiative.

3. s.13

4. What if the advisory group doesn't agree with how you implement the action plan?

- It is the ten person advisory council who will be advising me on how to proceed with the action plan.
- The advisory group has been appointed to oversee implementation of the action plan and ensure that the actions address the input received at the transportation symposium.
- The advisory group will be meeting in the new year to fine tune the details of the action plan and establish criteria for the grants.
- The ministry will release more details on the action plan and how the funds will be allocated in the spring of 2016.

BC Transit service improvements (specific):

1. How will the funding work?

- This will be a special transit expansion for the Highway 16 corridor (provincial share is up to \$1.6 million over 2 years).
- Provincial funds will be available to extend or enhance existing BC Transit services to promote interconnectivity between communities.
- Over the next two years, the Province will contribute \$1.6 million towards these services – 2/3 of the operating costs and 100% of the amortized capital costs of the buses.

2. What BC Transit services are currently available?

- Today's announcement builds on the \$5.2 million that the ministry already spends on transit services in communities along Highway 16 in Northern B.C. each year.
- There are transit services available in Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Hazelton, and Smithers. These communities are all located along the Highway 16 corridor.
- The ministry also funds transit in other Northern B.C. communities, including Kitimat, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Telkwa, Port Edward, New Hazelton, the Regional Districts of Kitimat-Stikine and Bulkley-Nechako, as well as a number of First Nations communities.

3. How are you going to decide on the new or strengthened routes? When will you make a decision on routes?

- The advisory council, in consultation with the communities along the corridor, will review where these services can provide the greatest benefits.
- We will make decisions on routes in the spring of 2016, once the communities have had their chance to weigh in on what works best for them.

4. Will there be enough dollars for every community if every community wants to increase transit services?

- Funds will be available to extend or enhance existing BC Transit services to promote interconnectivity between communities.

- As far as the exact routes go, these details are still being fine-tuned. This will be the job of the nine person advisory council to take this important work forward.
- More specific details on the routes will be made available in the spring of 2016.

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- This is a special fund for transit expansion along the Highway 16 corridor in response to what we heard at the recent transportation symposium in Smithers, and this is to improve the safety and mobility of people moving between communities along Highway 16.

Community-based transportation fund (specific):

1. How will this action address the transportation gap?

- The program will support local First Nations, communities or non-profit organizations in delivering transportation programs that meet local needs.
- There are already community-based transportation programs in place along the corridor which are currently meeting local needs. These programs confirm that the smaller community-based delivery model can work well.

2. How will the funding work?

- The funding will be for cost-shared community-based transportation services (up to \$750,000 over 3 years).
- Cost-shared grants will be available for 70% of the purchase price for new vehicles to a maximum of \$70,000.

- Grants will also be available for 70% of the operating costs to a maximum of \$20,000 per year for three years.

3. How and where do communities apply?

- Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory committee to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for the grant funding.
- Once this work is complete this spring, the ministry will reach out to local government and First Nations communities to let them know how they can apply for the grant funding.
- By partnering with local governments, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.

4. Will this be a big enough fund to cover all of the requests? There are 26 FN communities and a number of local governments.

- This is a significant commitment from government to improve transportation in the region.
- We believe there is sufficient funding over 3 years to support transportation services that may need extra dollars for operating. There may be communities who determine they need a new van, and that's what the capital portion will do.
- Since this is a cost-share program the ministry is maximizing the funds to make sure we can be as efficient as possible and allow as many communities as possible to participate.
- More details on the action plan and how the funds will be allocated will be released in the spring of 2016.

Driver training:

1. What is the driver training component?

- The program will provide up to \$150,000 over 3 years to support First Nations driver training/education.
- The ministry will build upon the current driver training/ education program to increase the number of Class 4 and Class 5 drivers in First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor.

2. Will the Carrier Sekani Family Services oversee the additional driver training funds? If not, why not?

- We are still working on the specific details of the program, including what organization or group will administer this program.
- As soon as we have firmed up these details, and how community members can access this funding, we'll make this information public.

3. Why are you investing in driver training? Why not just put that funding into more vans?

- We heard clearly that driver training for First Nations is a priority.
- Some communities indicated they have community vans but they do not have enough drivers with the appropriate licences to operate the vans.
- We recognize that having a valid driver's license and being able to drive is taken for granted by many, but there is a vast number of First Nations youth without a driver's license.
- Having the skill to drive a car, truck or van can lead to greater mobility and employment. So we believe this is a good investment to build capacity and skills.

New webcams and infrastructure:

1. What's the goal with this action?

- The goal is to increase safety (particularly for people who are hitchhiking) by using highway webcams to increase our ability to monitor key locations.
- The ministry will review the location of current highway webcams relative to common hitchhiking pickup spots, will increase the number of webcams on the highway, and will increase the frequency of photographs taken at these spots.
- Over the last year, the ministry has built four bus shelters to support existing transit services. The ministry will be installing additional transit shelters along the Highway 16 corridor.
- We'll also make sure that the webcams are pointed in the direction of the bus shelters where possible – to increase safety for those waiting for the bus.

2. Aren't the webcams an invasion of privacy?

- This is about increasing safety for people along the corridor. This is our top priority – increasing the safety and well-being of people – and in particular, increasing safety for women and teenage girls.
- The technology is designed so it doesn't compromise the privacy of an individual. We work within privacy laws to ensure that we uphold what we are legally required to do.
- We are already using highway webcams to increase our ability to monitor key locations.
- The ministry will review the location of current highway webcams relative to common hitchhiking pickup spots, will increase the number of webcams on the highway, and will increase the frequency of photographs taken at these spots.

Interconnectivity collaboration:

1. Why are you planning to increase collaboration?

- Collaboration is essential to ensure the transportation services connect with each other, are aligned, and do not provide overlapping services.
- By coordinating services and schedules, travelers will be able to plan trips using a combination of services.
- We are investing \$3-million towards this action plan and we want to ensure that our investments are spent as effectively as possible.

2. When will you have an update to this work?

- The ministry will release more details on the action plan in the spring of 2016.

Announcement:

1. Why are you having this announcement in Victoria – so far from the communities most affected by this strategy?

- Victoria is the seat of the provincial government, and lots of important provincial announcements are made here.
- We made a point of inviting all of the members of the advisory council, the First Nations Health Authority, plus other important stakeholders and ministries that have been involved in this work for a long time.

- The focus today is on unveiling the action plan – and we have done just that.
- We are also notifying each of the participants of the Transportation Symposium, as well as all of those who were invited to the symposium, today of the action plan.

2. Who did you invite to be part of this announcement? Did you pay for their travel and if not, why not?

- We invited all of the members of the ten person advisory group.
- We also invited some of our key stakeholders, including the First Nations Health Authority, Northern Health, and others.
- No, travel was not paid for as we want our dollars to go directly into the important transportation services that we are announcing today - \$3-million is going into safe transportation options along Highway 16 to service the stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George.

3. Why did you give short notice to those invited to participate?

- Following the symposium, I promised that the ministry would get to work immediately on putting together a comprehensive transportation action plan.
- That is just what we did, and I am very pleased with the quick turn-around on this plan.
- We have five concrete transportation actions to enhance and expand transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor.
- The BC government has committed \$3-million towards the action plan.

4. How many people attended the symposium, and what groups were represented?

- In total, 92 people attended the symposium.
- This included 40 people from the First Nations communities and aboriginal organizations, 42 from local government organizations, regional districts, and 10 ministry and First Nations Health Authority representatives.

Federal Inquiry:

1. How does this work fit into the federal strategy to address Missing and Murdered Women?

- Our government has been clear that we support a national inquiry.
- We welcome the news of the federal government launching its first phase of the inquiry into murdered and missing indigenous women and girls (announced by Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould).
- We will be happy to share the learnings and progress coming out of our own Missing Women's Commission of Inquiry here in B.C. as well as any input we can provide on ways to improve safety for indigenous women and girls.
- As we understand it, the federal government will meet with the families to hear their views on the design of the inquiry and what it needs to achieve.
- As a provincial government, we will also participate in any consultations and discussions that the federal government choose to hold as they develop plans around their inquiry.

2. Have you connected with your federal partners on this strategy and will there be federal support?

- I had the opportunity to meet with my federal counterpart in Ottawa last week (Minister to answer based on meetings)

3. What are your thoughts on the federal decision for an inquiry?

- Our government has been clear that we supported a national inquiry.
- We will be happy to share the learnings and progress coming out of our own Missing Women's Commission of Inquiry here in B.C. as well as any input we can provide on ways to improve safety for Indigenous women and girls.
- I would expect we will also participate in any consultations and discussions that the federal government choose to hold as they develop plans around their inquiry.

4. Should the National Inquiry involve Hwy 16 discussions?

- Yes. I think that any discussion around missing indigenous women and girls should look at safety on northern highways, not only in BC, but around the country.

5. What progress has BC made?

- B.C. has made significant changes coming out of the missing women's inquiry, greatly improving safety for vulnerable women in our province.
- In addition, we have provided compensation to the children of the victims, have vastly improved police communications, are establishing new police standards for bias-free policing, and have established a robust provincial response for missing persons, including new missing persons legislation.
- We have also made our northern highways safer, helping to improve cell coverage on Highway 16 by almost 50%.
- Our work covers all the major themes recommended by Commissioner Wally Oppal, QC.
- B.C. is also taking action on feedback from family members by planning a gathering for relatives of missing and murdered Aboriginal women to heal together by sharing their stories and their strength, and further identifying a path forward to end violence against Aboriginal women and girls.
- These actions – and the work that remains ongoing – form a comprehensive response to the recommendations, and should give British Columbians confidence our province is a safer place than when these tragic murders and disappearances happened more than 15 years ago.

Dec. 14, 2015

MEDIA ADVISORY - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

VICTORIA – You are welcome to join Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Todd Stone and Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation John Rustad for an important transportation announcement for the Highway 16 corridor.

Event Date: Monday, Dec. 14, 2015.

Time: 1:15 p.m.

Location:

Reception Hall
Parliamentary Buildings of British Columbia
501 Belleville St.
Victoria

Special Instructions:

For media who cannot attend, there will be a dial-in line: 1 877 353-9184

Participant passcode: 59689#

Please call five minutes prior to the event to get on the line.

Contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

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Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX

From: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX

Sent: 11 Dec 2015 15:12:19 -0800

To: GCPE Editors

Cc: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX; Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX

Subject: Media Advisory - for Monday morning

Attachments: MA_Action Plan.docx

Hello – Can we please line up this MA to go province-wide (and to all ethnic media) on Monday, December 14 – at 7 am?

We want the early distribution to get this into the daily CP calendar.

Thanks!

Lianne Bowness

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Desk: 250-387-5710

Mobile: 250-889-1336

December 14, 2015

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Please call five minutes prior to the event to get on the line.

Contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX

From:Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX
Sent:15 Dec 2015 09:20:26 -0800
To:Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Cc:Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX;Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Subject:Media Request - Terrace Standard - Hwy 16

Hi Lianne,

Rod Link with Terrace Standard is requesting more info regarding yesterday's Highway 16 announcement. I've provided the reporter with the Soundcloud link – his follow-up questions are below. He'd like to know about the 75 km exclusion zone (reporter hears that Nisga'a and the Nass Valley weren't a part of discussions because they weren't in the zone). He'd also like more information about the web cameras / footage and whether it would be made to local authorities.

Minister Request Y/N: No- background information is fine

Topic: Highway 16 follow up questions

Reporter/ Contact: Rod Link newsroom@terracestandard.com

Outlet: Terrace Standard

Date/ Time received: December 15 – 9:10 am

Deadline:

Reporter's Request: Thanks. Helped in fleshing things out a bit.

1. about the webcams. could use some statements as to how they are to make things safer. curious about the use of the phrase pictures being taken. should we take that to mean should there be a situation where someone does go missing that webcam footage would be turned over to the authorities as part of their investigation? and if that's the line of thinking, is that the situation now when police investigate activities along the highway?

2. improving existing community service. good comments from the minister about that. but still curious about the 75km exclusion zone and whether that will apply to this part of the plan. and that takes me back to the Nisga'a and the Nass Valley. would like an answer, please.

Sonia Lowe | Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Tel: 250.356.8241 | **Mobile:** 250.882.6696 | email: sonia.lowe@gov.bc.ca

Diacu, Raz TRAN:EX

From:Diacu, Raz TRAN:EX

Sent:14 Dec 2015 11:02:15 -0800

To:Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX

Cc:Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX;Sauder, Kit TRAN:EX;Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

Subject:MSB quote - hwy 16

Hi Ryan,

As discussed, here is the approved quote from Minister Bond:

“This action plan will help improve safety and transportation options for those who live along the Highway 16 corridor, helping provide them with practical and sustainable services. It is built on a foundation of collaboration, using the input received from the recent Highway 16 Transportation Symposium to ensure that the voices of municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations are heard.”

Thanks,

Raz Diacu

Executive Assistant to the Hon. Todd Stone

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

Office: 250-387-1978 | Fax: 250.387.5594

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
December 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and
Infrastructure

B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

VICTORIA – The B.C. government has unveiled a new \$3-million plan to enhance transportation safety along the Highway 16 corridor from Prince Rupert to Prince George.

The plan consists of five actions the government will take to improve access to transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor and enable residents of First Nations communities and municipalities to travel safely to and from rural towns and villages along the corridor.

The five point action plan consists of:

- **\$1.6 million over 2 years for Transit Expansion:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to extend or enhance BC Transit services to better connect communities.
- **\$750,000 over 3 years for a Community Transportation Grant Program to purchase and operate vehicles:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to support community-based transportation programs operated by First Nations, local governments or non-profit organizations.
- **\$150,000 over 3 years for a First Nations Driver Education Program:** These new funds will build upon the current driver training/ education program to increase the number of Class 4 and Class 5 drivers in First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor.
- **\$500,000 over 2 years for Highway Infrastructure Safety Improvements including Webcams and Transit Shelters:** These new funds will enable the ministry to increase the number of webcams on the highway and the frequency of photographs taken at these spots. New transit shelters will be built in communities that will be receiving new or expanded transit service.
- **Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services:** The ministry will work to increase coordination of existing transportation services through BC Transit, Northern Health, not for profit organizations and private service providers including efforts to better synchronize schedules and expand user eligibility criteria.

The ministry has appointed a new nine-person Highway 16 Transportation Advisory Group to oversee implementation of the action plan and ensure that the actions address the input received at the transportation symposium. The advisory group will report to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and will be meeting over the months of January and February to review the specifics of the action plan and ensure it is implemented consistent with the input the ministry received at a recent transportation symposium held in Smithers.

Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory group to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for all of the new funding. Once this work is complete, the ministry will reach out to First Nations communities and municipalities to let them know how they can apply for the grant funding. By partnering with municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.

On November 24th, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the First Nations Health Authority co-hosted a transportation symposium in Smithers to engage with First Nations leadership, community members and local government representatives to help identify safe, practical and sustainable transportation options for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. Over 90 participants attended the forum, which was a big step forward in creating a safer environment for people living in communities along the nearly 800 km stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George. The ideas, recommendations and feedback from the transportation symposium were used to develop the foundation of the \$3-million action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.

Today's announcement builds on the \$5.2 million annual investment that the B.C. government makes towards transit services in communities along Highway 16, and is expected to connect communities not currently serviced by local transit service along the corridor.

Quotes

Todd Stone, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister –

"We have committed to provide safe, practical and sustainable transportation services for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. And today, we are unveiling a five point action plan for safe transportation options along the corridor. There is no one size fits all approach to addressing the challenges along the corridor and this action plan provides flexibility for communities to determine how to best apply new funding to meet their specific needs."

Shane Gottfriedson, Regional Chief, BC Assembly of First Nations –

"Following the November 24th transportation symposium to engage First Nations and others in developing solutions for those at risk who travel along Highway 16, I am encouraged to hear of the much needed investment into an improved transportation system and an action plan to ensure that there is improved safety and security for our citizens when travelling. As the national lead for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, I am heartened to hear of this important first step to take action on the safety and transportation for our brothers and sisters of the north. I am pleased that the BC government and Minister Todd Stone have finally moved on a central recommendation from the Wally Oppal 2012 Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. It is imperative that indigenous women do not continue to face the fear and the risk of violence when they travel and I look forward to working in partnership with the advisory group, and government of BC to ensure that First Nations are fully engaged and supported as the action plan is implemented."

Mike Morris, Solicitor General –

“Today’s transportation announcement will bring safety benefits to the people living in northern towns and First Nations communities located along the Highway 16 corridor. As a former police officer, I have spent my career focussed on being strong on crime prevention and the enhancement of public safety. This action plan will help improve public safety by creating new, safe, and accessible transport services. This will help increase safety for people living in the north, and in particular, it will help increase safety for women and teenage girls.”

Richard Jock, Chief Operating Officer, First Nations Health Authority –

“We are encouraged by the action taken so quickly after the forum and by the substantial investment announced today. The FNHA looks forward to working with First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to enact this action plan and remove barriers to reliable and safe transportation options along the Highway 16 corridor.”

Luke Strimbold, Mayor of Burns Lake –

“I am honoured to be a part of the nine person advisory group, and I will be happy to work on this council to ensure that the transportation services reflect what was recommended at the recent transportation symposium in Smithers. Highway 16 is an extremely important corridor and it links many rural communities in Northern BC, including Burns Lake. I believe that the five transportation actions outlined today will help to create safer connections for people living in rural communities along the corridor, connecting them to their families, friends, and local services.”

Chastity Davis, Chair of Minister’s Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women –

“The Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women is committed to working in partnership with the B.C. government on our collective goals to develop the necessary support systems to address the risks and violence that many Aboriginal women and their children are exposed to, and this includes the risks for women hitchhiking along Highway 16. Today’s transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor outlines five steps that were informed by First Nation communities through consultation efforts of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority. Our hope is that the five steps that are outlined today will directly benefit Aboriginal women and girls in the north, by creating safe and accessible transportation systems such as expanded transit and community-based transportation.”

Learn More:

For a summary of proceedings from the transportation symposium, go to: xx

A backgrounder follows.

BACKGROUND

Highway 16 Transportation Advisory Group Established

Members of the advisory group include:

1. **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI):** (Chair) Deborah Bowman, Assistant Deputy Minister, MOTI
2. **First Nations Health Authority:** Richard Jock, Chief Operating Officer, First Nations Health Authority
3. **First Nations representative:** Wanda Good, Deputy Chief Council, Gitanyow
4. **First Nations representative:** Reg Mueller, Saik'uz First Nation
5. **Highway of Tears Initiative:** Mary Teegee, Highway of Tears Initiative and Executive Director, Carrier Sekani Family Services
6. **Local government representative:** Rob MacDougall, Mayor of Fort St. James
7. **Local government representative:** Luke Strimbold, Mayor of Burns Lake
8. **Local government representative:** Shane Brien, Mayor of Houston
9. **Northern Health Authority:** Penny Anguish, Chief Operating Officer, North West and Chief Nurse Executive

Media contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and
Infrastructure
250-356-8241

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
December 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and
Infrastructure

B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

VICTORIA – The B.C. government has unveiled a new \$3-million plan to enhance transportation safety along the Highway 16 corridor from Prince Rupert to Prince George.

The plan consists of five actions the government will take to improve access to transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor and enable residents of First Nations communities and municipalities to travel safely to and from rural towns and villages along the corridor.

The five point action plan consists of:

- **\$1.6 million over 2 years for Transit Expansion:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to extend or enhance BC Transit services to better connect communities.
- **\$750,000 over 3 years for a Community Transportation Grant Program to purchase and operate vehicles:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to support community-based transportation programs operated by First Nations, local governments or non-profit organizations.
- **\$150,000 over 3 years for a First Nations Driver Education Program:** These new funds will build upon the current driver training/ education program to increase the number of Class 4 and Class 5 drivers in First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor.
- **\$500,000 over 2 years for Highway Infrastructure Safety Improvements including Webcams and Transit Shelters:** These new funds will enable the ministry to increase the number of webcams on the highway and the frequency of photographs taken at these spots. New transit shelters will be built in communities that will be receiving new or expanded transit service.
- **Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services:** The ministry will work to increase coordination of existing transportation services through BC Transit, Northern Health, not for profit organizations and private service providers including efforts to better synchronize schedules and expand user eligibility criteria.

The ministry has appointed a new nine-person Highway 16 Transportation Advisory Group to oversee implementation of the action plan and ensure that the actions address the input received at the transportation symposium. The advisory group will report to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and will be meeting over the months of January and February to review the specifics of the action plan and ensure it is implemented consistent with the input the ministry received at a recent transportation symposium held in Smithers.

Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory group to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for all of the new funding. Once this

work is complete, the ministry will reach out to First Nations communities and municipalities to let them know how they can apply for the grant funding. By partnering with municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.

On November 24th, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the First Nations Health Authority co-hosted a transportation symposium in Smithers to engage with First Nations leadership, community members and local government representatives to help identify safe, practical and sustainable transportation options for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. Over 90 participants attended the forum, which was a big step forward in creating a safer environment for people living in communities along the nearly 800 km stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George. The ideas, recommendations and feedback from the transportation symposium were used to develop the foundation of the \$3-million action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.

Today's announcement builds on the \$5.2 million annual investment that the B.C. government makes towards transit services in communities along Highway 16, and is expected to connect communities not currently serviced by local transit service along the corridor.

Quotes:

Todd Stone, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister –

"We have committed to provide safe, practical and sustainable transportation services for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. And today, we are unveiling a five point action plan for safe transportation options along the corridor. There is no one size fits all approach to addressing the challenges along the corridor and this action plan provides flexibility for communities to determine how to best apply new funding to meet their specific needs."

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"Following the November 24th transportation symposium to engage First Nations and others in developing solutions for those at risk who travel along Highway 16, I am encouraged to hear of the much needed investment into an improved transportation system and an action plan to ensure that there is improved safety and security for our citizens when travelling. As the national lead for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, I am heartened to hear of this important first step to take action on the safety and transportation for our brothers and sisters of the north. I am pleased that the BC government and Minister Todd Stone have finally moved on a central recommendation from the Wally Oppal 2012 Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. It is imperative that indigenous women do not continue to face the fear and the risk of violence when they travel and I look forward to working in partnership with the advisory group, and government of BC to ensure that First Nations are fully engaged and supported as the action plan is implemented."

Mike Morris, Solicitor General –

"These changes are all focused on bringing safety benefits to the people living in northern towns and First Nations communities located along the Highway 16 corridor. As a former police officer, I have spent my career focused on preventing crime and enhancing public safety. This action plan will help those efforts by creating new, safe and accessible transport services, increasing safety for people living in the north, and in particular, for women and teenage girls."

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"I attended the transportation symposium on November 24th, and many great ideas were put forward and discussed during that forum, by members from First Nations communities and municipalities along the corridor. The main thing that we heard was the need for a more cohesive, inter-connected transportation system, to enhance safety along Highway 16, and to enable people to travel safely between communities. This new transportation action plan is responding to this need. The five actions will address the transportation challenges by introducing practical, safe transportation solutions for those living in communities along the corridor."

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“This action plan will help improve safety and transportation options for those who live along the Highway 16 corridor, helping provide them with practical and sustainable services. It is built on a foundation of collaboration, using the input received from the recent Highway 16”

Learn More:

For a summary of proceedings from the transportation symposium, go to:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/passenger-travel/highway-16-corridor-transportation-services/pdfs/151124-northern-transportation-symposium-summary.pdf>

A backgrounder follows.

EMBARGOED until 1:00 PM

BACKGROUND

New Advisory Group established

The new nine-member advisory group has been established.

The members of the advisory group are:

1. **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (Chair):** Deborah Bowman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
2. **First Nations representative:** Wanda Good, Deputy Chief Council, Gitanyow
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Media contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public
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Ministry of Transportation and
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015TRAN0179-002092
Dec. 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

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Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory group to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for all of the new funding. Once this work is complete, the ministry will reach out to First Nations communities and municipalities to

let them know how they can apply for the grant funding. By partnering with municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.

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Shirley Bond, MLA Prince George-Valemount –

“This action plan will help improve safety and transportation options for those who live along the Highway 16 corridor, helping provide them with practical and sustainable services. It is built on a foundation of collaboration, using the input received from the recent Highway 16

Transportation Symposium to ensure that the voices of municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations are heard.”

Learn More:

For a summary of proceedings from the transportation symposium, go to:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/passenger-travel/highway-16-corridor-transportation-services/pdfs/151124-northern-transportation-symposium-summary.pdf>

A backgrounder follows.

Media Contact:

Media Relations
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Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

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BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release
2015TRAN0179-002092
Dec. 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

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Media Contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
December x, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and
Infrastructure

Ministry launching Peachland transportation study

PEACHLAND – Today, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is launching a transportation study which will look into Highway 97 improvements through and around the District of Peachland – both for the short term and the longer term.

This will be a two-year study focused on Peachland, and it will examine transportation alternatives, including the possibility of an alternate Highway 97 alignment around Peachland.

“We are listening to the people of Peachland, and we want to open it up to public discussion on ideas for short term and longer term traffic solutions for the community,” said Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Todd Stone. “The study will look into the options that will meet the transportation needs of Peachland including developing an alternate route, or improving the existing highway.”

This study will be carried out in concert with the ministry’s Central Okanagan Planning Study, which was launched in the fall of 2014.

The Peachland study will use technical work that has been done as a part of the Central Okanagan Planning study, including traffic counts and future traffic growth projections, the needs of the travelling public, and community land use plans.

Peachland Mayor Cindy Fortin and Council have been advised of the study, and they are very encouraged with the launch. At the annual Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention, they met with the Premier and Minister Todd Stone to discuss the possibility of a bypass study.

“This is wonderful news for Peachland,” said Peachland Mayor Cindy Fortin. “We have been anxiously waiting for a definitive study on the Highway 97 corridor through Peachland, so that residents can get some answers regarding a bypass versus four-laning, and so that developers can confidently move forward with their plans.”

The Peachland study will launch immediately and public engagement is being planned for spring 2016. The ministry will consider input from this consultation along with input from the local mayor and councilors, the Highway 97 Task Force committee, chamber of commerce as well as local First Nations, environmental stakeholder groups, and other local stakeholder groups.

“This is the most important issue affecting the future of Peachland,” said Peter Warner, President of Highway 97 Task Force Society. “This decision will be much appreciated by the 820

members of our Highway 97 Task Force Society, who support the bypass option. This is an important step towards the possibility of achieving a bypass.”

Since 2001, the B.C. government has invested more than \$400 million in upgrades to improve safety and mobility on the Highway 97 corridor in the Central Okanagan. Some examples of improvements are: the William R. Bennett Bridge, Highway 97 six-laning from Water Street to Highway 33, four-laning of Highway 97 from Winfield to Oyama, the Westside Road interchange, and the Campbell Road Interchange.

Learn more:

- For more information on the Central Okanagan transportation study, or to submit your feedback online, go to: <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/okanagansecondcrossing/>
- For the latest B.C. transportation information, follow TranBC at: <http://tranbc.ca/>

Media contact: Media Relations
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

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1/11/2016



Conferencing Solutions – Confirmation

PARTICIPANT LIST

Company: GOBC
Chairperson: Minister Stone

Attention:	Deb Brendeland	Confirmation Number:	1190239
Telephone:	s.17	Conference Date:	Monday 14th 2015
E-mail:	Deb.brendeland@gov.bc.ca	Start Time:	12h40 PST

*	Names	Company	Location
1	Scott Ryckman	Today News Online	Victoria
2	Jordan Omand	The Canadian Press	Vancouver
3	Joe Campbell	SW Audio/visual	Vancouver
4	Christa Dao	CFTK Tv News	Prince Rupert
5	Bill Fee	CFNR	Terrace
6	Flavio Nienow	Lake District News	Burns Lake
7	Albert Fairchild	Tsui	Richmond
8	Andrew Kurjata	CBC Radio	Prince George
9	Collin Dacre	Vista Radio Prince George	Prince George
10	Greg Fry	250 News	Prince George
11	Estefania Duran	Cknw	Vancouver
12	Alicia Bridges	Smithers Interior News	Smithers
13	Ted Chernecki	Global News	Vancouver
14	Pooja Sekhon	93,1 Red FM	Surrey
15	Jane Trevor	Roundhouse radko	Vancouver
16	Jennifer Rice	GoBc	Smithers
17	Pierre Martineau	Radio Canada	Vancouver
18	Angelo Iacobucci	Chnl	Kamloops
19	Anita Bathe	News 1130	Vancouver
20	Eric Cheung	Am 1470	vancouver
21	Wendy Stueck	Globe and Mail	Vancouver
22	Sonia Lowe	Ministry of Transportation	Victoria

Call 1-877-944-MEET (6338) for more information or to make your conference reservation

Maureen Sheehan

From:Maureen Sheehan

Sent:11 Dec 2015 10:49:14 -0800

To:Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX

Subject:Re: : DRAFT: Hwy 16 Announcement - Comms Materials

Hi Ryan,

As discussed, will you add the following communities to this question.

thanks

Maureen

- Telkwa, Port Edward, New Hazelton, Regional Districts of Kitimat-Stikine and Bulkley-Nechako, as well as a number of First Nations communities.

1. What BC Transit services are currently available?

- Today's announcement builds on the \$5.2 million that the ministry already spends on transit services in communities along Highway 16 in Northern B.C. each year.
- There are transit services available in Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Hazelton, and Smithers. These communities are all located along the Highway 16 corridor.
- The ministry also funds transit in other Northern B.C. communities, including Kitimat, Dawson Creek, and Fort St. John.

On Fri, Dec 11, 2015 at 9:20 AM, Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX <Ryan.Jabs@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Sorry about that... I sent off of iphone and they didn't come through. I've reattached.

I'll also pass your suggestion on advisory committee to my ADM.

From: Maureen Sheehan s.22

Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 9:17 AM

To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX

Subject: Re: : DRAFT: Hwy 16 Announcement - Comms Materials

Hi Ryan,

Everything looks good, well written and prepared. I didn't see the media release or QA attached though.

We really only have one comment and that is adding a person with transit experience/knowledge to the advisory committee. Someone who lives in a community with transit services, like the Mayor of Smithers.

Thanks

Maureen

s.22 mobile

On Fri, Dec 11, 2015 at 7:12 AM, Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX <Ryan.Jabs@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Maureen,

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Attached includes:

- * New Release
- * KM/ QA
- * Itinerary
- * Speaking Notes
- * Emcee Notes
- * Event Proposal

We'll send you finals when we have them.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions.

Thank you!

Ryan Jabs
Communications Director | Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Tel: [250.953.4865](tel:250.953.4865)<<tel:250.953.4865>> | Mobile: [250.413.7121](tel:250.413.7121)<<tel:250.413.7121>> | Email:
ryan.jabs@gov.bc.ca<<mailto:ryan.jabs@gov.bc.ca>>

Maureen Sheehan

From:Maureen Sheehan
Sent:11 Dec 2015 09:17:25 -0800
To:Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Subject:Re: : DRAFT: Hwy 16 Announcement - Comms Materials
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Ryan Jabs
Communications Director | Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
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Tel: 250.953.4865<tel:250.953.4865> | Mobile: 250.413.7121<tel:250.413.7121> | Email:
ryan.jabs@gov.bc.ca<mailto:ryan.jabs@gov.bc.ca>

Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX

From:Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX
Sent:11 Dec 2015 20:45:27 -0800
To:Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Cc:Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX;Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX;Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject:Re: DRAFT: Hwy 16 Announcement - Comms Materials
Revised quote here approved:

“These changes are all focused on bringing safety benefits to the people living in northern towns and First Nations communities located along the Highway 16 corridor,” said Mike Morris, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. “As a former police officer, I have spent my career focused preventing crime and enhancing public safety. This action plan will help those efforts by creating new, safe and accessible transport services, increasing safety for people living in the north, and in particular, for women and teenage girls.”

JG

On Dec 11, 2015, at 4:09 PM, Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX <Trish.Rorison@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi all – attached are the updated comms materials for Monday’s announcement including:

Itinerary
KM/QA
Media Advisory
Speaking Notes
NR
Emcee Notes

From: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 3:38 PM
To: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX; Rhodes, Gillian GCPE:EX; Bates Gibbs, Bonnie GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Porter, Rodney GCPE:EX; Fougner, Trish GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Subject: DRAFT: Hwy 16 Announcement - Comms Materials

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- Emcee Notes
- Event Proposal

We’ll send you finals when we have them.

Sarah/Carlene/Laura, I’ll share with FNHA and NH.

Ryan Jabs
Communications Director | Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Tel: 250.953.4865 | Mobile: 250.413.7121 | Email: ryan.jabs@gov.bc.ca

Trevor Kehoe

From: Trevor Kehoe
Sent: 12 Dec 2015 00:27:47 +0000
To: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX; Davis McKenzie
Cc: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: DRAFT: Hwy 16 Announcement - Comms Materials

Hi Trish and team, please see below – this quote is approved. Please send over the final when you can, thanks. Trevor

“We are encouraged by the action taken so quickly after the forum and by the substantial investment announced today,” said First Nations Health Authority Chief Operating Officer, Richard Jock. “The FNHA looks forward to working with First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to enact this action plan and remove barriers to reliable and safe transportation options along the Highway 16 corridor.”

From: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX [mailto:Trish.Rorison@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 4:11 PM
To: Davis McKenzie; Trevor Kehoe
Cc: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: DRAFT: Hwy 16 Announcement - Comms Materials

Hi Davis and Trevor – updated materials. Let us know when you have the quote and we’ll include it. Included here are:

Itinerary
KM/QA
Media Advisory (going out Monday 7 a.m.)
Speaking Notes
Emcee Notes
News Release

From: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 3:48 PM
To: 'Davis McKenzie'; Trevor Kehoe
Cc: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Subject: DRAFT: Hwy 16 Announcement - Comms Materials

Hi Davis and Trevor:

Here are the draft materials for Monday's event. Please do not share too broadly, as we're still confirming advisory committee members (so the names in the attached are not all going to be accurate). There also might be more edits to the QA.

We've noted in the itinerary that Richard Jock will be speaking. Sounds like that might be changing, so please let us know who you might have available. We've also included a place holder for a quote.

Attached includes:

- New Release
- KM/ QA
- Itinerary
- Speaking Notes
- Emcee Notes
- Event Proposal

We'll send you finals when we have them.

Please give me or Lianne a call or let us know if you have any suggestions.

Thank you both!

Ryan Jabs
Communications Director | Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Tel: 250.953.4865 | Mobile: 250.413.7121 | Email: ryan.jabs@gov.bc.ca

Boudreau, Marc GCPE:EX

From: Boudreau, Marc GCPE:EX
Sent: 11 Dec 2015 15:15:53 -0800
To: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX; Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX; Chant, Jon GCPE:EX; Boudreau, Marc GCPE:EX
Cc: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX; Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: for final edits/approval - Media Advisory - for Monday morning
Attachments: MA_Action Plan.pdf, MA_Action Plan.docx
Hi Lianne,

Please find your MA attached for final edits and approval.

Once approved we'll queue this to go on Monday at 7 AM, provincewide including all ethnic media.

Please call with any edits.

Thanks!
Marc
6-7397

From: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 3:12 PM
To: GCPE Editors
Cc: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX; Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Advisory - for Monday morning

Hello ? Can we please line up this MA to go province-wide (and to all ethnic media) on Monday, December 14 ? at 7 am?
We want the early distribution to get this into the daily CP calendar.
Thanks!

Lianne Bowness
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Desk: 250-387-5710
Mobile: 250-889-1336

Dec. 14, 2015

MEDIA ADVISORY - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

VICTORIA ? You are welcome to join Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Todd Stone and Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation John Rustad for an important transportation announcement for the Highway 16 corridor.

Event Date: Monday, Dec. 14, 2015.

Time: 1:15 p.m.

Location:
Reception Hall

Parliamentary Buildings of British Columbia
501 Belleville St.
Victoria

Special Instructions:

For media who cannot attend, there will be a dial-in line: 1 877 353-9184

Participant passcode: 59689#

Please call five minutes prior to the event to get on the line.

Contact:

Media Relations

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

250 356-8241

Dec. 14, 2015

MEDIA ADVISORY - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

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Media Relations
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Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Dec. 14, 2015

MEDIA ADVISORY - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

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Special Instructions:

For media who cannot attend, there will be a dial-in line: 1 877 353-9184

Participant passcode: 59689#

Please call five minutes prior to the event to get on the line.

Contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Davis McKenzie

From: Davis McKenzie
Sent: 8 Dec 2015 00:39:05 +0000
To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Trevor Kehoe
Cc: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Highway 16 - December 14th afternoon
Excellent news Ryan,

Trevor will be connecting with details on the release. We would certainly look to have a presence on the day- additionally, for validation should we go back to the deputy chief we cited on first release?

Best,
Davis

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2015 3:39 PM
To: Trevor Kehoe; Davis McKenzie
Cc: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Subject: Highway 16 - December 14th afternoon

Hi Davis and Trevor,

Looks like we'll be ready to announce our plan coming out of the transportation symposium on the afternoon of December 14th and sounds like our program folks are reaching out to yours today. Would you have someone that could come over and be involved in the announcement and quoted in the release?

Ministry folks are firming up details on the actions, and we will share materials with you as soon as we have our products developed. Thinking Thursday, although expect things could shift up until Monday morning.

Sounds like we'll be investing around 3 million in new dollars on a number of new or strengthened services, including transit routes, funding for vans, driver training and safety improvements along the highway.

Give me a call if you'd like to discuss.

Thanks,

Ryan Jabs

Communications Director | Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Tel: 250.953.4865 | Mobile: 250.413.7121 | Email: ryan.jabs@gov.bc.ca

Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX

From: Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX
Sent: 11 Dec 2015 15:05:15 -0800
To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Diacu, Raz TRAN:EX; Sauder, Kit TRAN:EX
Cc: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Highway 16 - Media advisory - okay to go this afternoon? e
Monday morning.

From: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 3:02 PM
To: Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX; Diacu, Raz TRAN:EX; Sauder, Kit TRAN:EX
Cc: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Subject: Highway 16 - Media advisory - okay to go this afternoon? e

From: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 3:01 PM
To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Cc: Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX
Subject: MA - with dial in line

Here it is – with dial in line and passcode inserted.
Good to go?
Did you want it sent out this afternoon, or Monday morning?

*Lianne Bowness
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Desk: 250-387-5710
Mobile: 250-889-1336*

Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX

From: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Sent: 10 Dec 2015 13:48:23 -0800
To: Brendeland, Deb GCPE:EX; Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Cc: Safarik, Melissa GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Hwy 16 - Posterboard and Podium Sign - for final signoff
Hi Deb:
Both of these products have been signed off by the Min Office and are good to go to print – thanks!

From: Brendeland, Deb GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 11:53 AM
To: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Cc: Safarik, Melissa GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Hwy 16 - Posterboard and Podium Sign - for final signoff

Hi

Just a heads up - These will need to go to print asap so they can be delivered to me by tomorrow. Thanks.

From: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 3:48 PM
To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Cc: Brendeland, Deb GCPE:EX
Subject: Hwy 16 - Posterboard and Podium Sign - for final signoff

Ryan & Trish – here are Cal's revised version of the poster board/ podium sign as requested (just one logo now, and minor word edits on poster)
These are ready to go to the Min Office for final signoff if you are good with them
Thanks! LB

Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX

From: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Sent: 11 Dec 2015 10:52:49 -0800
To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Cc: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Missing women - QAs
yes

From: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 10:52 AM
To: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Cc: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Subject: Missing women - QAs

Can you drop these into the QA too?

What are your thoughts on the federal decision for an inquiry?

- Our government has been clear that we supported a national inquiry.
- We will be happy to share the learnings and progress coming out of our own Missing Women's Commission of Inquiry here in B.C. as well as any input we can provide on ways to improve safety for Indigenous women and girls.
- I would expect we will also participate in any consultations and discussions that the federal government choose to hold as they develop plans around their inquiry.

If asked RE: should a natl inquiry involve Hwy 16 discussions:

- Yes. I think that any discussion around missing indigenous women and girls should look at safety on northern highways, not only in BC, but around the country.

If asked RE: BC progress:

- B.C. has made significant changes coming out of the missing women's inquiry, greatly improving safety for vulnerable women in our province.
- Already we have provided compensation to the children of the victims, helped improve cell coverage on Highway 16 by almost 50 percent, and brought in new tools for police to find people who go missing.
- And today's announcement will help further address the vulnerabilities along the highway – as we introduce community-based transportation solutions across the region.
- Our work covers all the major themes recommended by Commissioner Oppal.
- B.C. is also taking action on feedback from family members by planning a gathering for relatives of missing and murdered Aboriginal women to heal together by sharing their stories and their strength, and further identifying a path forward to end violence against Aboriginal women and girls.

- These actions – and the work that remains ongoing – form a comprehensive response to the recommendations, and should give British Columbians confidence our province is a safer place than when these tragic murders and disappearances happened more than 15 years ago.

Ryan Jabs

Communications Director | Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Government Communications & Public Engagement

Tel: 250.953.4865 | Mobile: 250.413.7121 | Email: ryan.jabs@gov.bc.ca

Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

From:Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Sent:14 Dec 2015 11:03:47 -0800
To:Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX;Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Subject:RE: MSB quote - hwy 16
Should reference her MLA/ Minister title in this one.

From: Diacu, Raz TRAN:EX
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 11:02 AM
To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Cc: Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX; Sauder, Kit TRAN:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Subject: MSB quote - hwy 16

Hi Ryan,

As discussed, here is the approved quote from Minister Bond:

“This action plan will help improve safety and transportation options for those who live along the Highway 16 corridor, helping provide them with practical and sustainable services. It is built on a foundation of collaboration, using the input received from the recent Highway 16 Transportation Symposium to ensure that the voices of municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations are heard.”

Thanks,

Raz Diacu
Executive Assistant to the Hon. Todd Stone
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Office: 250-387-1978 | Fax: 250.387.5594

Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

From: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Sent: 14 Dec 2015 12:57:16 -0800
To: Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX; Diacu, Raz TRAN:EX; Sauder, Kit TRAN:EX
Cc: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Brendeland, Deb GCPE:EX; van Marum, Karen GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Revised SN, emcee notes and final NR
Attachments: 2015TRAN0179-002092.pdf
Revised NR to include another advisory group member.

Trish

From: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 11:24 AM
To: Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX; Diacu, Raz TRAN:EX; Sauder, Kit TRAN:EX
Cc: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Brendeland, Deb GCPE:EX; van Marum, Karen GCPE:EX
Subject: Revised SN, emcee notes and final NR

Here are the revised Speaking Notes and Emcee notes and the final NR – to go out today at 12:45 p.m.

Trish

Trish Rorison | Communications Manager
Government Communications & Public Engagement
B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Telephone: 250.356.7707 | **Mobile:** 250.580.6723 | **email:** trish.rorison@gov.bc.ca

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015TRAN0179-002092
Dec. 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

VICTORIA – The B.C. government has unveiled a new \$3-million plan to enhance transportation safety along the Highway 16 corridor from Prince Rupert to Prince George.

The plan consists of five actions the government will take to improve access to transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor and enable residents of First Nations communities and municipalities to travel safely to and from rural towns and villages along the corridor.

The five point action plan consists of:

- **\$1.6 million over 2 years for transit expansion:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to extend or enhance BC Transit services to better connect communities.
- **\$750,000 over 3 years for a community transportation grant program to purchase and operate vehicles:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to support community-based transportation programs operated by First Nations, local governments or non-profit organizations.
- **\$150,000 over 3 years for a First Nations driver education program:** These new funds will build upon the current driver training/education program to increase the number of Class 4 and Class 5 drivers in First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor.
- **\$500,000 over 2 years for highway infrastructure safety improvements including webcams and transit shelters:** These new funds will enable the ministry to increase the number of webcams on the highway and the frequency of photographs taken at these spots. New transit shelters will be built in communities that will be receiving new or expanded transit service.
- **Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services:** The ministry will work to increase coordination of existing transportation services through BC Transit, Northern Health, not for profit organizations and private service providers including efforts to better synchronize schedules and expand user eligibility criteria.

The ministry has appointed a new ten-person Highway 16 Transportation Advisory Group to oversee implementation of the action plan and ensure that the actions address the input received at the transportation symposium. The advisory group will report to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and will be meeting over the months of January and February to review the specifics of the action plan and ensure it is implemented consistent with the input the ministry received at a recent transportation symposium held in Smithers.

Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory group to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for all of the new funding. Once this work is complete, the ministry will reach out to First Nations communities and municipalities to

let them know how they can apply for the grant funding. By partnering with municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.

On Nov. 24, 2015, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the First Nations Health Authority co-hosted a transportation symposium in Smithers to engage with First Nations leadership, community members and local government representatives to help identify safe, practical and sustainable transportation options for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. Over 90 participants attended the forum, which was a big step forward in creating a safer environment for people living in communities along the nearly 800 km stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George. The ideas, recommendations and feedback from the transportation symposium were used to develop the foundation of the \$3-million action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.

Today's announcement builds on the \$5.2 million annual investment that the B.C. government makes towards transit services in communities along Highway 16, and is expected to connect communities not currently serviced by local transit service along the corridor.

Quotes:

Todd Stone, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister –

"We have committed to provide safe, practical and sustainable transportation services for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. And today, we are unveiling a five point action plan for safe transportation options along the corridor. There is no one size fits all approach to addressing the challenges along the corridor and this action plan provides flexibility for communities to determine how to best apply new funding to meet their specific needs."

Shane Gottfriedson, Regional Chief, BC Assembly of First Nations –

"Following the November 24th transportation symposium to engage First Nations and others in developing solutions for those at risk who travel along Highway 16, I am encouraged to hear of the much needed investment into an improved transportation system and an action plan to ensure that there is improved safety and security for our citizens when travelling. As the national lead for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, I am heartened to hear of this important first step to take action on the safety and transportation for our brothers and sisters of the north.

"I am pleased that the B.C. government and Minister Todd Stone have finally moved on a central recommendation from the Wally Oppal 2012 Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. It is imperative that indigenous women do not continue to face the fear and the risk of violence when they travel and I look forward to working in partnership with the advisory group, and the Government of B.C. to ensure that First Nations are fully engaged and supported as the action plan is implemented."

Mike Morris, solicitor general –

"These changes are all focused on bringing safety benefits to the people living in northern towns and First Nations communities located along the Highway 16 corridor. As a former police officer, I have spent my career focused on preventing crime and enhancing public safety. This

action plan will help those efforts by creating new, safe and accessible transport services, increasing safety for people living in the north, and in particular, for women and teenage girls.”

John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation –

“I attended the transportation symposium on November 24th, and many great ideas were put forward and discussed during that forum, by members from First Nations communities and municipalities along the corridor. The main thing that we heard was the need for a more cohesive, inter-connected transportation system, to enhance safety along Highway 16, and to enable people to travel safely between communities. This new transportation action plan is responding to this need. The five actions will address the transportation challenges by introducing practical, safe transportation solutions for those living in communities along the corridor.”

Richard Jock, chief operating officer, First Nations Health Authority –

“We are encouraged by the action taken so quickly after the forum and by the substantial investment announced today. The FNHA looks forward to working with First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to enact this action plan and remove barriers to reliable and safe transportation options along the Highway 16 corridor.”

Luke Strimbold, mayor of Burns Lake –

“I am honoured to be a part of the ten person advisory group, and I will be happy to work on this council to ensure that the transportation services reflect what was recommended at the recent transportation symposium in Smithers. Highway 16 is an extremely important corridor and it links many rural communities in Northern B.C., including Burns Lake. I believe that the five transportation actions outlined today will help to create safer connections for people living in rural communities along the corridor, connecting them to their families, friends, and local services.”

Chastity Davis, chair of Minister’s Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women –

“The Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women is committed to working in partnership with the B.C. government on our collective goals to develop the necessary support systems to address the risks and violence that many Aboriginal women and their children are exposed to, and this includes the risks for women hitchhiking along Highway 16. Today’s transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor outlines five steps that were informed by First Nation communities through consultation efforts of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority. Our hope is that the five steps that are outlined today will directly benefit Aboriginal women and girls in the north, by creating safe and accessible transportation systems such as expanded transit and community-based transportation.”

Shirley Bond, MLA Prince George-Valemont –

“This action plan will help improve safety and transportation options for those who live along the Highway 16 corridor, helping provide them with practical and sustainable services. It is built on a foundation of collaboration, using the input received from the recent Highway 16

Transportation Symposium to ensure that the voices of municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations are heard.”

Learn More:

For a summary of proceedings from the transportation symposium, go to:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/passenger-travel/highway-16-corridor-transportation-services/pdfs/151124-northern-transportation-symposium-summary.pdf>

A backgrounder follows.

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

BACKGROUNDER

For Immediate Release
2015TRAN0179-002092
Dec. 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

New advisory group established

The new ten-member advisory group has been established.

The members of the advisory group are:

1. **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (chair):** Deborah Bowman, assistant deputy minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
2. **First Nations representative:** Wanda Good, Deputy Chief Council, Gitanyow
3. **First Nations representative:** Reg Mueller, Saik'uz First Nation
4. **First Nations Health Authority:** Richard Jock, chief operating officer, First Nations Health Authority
5. **Highway of Tears Initiative:** Mary Teegee, Highway of Tears Initiative and executive director of child and family services at Carrier Sekani Family Services
6. **Local government representative:** Rob MacDougall, mayor of District of Fort St. James
7. **Local government representative:** Luke Strimbold, mayor of Burns Lake
8. **Local government representative:** Shane Brienens, mayor of Houston
9. **Local government representative:** Carol Leclerc, mayor of Terrace.
10. **Northern Health Authority:** Penny Anguish, chief operating officer, North West and chief nurse executive

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

Gilks, Greg E TRAN:EX

From: Gilks, Greg E TRAN:EX

Sent: 14 Dec 2015 15:08:42 -0800

To: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

Cc: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Saunders, Meghan TRAN:EX; Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX; Newnham, Jodi TRAN:EX

Subject: RE: Updated - News Release with 10 advisory members

Thanks, Trish. We will post this in the What's New section of the Highway 16 communities web site.

Greg Gilks, Executive Director

Transportation Policy

Transportation Policy & Programs

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

250-387-0882

From: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 1:30 PM

To: Newnham, Jodi TRAN:EX; Gilks, Greg E TRAN:EX; Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX

Cc: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX; Saunders, Meghan TRAN:EX

Subject: Updated - News Release with 10 advisory members

Here is the updated NR. This is currently posted online.

Trish

Trish Rorison | Communications Manager

Government Communications & Public Engagement

B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Telephone: 250.356.7707 | Mobile: 250.580.6723 | email: trish.rorison@gov.bc.ca

Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX

From: Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX
Sent: 14 Dec 2015 14:58:43 -0800
To: Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX
Cc: Diacu, Raz TRAN:EX; Sauder, Kit TRAN:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX; Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: UPDATED - ROLL UP - Highway 16 - Media Requests
8:50

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 14, 2015, at 2:58 PM, Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX <Sonia.Lowe@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Thanks Jordan.
For CFAX, would 8:20 am or 8:50 am work for MTS?

Checking on CBC pre-tape...

From: Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 2:56 PM
To: Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX
Cc: Diacu, Raz TRAN:EX; Sauder, Kit TRAN:EX; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX; Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: UPDATED - ROLL UP - Highway 16 - Media Requests
Confirmed for CFAX. Please pass along the call-in info for Linds to put into the calendar.
Can Rick Cluff do a pretape this afternoon?

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 14, 2015, at 1:33 PM, Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX <Sonia.Lowe@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Jordan,
This is updated as of 1:30 pm.
NEW Minister Request Y/N: Proactive call to CBC PG. Reporter's contacts below.

Topic: Highway 16 announcement

Reporter/ Contact: Betsy Trumpener 250-562-6701 ext.223 or
Andrew Kurjata – 250-562-6701 x **222**

Outlet: CBC Prince George

Date/ Time received: 10:30 am – December 14

Deadline: asap to know

FOR TUESDAY - RADIO – requesting early a.m. interviews

Minister Request Y/N: Yes, requesting MTS for live talk-show
interview – **Tuesday, December 15th at 6:40 am**– approx. 7
minutes – with host Rick Cluff.

Topic: Highway 16 announcement

Reporter/ Contact: Elaine Chau – 604-662-6957

Outlet: CBC Early Edition

Date/ Time received: 1:00 pm – December 14

Deadline: asap to know

Minister Request Y/N: Yes, requesting MTS for live talk-show interview – **Tuesday, December 15th** at **8:20 am or 8:50 am** – approx.6 minutes – with host Al Ferraby.

Topic: Highway 16 announcement

Reporter/ Contact: Mark Brennae

Outlet: CFX 1070 AM

Date/ Time received: 10:30 am – December 14

Deadline: asap to know

Thanks,

Sonia Lowe | Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Tel: 250.356.8241 | **Mobile:** 250.882.6696 | email: sonia.lowe@gov.bc.ca

Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX

From: Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX

Sent: 13 Dec 2015 17:04:28 -0800

To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX

Subject: Revised Draft

Attachments: NR_BG_Action Plan - Dec 13 4.15 PM-DRAFT-MTS edits 2.docx

Few minor edits here and then this can go to Dirk. MTS has asked that the SN include reference to the routes we have earmarked for funding the (this should be in bullet form by community name) so he can make name them.

s.13

Thank you,

Jordan

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
December 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and
Infrastructure

B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

VICTORIA – The B.C. government has unveiled a new \$3-million plan to enhance transportation safety along the Highway 16 corridor from Prince Rupert to Prince George.

The plan consists of five actions the government will take to improve access to transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor and enable residents of First Nations communities and municipalities to travel safely to and from rural towns and villages along the corridor.

The five point action plan consists of:

- **\$1.6 million over 2 years for Transit Expansion:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to extend or enhance BC Transit services to better connect communities.
- **\$750,000 over 3 years for a Community Transportation Grant Program to purchase and operate vehicles:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to support community-based transportation programs operated by First Nations, local governments or non-profit organizations.
- **\$150,000 over 3 years for a First Nations Driver Education Program:** These new funds will build upon the current driver training/ education program to increase the number of Class 4 and Class 5 drivers in First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor.
- **\$500,000 over 2 years for Highway Infrastructure Safety Improvements including Webcams and Transit Shelters:** These new funds will enable the ministry to increase the number of webcams on the highway and the frequency of photographs taken at these spots. New transit shelters will be built in communities that will be receiving new or expanded transit service.
- **Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services:** The ministry will work to increase coordination of existing transportation services through BC Transit, Northern Health, not for profit organizations and private service providers including efforts to better synchronize schedules and expand user eligibility criteria.

The ministry has appointed a new nine-person Highway 16 Transportation Advisory Group to oversee implementation of the action plan and ensure that the actions address the input received at the transportation symposium. The advisory group will report to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and will be meeting over the months of January and February to review the specifics of the action plan and ensure it is implemented consistent with the input the ministry received at a recent transportation symposium held in Smithers.

Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory group to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for all of the new funding. Once this work is complete, the ministry will reach out to First Nations communities and municipalities to let them know how they can apply for the grant funding. By partnering with municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.

On November 24th, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the First Nations Health Authority co-hosted a transportation symposium in Smithers to engage with First Nations leadership, community members and local government representatives to help identify safe, practical and sustainable transportation options for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. Over 90 participants attended the forum, which was a big step forward in creating a safer environment for people living in communities along the nearly 800 km stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George. The ideas, recommendations and feedback from the transportation symposium were used to develop the foundation of the \$3-million action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.

Today's announcement builds on the \$5.2 million annual investment that the B.C. government makes towards transit services in communities along Highway 16, and is expected to connect communities not currently serviced by local transit service along the corridor.

Quotes

Todd Stone, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister –

"We have committed to provide safe, practical and sustainable transportation services for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. And today, we are unveiling a five point action plan for safe transportation options along the corridor. There is no one size fits all approach to addressing the challenges along the corridor and this action plan provides flexibility for communities to determine how to best apply new funding to meet their specific needs."

Shane Gottfriedson, Regional Chief, BC Assembly of First Nations –

"Following the November 24th transportation symposium to engage First Nations and others in developing solutions for those at risk who travel along Highway 16, I am encouraged to hear of the much needed investment into an improved transportation system and an action plan to ensure that there is improved safety and security for our citizens when travelling. As the national lead for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, I am heartened to hear of this important first step to take action on the safety and transportation for our brothers and sisters of the north. I am pleased that the BC government and Minister Todd Stone have finally moved on a central recommendation from the Wally Oppal 2012 Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. It is imperative that indigenous women do not continue to face the fear and the risk of violence when they travel and I look forward to working in partnership with the advisory group, and government of BC to ensure that First Nations are fully engaged and supported as the action plan is implemented."

Mike Morris, Solicitor General –

“Today’s transportation announcement will bring safety benefits to the people living in northern towns and First Nations communities located along the Highway 16 corridor. As a former police officer, I have spent my career focussed on being strong on crime prevention and the enhancement of public safety. This action plan will help improve public safety by creating new, safe, and accessible transport services. This will help increase safety for people living in the north, and in particular, it will help increase safety for women and teenage girls.”

Richard Jock, Chief Operating Officer, First Nations Health Authority –

“We are encouraged by the action taken so quickly after the forum and by the substantial investment announced today. The FNHA looks forward to working with First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to enact this action plan and remove barriers to reliable and safe transportation options along the Highway 16 corridor.”

Luke Strimbold, Mayor of Burns Lake –

“I am honoured to be a part of the nine person advisory group, and I will be happy to work on this council to ensure that the transportation services reflect what was recommended at the recent transportation symposium in Smithers. Highway 16 is an extremely important corridor and it links many rural communities in Northern BC, including Burns Lake. I believe that the five transportation actions outlined today will help to create safer connections for people living in rural communities along the corridor, connecting them to their families, friends, and local services.”

Chastity Davis, Chair of Minister’s Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women –

“The Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women is committed to working in partnership with the B.C. government on our collective goals to develop the necessary support systems to address the risks and violence that many Aboriginal women and their children are exposed to, and this includes the risks for women hitchhiking along Highway 16. Today’s transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor outlines five steps that were informed by First Nation communities through consultation efforts of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority. Our hope is that the five steps that are outlined today will directly benefit Aboriginal women and girls in the north, by creating safe and accessible transportation systems such as expanded transit and community-based transportation.”

Learn More:

For a summary of proceedings from the transportation symposium, go to: xx

A backgrounder follows.

BACKGROUND

Highway 16 Transportation Advisory Group Established

Members of the advisory group include:

1. **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI):** (Chair) Deborah Bowman, Assistant Deputy Minister, MOTI
2. **First Nations Health Authority:** Richard Jock, Chief Operating Officer, First Nations Health Authority
3. **First Nations representative:** Wanda Good, Deputy Chief Council, Gitanyow
4. **First Nations representative:** Reg Mueller, Saik'uz First Nation
5. **Highway of Tears Initiative:** Mary Teegee, Highway of Tears Initiative and Executive Director, Carrier Sekani Family Services
6. **Local government representative:** Rob MacDougall, Mayor of Fort St. James
7. **Local government representative:** Luke Strimbold, Mayor of Burns Lake
8. **Local government representative:** Shane Brien, Mayor of Houston
9. **Northern Health Authority:** Penny Anguish, Chief Operating Officer, North West and Chief Nurse Executive

Media contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and
Infrastructure
250-356-8241

Connect with the Province of B.C. at:
www.gov.bc.ca/connect

Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX

From: Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX

Sent: 13 Dec 2015 22:09:30 -0800

To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX

Subject: Revised SN

Attachments: SN_Action Plan-MTS edits-Dec 13 9.15 PM.docx, ATT00001.txt

Few changes here. Let's make this the working version for tomorrow morning.

Event Information / Speaking Notes

Event: Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan

When: Monday, December 14, 2015 at 1:15 pm

Where: Reception Hall, BC Legislature, Victoria

Venue description:

- Reception Hall in the BC Legislature
- Poster board with 5 actions for Minister Stone to unveil

Speakers:

- **Minister Todd Stone**
- **Minister John Rustad (Emcee)**
- **John Mah, VP of Health Benefits, First Nations Health Authority**
- **Luke Strimbold, Mayor of Burns Lake**
- **Chastity Davis, Chair of Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women**

Audience size: Approximately 20 plus media

Contact: Deb Brendeland – Cell: s.17

Length of event: 25 minutes

Dress: Business professional

Time	Event Itinerary
10:00 a.m.	Deb Brendeland arrives onsite for event set up with AV specialists
1:00 p.m.	Media Relations: Karen van Marum Photographer: Don Craig
1:00 p.m. Pre-brief	Pre-brief with stage guests, led by Deb Brendeland Location: Rattenbury room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Todd Stone • Minister John Rustad (Emcee) • John Mah, VP of Health Benefits, First Nations Health Authority • Luke Strimbold, Mayor of Burns Lake • Chastity Davis, Chair of Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women
1:15 p.m.	Stage guests move to event area
1:15 p.m.	MC Rustad welcomes everyone, introduces stage guests and invites Minister Stone to the podium
1:16 p.m.	Minister Stone delivers remarks
1:21 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks Minister Stone and invites John Mah to the podium
1:22 p.m.	John Mah delivers remarks
1:25 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks John Mah and invites Mayor Strimbold to the podium
1:26 p.m.	Mayor Strimbold delivers remarks
1:29 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks Mayor Strimbold and invites Chastity Davis to the podium
1:30 p.m.	Chastity Davis delivers remarks
1:33 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks Chastity Davis, makes closing remarks and invites Minister Stone to take questions from the podium.
1:34 p.m.	Media availability from the podium.
1:40 p.m.	Stage guests gather for a group photo around posterboard. PHOTO-OP
1:45 p.m.	Event concludes

NOTE: There will be a dial-in for outside media

Speaking Notes

For

**Transportation and Infrastructure Minister
Todd Stone**

Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan

Location: Reception Hall
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.
1:15 pm – Dec 14, 2015

Introduction/ Symposium overview:

- Hello & welcome
- Traditional territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.
- Thank you:
 - Minister **John Rustad**
 - **John Mah**, VP Health Benefits, First Nations Health Authority
 - **Luke Strimbold**, Mayor of Burns Lake
 - **Chastity Davis**, Chair of Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women
- Special thanks to **Shane Gottfriedson** – the regional chief of the BC Assembly of First Nations & fellow Kamloopsian - for his support on transportation action plan we're announcing today.
- On Nov 24th, we partnered with **First Nations Health Authority** to co-host transportation symposium in Smithers
- About having productive dialogue on options for safe, practical and sustainable transportation options along the Highway 16
- And it was about transitioning from talk to action.
- 92 people attended and participated - equal representation between First Nation and non-First Nation representatives.
- Was good day of discussion, sharing and open exchange of ideas

- While several previous discussions held, this was first one with such diverse group of people representing broad cross-section of communities across corridor
- People gathered together to build new relationship, working together in partnership to identify solutions.
- That in itself was a major step forward.
- In attendance were First Nations representatives, Highway of Tears family members, Aboriginal organizations, municipal representatives, and ministry staff.
- I want to thank each and every person who took time to provide thoughtful and valuable suggestions.
- We had a few goals going into the symposium...
 1. **One**...wanted to address recommendations made in *Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report*. Commissioner Wally Oppal's transportation recommendation was this: '*To develop and implement an enhanced public transit system to provide a safer travel option connecting the Northern communities, particularly along Highway 16.*'

2. **Two**... needed to address what the people from these communities have been asking for – a more cohesive, inter-connected transportation system, to enhance safety along Highway 16, and in particular enable residents to travel safely along the corridor.
- Discussions built upon existing services and explored different safe, practical, and sustainable transportation options.
 - Discussions also built on results from recently conducted *First Nations Transportation Survey*, along with lessons learned from previous community engagement, surveys and reports.
 - From there, we gathered the ideas generated at symposium and developed concrete **ACTION PLAN** to improve access to transportation services along Highway 16 corridor.
 - There is no one size fits all approach to identifying safe, practical and sustainable transportation solutions for people living in First Nations communities and towns along the corridor.
 - Each community is unique
 - So we needed to work on finding more than one solution - in order to fit the needs of different communities.
 - We wanted to build on already successful community-based solutions that are being delivered in these communities today, including "Seniors Helping Seniors," which is working very well in **Fort St. James** and the **Lake Babine Nation**, which has their own transportation service.

- We also wanted to provide flexibility - for each community to determine how to best address their specific needs.
- I promised quick action on this, and our Ministry team has been working hard.
- I'm happy to say that we have a comprehensive actopm plan, and we are ready to show it to you today.

ACTION PLAN (Minister unveils poster board)

- Action plan has 5 actions the BC government will take to improve access to safe transportation services along Highway 16
- The 5 actions are:
 - **\$1.6 million over 2 years for Transit Expansion:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to extend or enhance BC Transit services to better connect communities. This could include new services to connect:
 - Burns Lake to Prince George
 - Fraser Lake/Houston to Smithers
 - And Hazelton to Terrace

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- **\$750,000 over 3 years for a Community Transportation Grant Program to purchase and operate vehicles:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to support community-based transportation programs operated by First Nations, local governments or non-profit organizations.
- **\$150,000 over 3 years for a First Nations Driver Education Program:** These new funds will build upon the current driver training/ education program to increase the number of Class 4 and Class 5 drivers in First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor.
- **\$500,000 over 2 years for Highway Infrastructure Safety Improvements including Webcams and Transit Shelters:** These new funds will enable the ministry to increase the number of webcams on the highway and the frequency of photographs taken at these spots. New transit shelters will be built in communities that will be receiving new or expanded transit service.
- **Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services:** The ministry will work to increase coordination of existing transportation services through BC Transit, Northern Health, not for profit organizations and private service providers including efforts to better synchronize schedules and expand user eligibility criteria.

Advisory Group

- In addition, I am happy to announce the members of a new nine-person advisory group.
- This group has been appointed to make sure the action plan and implementation of the plan reflects the recommendations made at transportation symposium and that communities support the actions that best suit their needs.

Advisory Group Members

- Members of the advisory group are:
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI): (Chair) **Deborah Bowman**, Assistant Deputy Minister (MOTI)
- First Nations Health Authority: **Richard Jock**, Chief Operating Officer, First Nations Health Authority
- First Nations representative: **Wanda Good**, Deputy Chief Council, Gitanyow
- First Nations representative: **Reg Mueller**, Saik'uz First Nation
- Highway of Tears Initiative: **Mary Teegee**, Highway of Tears Initiative and Executive Director, Carrier Sekani Family Services
- Local government rep: **Rob MacDougall**, Mayor of Fort St. James
- Local government rep: **Luke Strimbold**, Mayor of Burns Lake
- Local government rep: Shane Brien, Mayor of Houston
- Northern Health Authority: Penny Anguish, Chief Operating Officer, North West and Chief Nurse Executive

- The advisory group will be meeting in the New year to review details of the action plan. The group will also ensure the plan is implemented in a way that will address the needs raised through the transportation symposium.

Next steps...

- The ministry will continue to work on specific program details and engage with the advisory group early in New Year.
- Over next couple of months, ministry will work with the advisory committee to develop a process for communities and organizations to apply for the grant funding.
- Once this work is complete this spring, ministry will reach out to local governments and First Nations communities to let them know how they can apply for the grant funding.
- By partnering with local governments, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.
- We once again want to thank everyone who came to the table to give their thoughts, ideas, and feedback – it has been extremely valuable.

- We want to give thanks to the First Nations Health Authority – as they have been our partners on this from the beginning.
- We also want to thank the First Nations communities, municipalities, as well as our ministry partners, as this really has been a very large group effort to get us to this point.
- I am gratified to see significant progress in addressing the transportation recommendation in the *Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report* by providing an action plan today that will lead to safe, practical and sustainable transportation services for the Highway 16 corridor.
- Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX

From: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX
Sent: 13 Dec 2015 13:48:22 -0800
To: Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX; Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX
Cc: Main, Grant TRAN:EX
Subject: Shane Gottfriedson quote

Original Message

From: Maureen Grant <MGrant@bcafn.ca>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2015 1:43 PM
To: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX
Subject: Re: Embargoed Action plan release

Deb

Here is the quote, let me know if you have any questions or comments:

"Following the November 24th transportation symposium to engage First Nations and others in developing solutions for those at risk who travel along Highway 16, I am encouraged to hear of the much needed investment into an improved transportation system and an action plan to ensure that there is improved safety and security for our citizens when travelling," stated Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson, BC Assembly of First Nations. "As the national lead for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls I am heartened to hear of this important first step to take action on the safety and transportation for our brothers and sisters of the north. I am pleased that the Bc government and minister Todd stone have finally moved on a central recommendation from the Wally opal 2012 missing women Commission of Inquiry. It is imperative that indigenous women do not continue to face the fear and the risk of violence when they travel and I look forward to working in partnership with the advisory group, and government of Bc to ensure that First Nations are fully engaged and supported as the action plan is implemented."

Maureen Grant
Senior Policy Advisor
BC Assembly of First Nations

Key Messages/ Questions and Answers
Transportation Action Plan
December 14, 2015

Key Messages

- The transportation symposium last month in Smithers was a big step toward creating a safer environment for people living in communities along the nearly 800 km stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George.
- The symposium was an essential element of the broader efforts of this government to address the recommendations in the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report.
- People were honest and open about conveying their experiences, and sharing their thoughts on practical, viable transportation options for the Highway 16 corridor between Prince George and Prince Rupert.
- Some great ideas came out of the symposium, and as promised, we got to work immediately to develop a transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.
- And today, I am pleased to announce that this action plan has been created – with five concrete transportation actions to enhance and expand transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor.
- The BC government has committed \$3-million towards the action plan.
- The plan includes:
 - Transit expansion (up to \$1.6 million over 2 years)
 - Community transportation operating and capital grant program (up to \$750,000 over 3 years)
 - First Nations driver education program (up to \$150,000 over 3 years)
 - Webcams and transit shelters (up to \$500,000 over 2 years)
 - Collaboration to increase efficiencies of existing services and create interconnectivity

QA's

1. Do you think your action plan is going to solve the transportation challenges in the communities?

- I think that these five actions will go a long way towards creating a safe environment for people living in rural communities along the corridor, and connecting them to one another.
- The plan sets out a range of initiatives which will result in additional safe, sustainable transportation options, such as expanded transit, community-based transportation, more driver training, and more collaboration.
- The plan also includes the installation of more webcams and better technology, and more transit shelters for increased safety along the corridor.

2. Do your actions reflect what you heard at the symposium?

- Yes, definitely.
- The symposium provided us with collaborative and grassroots input for practical transportation models to connect communities along the stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George.
- People were honest and open about conveying their experiences, and sharing their thoughts and recommendations on practical, viable transportation options for the Highway 16 corridor.
- Some excellent ideas came out of the symposium, and as promised, we immediately initiated work on developing a transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.

3. Why didn't you introduce a shuttle bus like the people were asking for?

- We heard during the symposium that there is not a one-sized fits all approach that would address the transportation challenges along the corridor.
- That's why we're announcing a much broader action plan that incorporates a combination of transportation options, including both intercommunity transit and community-based transportation services.
- This plan will go a long way to fill the transportation gaps along the corridor – addressing the community-based needs, as well as the broader Highway of Tears recommendation.

- For the transit expansion specifically, the Province will contribute up to \$1.6 million over 2 years to extend or enhance existing BC Transit services between communities along the Highway 16 corridor.
- The service will be implemented in partnership with the local governments using the BC Transit funding model for custom services (33% of funding coming from the local governments).
- And we are also funding community-based transportation services. The Province will provide up to \$750,000 over 3 years for cost-shared support of community-based transportation programs operated by First Nations, local governments or non-profit organizations.
- Cost-shared grants will be available to cover 70% of the purchase price of a vehicle to a maximum grant of \$70,000.

4. How will you prioritize the funding for the increased bus service and vans?

- Funding partners will have to identify the nature of the service to be provided, how that service will meet local needs, and how that service will support local residents who want to connect with other transportation services along the corridor.
- What works for one community may not work for another – there is no “one size fits all” approach here.
- We want communities to have their say on what services they would like – and what fits for their community.

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7. When will you release details on how the communities can apply for the funding grants?

- Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory committee to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for the grant funding.
- I expect this work to be complete this spring. At that time, the ministry will reach out to local government and First Nations communities to let them know how they can apply for the grant funding.
- By working collaboratively with local governments and First Nations, we are ensuring this is done in partnership and will identify funding opportunities that are tailored to the needs of the community.

8. What will happen after 2-3 years when the funding is finished?

- We are focused on providing a quick response as we committed to following the transportation symposium.
- This \$3-million in funding will support establishing new services and extending existing services.
- Over the first two to three years, the service providers will be able to confirm their services meet local needs, and refine the services as they gain experience, and possibly bring on other partners in the future.
- We will continue to work closely with stakeholders as the programs roll out to ensure they are meeting local and regional needs.

9. Why are some components two years and others three years?

- We are delivering a transportation action plan that is focussed on the priorities identified during the transportation symposium.
- The 2 and 3 year timeframes are based upon the immediate needs and optimization of the funding commitment at this time.
- The plan delivers five concrete transportation actions to enhance and expand transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor.

- We will continue to work closely with stakeholders as the programs roll out to ensure they are meeting local and regional needs.

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Advisory Group

1. What is the mandate of the advisory group?

- A new ten person advisory group has been appointed to oversee implementation of the action plan and ensure that the actions address the input received at the transportation symposium.
- The advisory group will report to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, and will be meeting over the months of January and February to review the specifics of the action plan.
- They will ensure it is implemented in a way that is consistent with the input and recommendations received at the symposium.

2. How did you choose the nine advisory group members?

- The members were chosen to represent local governments, First Nations, Northern Health and a representative from the Highway of Tears Initiative.
- This means a cross-section of voices and experiences are represented as well as community representation from those who will most benefit from the outcomes of this initiative.

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4. What if the advisory group doesn't agree with how you implement the action plan?

- It is the ten person advisory council who will be advising me on how to proceed with the action plan.
- The advisory group has been appointed to oversee implementation of the action plan and ensure that the actions address the input received at the transportation symposium.
- The advisory group will be meeting in the new year to fine tune the details of the action plan and establish criteria for the grants.
- The ministry will release more details on the action plan and how the funds will be allocated in the spring of 2016.

BC Transit service improvements (specific):

DRAFT and CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO MINISTER

1. How will the funding work?

- This will be a special transit expansion for the Highway 16 corridor (provincial share is up to \$1.6 million over 2 years).
- Provincial funds will be available to extend or enhance existing BC Transit services to promote interconnectivity between communities.
- Over the next two years, the Province will contribute \$1.6 million towards these services – 2/3 of the operating costs and 100% of the amortized capital costs of the buses.

2. What BC Transit services are currently available?

- Today's announcement builds on the \$5.2 million that the ministry already spends on transit services in communities along Highway 16 in Northern B.C. each year.
- There are transit services available in Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Hazelton, and Smithers. These communities are all located along the Highway 16 corridor.
- The ministry also funds transit in other Northern B.C. communities, including Kitimat, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Telkwa, Port Edward, New Hazelton, the Regional Districts of Kitimat-Stikine and Bulkley-Nechako, as well as a number of First Nations communities.

3. How are you going to decide on the new or strengthened routes? When will you make a decision on routes?

- The advisory council, in consultation with the communities along the corridor, will review where these services can provide the greatest benefits.
- We will make decisions on routes in the spring of 2016, once the communities have had their chance to weigh in on what works best for them.

4. Will there be enough dollars for every community if every community wants to increase transit services?

- Funds will be available to extend or enhance existing BC Transit services to promote interconnectivity between communities.

- As far as the exact routes go, these details are still being fine-tuned. This will be the job of the nine person advisory council to take this important work forward.
- More specific details on the routes will be made available in the spring of 2016.

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6. s.13

- This is a special fund for transit expansion along the Highway 16 corridor in response to what we heard at the recent transportation symposium in Smithers, and this is to improve the safety and mobility of people moving between communities along Highway 16.

Community-based transportation fund (specific):

1. How will this action address the transportation gap?

- The program will support local First Nations, communities or non-profit organizations in delivering transportation programs that meet local needs.
- There are already community-based transportation programs in place along the corridor which are currently meeting local needs. These programs confirm that the smaller community-based delivery model can work well.

2. How will the funding work?

- The funding will be for cost-shared community-based transportation services (up to \$750,000 over 3 years).
- Cost-shared grants will be available for 70% of the purchase price for new vehicles to a maximum of \$70,000.

- Grants will also be available for 70% of the operating costs to a maximum of \$20,000 per year for three years.

3. How and where do communities apply?

- Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory committee to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for the grant funding.
- Once this work is complete this spring, the ministry will reach out to local government and First Nations communities to let them know how they can apply for the grant funding.
- By partnering with local governments, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.

4. Will this be a big enough fund to cover all of the requests? There are 26 FN communities and a number of local governments.

- This is a significant commitment from government to improve transportation in the region.
- We believe there is sufficient funding over 3 years to support transportation services that may need extra dollars for operating. There may be communities who determine they need a new van, and that's what the capital portion will do.
- Since this is a cost-share program the ministry is maximizing the funds to make sure we can be as efficient as possible and allow as many communities as possible to participate.
- More details on the action plan and how the funds will be allocated will be released in the spring of 2016.

Driver training:

1. What is the driver training component?

- The program will provide up to \$150,000 over 3 years to support First Nations driver training/education.
- The ministry will build upon the current driver training/ education program to increase the number of Class 4 and Class 5 drivers in First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor.

2. Will the Carrier Sekani Family Services oversee the additional driver training funds? If not, why not?

- We are still working on the specific details of the program, including what organization or group will administer this program.
- As soon as we have firmed up these details, and how community members can access this funding, we'll make this information public.

3. Why are you investing in driver training? Why not just put that funding into more vans?

- We heard clearly that driver training for First Nations is a priority.
- Some communities indicated they have community vans but they do not have enough drivers with the appropriate licences to operate the vans.
- We recognize that having a valid driver's license and being able to drive is taken for granted by many, but there is a vast number of First Nations youth without a driver's license.
- Having the skill to drive a car, truck or van can lead to greater mobility and employment. So we believe this is a good investment to build capacity and skills.

New webcams and infrastructure:

1. What's the goal with this action?

- The goal is to increase safety (particularly for people who are hitchhiking) by using highway webcams to increase our ability to monitor key locations.
- The ministry will review the location of current highway webcams relative to common hitchhiking pickup spots, will increase the number of webcams on the highway, and will increase the frequency of photographs taken at these spots.
- Over the last year, the ministry has built four bus shelters to support existing transit services. The ministry will be installing additional transit shelters along the Highway 16 corridor.
- We'll also make sure that the webcams are pointed in the direction of the bus shelters where possible – to increase safety for those waiting for the bus.

2. Aren't the webcams an invasion of privacy?

- This is about increasing safety for people along the corridor. This is our top priority – increasing the safety and well-being of people – and in particular, increasing safety for women and teenage girls.
- The technology is designed so it doesn't compromise the privacy of an individual. We work within privacy laws to ensure that we uphold what we are legally required to do.
- We are already using highway webcams to increase our ability to monitor key locations.
- The ministry will review the location of current highway webcams relative to common hitchhiking pickup spots, will increase the number of webcams on the highway, and will increase the frequency of photographs taken at these spots.

Interconnectivity collaboration:

1. Why are you planning to increase collaboration?

- Collaboration is essential to ensure the transportation services connect with each other, are aligned, and do not provide overlapping services.
- By coordinating services and schedules, travelers will be able to plan trips using a combination of services.
- We are investing \$3-million towards this action plan and we want to ensure that our investments are spent as effectively as possible.

2. When will you have an update to this work?

- The ministry will release more details on the action plan in the spring of 2016.

Announcement:

1. Why are you having this announcement in Victoria – so far from the communities most affected by this strategy?

- Victoria is the seat of the provincial government, and lots of important provincial announcements are made here.
- We made a point of inviting all of the members of the advisory council, the First Nations Health Authority, plus other important stakeholders and ministries that have been involved in this work for a long time.

- The focus today is on unveiling the action plan – and we have done just that.
- We are also notifying each of the participants of the Transportation Symposium, as well as all of those who were invited to the symposium, today of the action plan.

2. Who did you invite to be part of this announcement? Did you pay for their travel and if not, why not?

- We invited all of the members of the ten person advisory group.
- We also invited some of our key stakeholders, including the First Nations Health Authority, Northern Health, and others.
- No, travel was not paid for as we want our dollars to go directly into the important transportation services that we are announcing today - \$3-million is going into safe transportation options along Highway 16 to service the stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George.

3. Why did you give short notice to those invited to participate?

- Following the symposium, I promised that the ministry would get to work immediately on putting together a comprehensive transportation action plan.
- That is just what we did, and I am very pleased with the quick turn-around on this plan.
- We have five concrete transportation actions to enhance and expand transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor.
- The BC government has committed \$3-million towards the action plan.

4. How many people attended the symposium, and what groups were represented?

- In total, 92 people attended the symposium.
- This included 40 people from the First Nations communities and aboriginal organizations, 42 from local government organizations, regional districts, and 10 ministry and First Nations Health Authority representatives.

Federal Inquiry:

1. How does this work fit into the federal strategy to address Missing and Murdered Women?

- Our government has been clear that we support a national inquiry.
- We welcome the news of the federal government launching its first phase of the inquiry into murdered and missing indigenous women and girls (announced by Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould).
- We will be happy to share the learnings and progress coming out of our own Missing Women's Commission of Inquiry here in B.C. as well as any input we can provide on ways to improve safety for indigenous women and girls.
- As we understand it, the federal government will meet with the families to hear their views on the design of the inquiry and what it needs to achieve.
- As a provincial government, we will also participate in any consultations and discussions that the federal government choose to hold as they develop plans around their inquiry.

2. Have you connected with your federal partners on this strategy and will there be federal support?

- I had the opportunity to meet with my federal counterpart in Ottawa last week (Minister to answer based on meetings)

3. What are your thoughts on the federal decision for an inquiry?

- Our government has been clear that we supported a national inquiry.
- We will be happy to share the learnings and progress coming out of our own Missing Women's Commission of Inquiry here in B.C. as well as any input we can provide on ways to improve safety for Indigenous women and girls.
- I would expect we will also participate in any consultations and discussions that the federal government choose to hold as they develop plans around their inquiry.

4. Should the National Inquiry involve Hwy 16 discussions?

- Yes. I think that any discussion around missing indigenous women and girls should look at safety on northern highways, not only in BC, but around the country.

5. What progress has BC made?

- B.C. has made significant changes coming out of the missing women's inquiry, greatly improving safety for vulnerable women in our province.
- In addition, we have provided compensation to the children of the victims, have vastly improved police communications, are establishing new police standards for bias-free policing, and have established a robust provincial response for missing persons, including new missing persons legislation.
- We have also made our northern highways safer, helping to improve cell coverage on Highway 16 by almost 50%.
- Our work covers all the major themes recommended by Commissioner Wally Oppal, QC.
- B.C. is also taking action on feedback from family members by planning a gathering for relatives of missing and murdered Aboriginal women to heal together by sharing their stories and their strength, and further identifying a path forward to end violence against Aboriginal women and girls.
- These actions – and the work that remains ongoing – form a comprehensive response to the recommendations, and should give British Columbians confidence our province is a safer place than when these tragic murders and disappearances happened more than 15 years ago.

Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX

From: Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX
Sent: 14 Dec 2015 14:06:00 -0800
To: Lolacher, Russel TRAN:EX
Cc: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX; Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX
Subject: Sharing our KM/ QA doc with you - Highway 16 action plan
Attachments: KM_QA_Action Plan.doc

*Lianne Bowness
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Desk: 250-387-5710
Mobile: 250-889-1336*

Event Information / Speaking Notes

Event: Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan

When: Monday, December 14, 2015 at 12:40 pm

Where: Hemlock Room, BC Legislature, Victoria

Venue description:

- Hemlock Room in the BC Legislature
- Poster board with 5 actions for Minister Stone to unveil

Speakers:

- **Minister Todd Stone**
- **Minister John Rustad (Emcee)**
- **John Mah, VP of Health Benefits, First Nations Health Authority**
- **Luke Strimbold, Mayor of Burns Lake**
- **Chastity Davis, Chair of Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women**

Audience size: Approximately 20 plus media

Contact: Deb Brendeland – Cell: s.17

Length of event: 25 minutes

Dress: Business professional

Time	Event Itinerary
11:00 a.m.	Deb Brendeland arrives onsite for event set up with AV specialists
12:20 p.m.	Media Relations: Karen van Marum Photographer: Don Craig
12:25 p.m. Pre-brief	Pre-brief with stage guests, led by Deb Brendeland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Todd Stone • Minister John Rustad (Emcee) • John Mah, VP of Health Benefits, First Nations Health Authority • Luke Strimbold, Mayor of Burns Lake • Chastity Davis, Chair of Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women
12:40 p.m.	Stage guests move to event area
12:40 p.m.	MC Rustad welcomes everyone, introduces stage guests and invites Minister Stone to the podium
12:41 p.m.	Minister Stone delivers remarks
12:46 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks Minister Stone and invites John Mah to the podium
12:46 p.m.	John Mah delivers remarks
12:49 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks John Mah and invites Mayor Strimbold to the podium
12:49 p.m.	Mayor Strimbold delivers remarks
12:52 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks Mayor Strimbold and invites Chastity Davis to the podium
12:52 p.m.	Chastity Davis delivers remarks
12:55 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks Chastity Davis, makes closing remarks and invites Minister Stone to take questions from the podium.
12:57 p.m.	Media availability from the podium.
1:07 p.m.	Stage guests gather for a group photo around posterboard. PHOTO-OP
1:10 p.m.	Event concludes

NOTE: There will be a dial-in for outside media

Speaking Notes

For

**Transportation and Infrastructure Minister
Todd Stone**

Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan

Location: Hemlock Room

Parliament Buildings

Victoria, B.C.

12:40 pm – Dec 14, 2015

Introduction/ Symposium overview:

- Hello & welcome
- Traditional territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.
- Thank you:
 - Minister **John Rustad**
 - **John Mah**, VP Health Benefits, First Nations Health Authority
 - **Luke Strimbold**, Mayor of Burns Lake
 - **Chastity Davis**, Chair of Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women
- Special thanks to **Shane Gottfriedson** – the regional chief of the BC Assembly of First Nations & fellow Kamloopsian - for his support on transportation action plan we're announcing today.
- On Nov 24th, we partnered with **First Nations Health Authority** to co-host transportation symposium in Smithers
- About having productive dialogue on options for safe, practical and sustainable transportation options along the Highway 16
- And it was about transitioning from talk to action.
- 92 people attended and participated - equal representation between First Nation and non-First Nation representatives.
- Was good day of discussion, sharing and open exchange of ideas

- While several previous discussions held, this was first one with such diverse group of people representing broad cross-section of communities across corridor
- People gathered together to build new relationship, working together in partnership to identify solutions.
- That in itself was a major step forward.
- In attendance were First Nations representatives, Highway of Tears family members, Aboriginal organizations, municipal representatives, and ministry staff.
- I want to thank each and every person who took time to provide thoughtful and valuable suggestions.
- We had a few goals going into the symposium...
 1. **One**...wanted to address recommendations made in *Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report*. Commissioner Wally Oppal's transportation recommendation was this: '*To develop and implement an enhanced public transit system to provide a safer travel option connecting the Northern communities, particularly along Highway 16.*'

2. **Two**... needed to address what the people from these communities have been asking for – a more cohesive, inter-connected transportation system, to enhance safety along Highway 16, and in particular enable residents to travel safely along the corridor.
- Discussions built upon existing services and explored different safe, practical, and sustainable transportation options.
 - Discussions also built on results from recently conducted *First Nations Transportation Survey*, along with lessons learned from previous community engagement, surveys and reports.
 - From there, we gathered the ideas generated at symposium and developed concrete **ACTION PLAN** to improve access to transportation services along Highway 16 corridor.
 - There is no one size fits all approach to identifying safe, practical and sustainable transportation solutions for people living in First Nations communities and towns along the corridor.
 - Each community is unique
 - So we needed to work on finding more than one solution - in order to fit the needs of different communities.
 - We wanted to build on already successful community-based solutions that are being delivered in these communities today, including "Seniors Helping Seniors," which is working very well in Fort St. James.

- In addition, the Lake Babine Nation has their own transportation service, and there is the “Better at Home” service, which is available in Kitimat, Terrace, Vanderhoof, and Prince Rupert.
- We also wanted to provide flexibility - for each community to determine how to best address their specific needs.
- I promised quick action on this, and our ministry team has been working hard.
- I’m happy to say that we have a comprehensive action plan, and we are ready to show it to you today.

ACTION PLAN (Minister unveils poster board)

- Action plan has 5 actions the BC government will take to improve access to safe transportation services along Highway 16.
- The 5 actions are:
 - **\$1.6 million over 2 years for Transit Expansion:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to extend or enhance BC Transit services to better connect communities. This could possibly include new services to connect:
 - Burns Lake to Prince George
 - Fraser Lake/Houston to Smithers
 - Hazelton to Terrace
 - Also looking at possible services in - Stellat’en, Burns Lake, Wet’suwet’en, Gitwangak

- **\$750,000 over 3 years for a Community Transportation Grant Program to purchase and operate vehicles:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to support community-based transportation programs operated by First Nations, local governments or non-profit organizations.
- **\$150,000 over 3 years for a First Nations Driver Education Program:** These new funds will build upon the current driver training/ education program to increase the number of Class 4 and Class 5 drivers in First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor.
- **\$500,000 over 2 years for Highway Infrastructure Safety Improvements including Webcams and Transit Shelters:** These new funds will enable the ministry to increase the number of webcams on the highway and the frequency of photographs taken at these spots. New transit shelters will be built in communities that will be receiving new or expanded transit service.
- **Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services:** The ministry will work to increase coordination of existing transportation services through BC Transit, Northern Health, not for profit organizations and private service providers including efforts to better synchronize schedules and expand user eligibility criteria.

Advisory Group

- In addition, I am happy to announce the members of a new ten-person advisory group.
- This group has been appointed to make sure the action plan and implementation of the plan reflects the recommendations made at transportation symposium and that communities support the actions that best suit their needs.

Advisory Group Members

- Members of the advisory group are:
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI): (Chair) **Deborah Bowman**, Assistant Deputy Minister (MOTI)
- First Nations Health Authority: **Richard Jock**, Chief Operating Officer, First Nations Health Authority
- First Nations representative: **Wanda Good**, Deputy Chief Council, Gitanyow
- First Nations representative: **Reg Mueller**, Saik'uz First Nation
- Highway of Tears Initiative: **Mary Teegee**, Highway of Tears Initiative and Executive Director, Child and Family Services, Carrier Sekani Family Services
- Local government rep: **Rob MacDougall**, Mayor of Fort St. James
- Local government rep: **Luke Strimbold**, Mayor of Burns Lake
- Local government rep: **Shane Brien**, Mayor of Houston
- Local government rep: **Carol Leclerc**, Mayor of Terrace

- Northern Health Authority: **Penny Anguish**, Chief Operating Officer, North West and Chief Nurse Executive
- The advisory group will be meeting in the new year to review details of the action plan. The group will also ensure the plan is implemented in a way that will address the needs raised through the transportation symposium.

Next steps...

- The ministry will continue to work on specific program details and engage with the advisory group early in New Year.
- Over next couple of months, ministry will work with the advisory committee to develop a process for communities and organizations to apply for the grant funding.
- Once this work is complete this spring, ministry will reach out to local governments and First Nations communities to let them know how they can apply for the grant funding.
- By partnering with local governments, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.

- We once again want to thank everyone who came to the table to give their thoughts, ideas, and feedback – it has been extremely valuable.
- We want to give thanks to the First Nations Health Authority – as they have been our partners on this from the beginning.
- We also want to thank the First Nations communities, municipalities, as well as our ministry partners, as this really has been a very large group effort to get us to this point.
- I am gratified to see significant progress in addressing the transportation recommendation in the *Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report* by providing an action plan today that will lead to safe, practical and sustainable transportation services for the Highway 16 corridor.
- Thank you.

Key investments – Highway 16

We have taken a number of actions to make the highways safer.

- Since 2009, we have taken steps to add a significant amount of new cellular coverage –200 kilometers – to Highway 16.
- Now 70% of that highway has cell coverage, which means drivers and people can use their cell phones to call for emergency services and support if they are needed.
- And as part of our commitment to vulnerable women in the north, we've provided the PG New Hope Society drop-in centre with a \$100,000 civil forfeiture grant to help women and youth.
- We have developed a new web portal that makes it easier for people who live in the area to learn about transportation options along the corridor, by consolidating all information in one place.
- We are also providing \$75,000 to Carrier Sekani Family Services for driver education, safe driver, and driver licensing programs for First Nations.

New today:

- \$3 million to improve transportation services along the corridor
 - \$1.6 million over 2 years for Transit Expansion.
 - \$750,000 over 3 years for a Community Transportation Grant Program to purchase and operate vehicles.
 - \$150,000 over 3 years for a First Nations Driver Education Program.
 - \$500,000 over 2 years for Highway Infrastructure Safety Improvements including Webcams and Transit Shelters.
 - Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services.

Event Information / Speaking Notes

Event: Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan

When: Monday, December 14, 2015 at 1:15 pm

Where: Reception Hall, BC Legislature, Victoria

Venue description:

- Reception Hall in the BC Legislature
- Poster board with 5 actions for Minister Stone to unveil

Speakers:

- **Minister Todd Stone**
- **Minister John Rustad (Emcee)**
- **John Mah, VP of Health Benefits, First Nations Health Authority**
- **Luke Strimbold, Mayor of Burns Lake**
- **Chastity Davis, Chair of Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women**

Audience size: Approximately 20 plus media

Contact: Deb Brendeland – Cell: s.17

Length of event: 25 minutes

Dress: Business professional

Time	Event Itinerary
10:00 a.m.	Deb Brendeland arrives onsite for event set up with AV specialists
1:00 p.m.	Media Relations: Karen van Marum Photographer: Don Craig
1:00 p.m. Pre-brief	Pre-brief with stage guests, led by Deb Brendeland Location: Rattenbury room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Todd Stone • Minister John Rustad (Emcee) • John Mah, VP of Health Benefits, First Nations Health Authority • Luke Strimbold, Mayor of Burns Lake • Chastity Davis, Chair of Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women
1:15 p.m.	Stage guests move to event area
1:15 p.m.	MC Rustad welcomes everyone, introduces stage guests and invites Minister Stone to the podium
1:16 p.m.	Minister Stone delivers remarks
1:21 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks Minister Stone and invites John Mah to the podium
1:22 p.m.	John Mah delivers remarks
1:25 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks John Mah and invites Mayor Strimbold to the podium
1:26 p.m.	Mayor Strimbold delivers remarks
1:29 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks Mayor Strimbold and invites Chastity Davis to the podium
1:30 p.m.	Chastity Davis delivers remarks
1:33 p.m.	MC Rustad thanks Chastity Davis, makes closing remarks and invites Minister Stone to take questions from the podium.
1:34 p.m.	Media availability from the podium.
1:40 p.m.	Stage guests gather for a group photo around posterboard. PHOTO-OP
1:45 p.m.	Event concludes

NOTE: There will be a dial-in for outside media

Speaking Notes

For

**Transportation and Infrastructure Minister
Todd Stone**

Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan

Location: Reception Hall
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.
1:15 pm – Dec 14, 2015

Introduction/ Symposium overview:

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- I want to thank each and every person who took time to provide thoughtful and valuable suggestions.
- We had a few goals going into the symposium...
 1. **One**...wanted to address recommendations made in *Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Report*. Commissioner Wally Oppal's transportation recommendation was this: '*To develop and implement an enhanced public transit system to provide a safer travel option connecting the Northern communities, particularly along Highway 16.*'

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 - Fraser Lake/Houston to Smithers
 - And Hazelton to Terrace

s.13

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Advisory Group

- In addition, I am happy to announce the members of a new nine-person advisory group.
- This group has been appointed to make sure the action plan and implementation of the plan reflects the recommendations made at transportation symposium and that communities support the actions that best suit their needs.

Advisory Group Members

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- We also want to thank the First Nations communities, municipalities, as well as our ministry partners, as this really has been a very large group effort to get us to this point.
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- Thank you.

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Speakers:

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- **Luke Strimbold, Mayor of Burns Lake**
- **Chastity Davis, Chair of Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women**

Audience size: Approximately 20 plus media

Contact: Deb Brendeland – Cell: s.17

Length of event: 25 minutes

Dress: Business professional

Speaking Notes

For

**John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and
Reconciliation**

Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan

Location: Reception Hall

Parliament Buildings

Victoria, B.C.

12:40 pm – Dec 14, 2015

Emcee Notes:

- Greetings.
- I want to recognize we are here today on the traditional territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.
- I am John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.
- I am pleased to serve as your Emcee for today's very important announcement.
- I would like to introduce our stage guests today...
 - Transportation and Infrastructure Minister - Todd Stone
 - First Nations Health Authority – John Mah, VP of Health Benefits
 - Mayor of Burns Lake - Luke Strimbold
 - Chair of Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women – Chastity Davis
- Now to start things off, I would like to welcome Minister Todd Stone to the podium.
- *(Minister Stone gives announcement – unveils poster board)*
- Thank you Minister.
- Next, would John Mah, VP of Health Benefits, First Nations Health Authority please come to the podium to say a few words.
- *(John Mah speaks)*
- Now, I would like to ask Mayor of Burns Lake - Luke Strimbold to come to the podium.
- *(Luke Strimbold speaks)*
- Thank you Mayor Strimbold.

- And now I would like to welcome the Chair of the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women – Chastity Davis to say a few words.
- *(Chastity Davis speaks)*
- Thank you Chastity.
- Thank you to all of you for attending today, and for being a part of this very important transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.

Event Information / Speaking Notes (Emcee Notes)

Event: Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan

When: Monday, December 14, 2015 at 1:15 pm

Where: Reception Hall, BC Legislature, Victoria

Venue description:

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Length of event: 25 minutes

Dress: Business professional

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- *(Minister Stone gives announcement – unveils poster board)*
- Thank you Minister.
- Next, would John Mah, VP of Health Benefits, First Nations Health Authority please come to the podium to say a few words.
- *(John Mah speaks)*
- Now, I would like to ask Mayor of Burns Lake - Luke Strimbold to come to the podium.
- *(Luke Strimbold speaks)*
- Thank you Mayor Strimbold.

- And now I would like to welcome the Chair of the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women – Chastity Davis to say a few words.
- *(Chastity Davis speaks)*
- Thank you Chastity.
- Thank you to all of you for attending today, and for being a part of this very important transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.

Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX

From:Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX

Sent:14 Dec 2015 16:46:08 -0800

Subject:TRAN Proactive - Monday, December 14

Attachments:2015TRAN0179-002092.pdf, CANADA SOCCER MEDIA RELEASE.DOCX,
NR_Peachland Study.docx

TODAY'S EVENTS

MTS and MJR unveil five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16.

Media in attendance: CBC camera, Global - Kylie Stanton, Shaw, Tom Fletcher - Black Press, Rob Shaw - Vancouver Sun, CTV - Bhinder Sajan, CBC - Richard Zussman

TODAY'S RELEASES

FINAL NR and backgrounder attached - B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16.

TOMORROW'S RELEASES

DRAFT NR attached – Ministry launching Peachland transportation study - Draft NR with MO for timing and final approval. Slated to go to Okanagan media at 1:30 pm tomorrow.

WEEKEND MEDIA CALLS

1.The Province, Global

ISSUE: Lytton slide / winter driving conditions

STATUS: GCPE responded

2. The Province

ISSUE: Ironworkers Memorial crash

STATUS: GCPE responded

MEDIA CALLS

1.CFAX 1070AM

ISSUE: Helmcken rabbits

STATUS: with GCPE

2.Times Colonist

ISSUE: Ottawa infrastructure meetings

STATUS: MTS called reporter

3.CBC Vancouver

ISSUE: Winter tire infractions

STATUS: ICBC to respond

4.Prince George Citizen

ISSUE: Carrier Sekani funding

STATUS: GCPE responded

5.The Tyee, CBC Vancouver, CFX, CBC One The Coast, CBC Prince George, 250 News

ISSUE: Highway 16 announcement-requesting MTS

STATUS: GCPE responded

6.Black Press – Jeff Nagel

ISSUE: GMT / Ottawa meetings

STATUS: MTS called reporter

7. Black Press – Jeff Nagel

ISSUE: GMT / Ottawa meetings – follow up question

STATUS: with GCPE

8.Global BC

ISSUE: Used winter tires

STATUS: GCPE responded

PAVCO

The attached release about ticket sales for a Canada-Mexico men's game at BC Place was released by Soccer Canada today.

Sonia Lowe | Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Tel: 250.356.8241 | **Mobile:** 250.882.6696 | email: sonia.lowe@gov.bc.ca

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015TRAN0179-002092
Dec. 14, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

B.C. unveils five point action plan for safe transportation options along Highway 16

VICTORIA – The B.C. government has unveiled a new \$3-million plan to enhance transportation safety along the Highway 16 corridor from Prince Rupert to Prince George.

The plan consists of five actions the government will take to improve access to transportation services along the Highway 16 corridor and enable residents of First Nations communities and municipalities to travel safely to and from rural towns and villages along the corridor.

The five point action plan consists of:

- **\$1.6 million over 2 years for transit expansion:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to extend or enhance BC Transit services to better connect communities.
- **\$750,000 over 3 years for a community transportation grant program to purchase and operate vehicles:** These new funds will be available on a cost-shared basis with local communities to support community-based transportation programs operated by First Nations, local governments or non-profit organizations.
- **\$150,000 over 3 years for a First Nations driver education program:** These new funds will build upon the current driver training/education program to increase the number of Class 4 and Class 5 drivers in First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor.
- **\$500,000 over 2 years for highway infrastructure safety improvements including webcams and transit shelters:** These new funds will enable the ministry to increase the number of webcams on the highway and the frequency of photographs taken at these spots. New transit shelters will be built in communities that will be receiving new or expanded transit service.
- **Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services:** The ministry will work to increase coordination of existing transportation services through BC Transit, Northern Health, not for profit organizations and private service providers including efforts to better synchronize schedules and expand user eligibility criteria.

The ministry has appointed a new ten-person Highway 16 Transportation Advisory Group to oversee implementation of the action plan and ensure that the actions address the input received at the transportation symposium. The advisory group will report to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and will be meeting over the months of January and February to review the specifics of the action plan and ensure it is implemented consistent with the input the ministry received at a recent transportation symposium held in Smithers.

Over the next couple of months, the ministry will work with the advisory group to develop a process for local communities and organizations to apply for all of the new funding. Once this work is complete, the ministry will reach out to First Nations communities and municipalities to

let them know how they can apply for the grant funding. By partnering with municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations, the ministry is ensuring they are active participants with vested interest in selecting the transportation services that best meet local needs.

On Nov. 24, 2015, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the First Nations Health Authority co-hosted a transportation symposium in Smithers to engage with First Nations leadership, community members and local government representatives to help identify safe, practical and sustainable transportation options for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. Over 90 participants attended the forum, which was a big step forward in creating a safer environment for people living in communities along the nearly 800 km stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George. The ideas, recommendations and feedback from the transportation symposium were used to develop the foundation of the \$3-million action plan for the Highway 16 corridor.

Today's announcement builds on the \$5.2 million annual investment that the B.C. government makes towards transit services in communities along Highway 16, and is expected to connect communities not currently serviced by local transit service along the corridor.

Quotes:

Todd Stone, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister –

"We have committed to provide safe, practical and sustainable transportation services for communities along the Highway 16 corridor. And today, we are unveiling a five point action plan for safe transportation options along the corridor. There is no one size fits all approach to addressing the challenges along the corridor and this action plan provides flexibility for communities to determine how to best apply new funding to meet their specific needs."

Shane Gottfriedson, Regional Chief, BC Assembly of First Nations –

"Following the November 24th transportation symposium to engage First Nations and others in developing solutions for those at risk who travel along Highway 16, I am encouraged to hear of the much needed investment into an improved transportation system and an action plan to ensure that there is improved safety and security for our citizens when travelling. As the national lead for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, I am heartened to hear of this important first step to take action on the safety and transportation for our brothers and sisters of the north.

"I am pleased that the B.C. government and Minister Todd Stone have finally moved on a central recommendation from the Wally Oppal 2012 Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. It is imperative that indigenous women do not continue to face the fear and the risk of violence when they travel and I look forward to working in partnership with the advisory group, and the Government of B.C. to ensure that First Nations are fully engaged and supported as the action plan is implemented."

Mike Morris, solicitor general –

"These changes are all focused on bringing safety benefits to the people living in northern towns and First Nations communities located along the Highway 16 corridor. As a former police officer, I have spent my career focused on preventing crime and enhancing public safety. This

action plan will help those efforts by creating new, safe and accessible transport services, increasing safety for people living in the north, and in particular, for women and teenage girls.”

John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation –

“I attended the transportation symposium on November 24th, and many great ideas were put forward and discussed during that forum, by members from First Nations communities and municipalities along the corridor. The main thing that we heard was the need for a more cohesive, inter-connected transportation system, to enhance safety along Highway 16, and to enable people to travel safely between communities. This new transportation action plan is responding to this need. The five actions will address the transportation challenges by introducing practical, safe transportation solutions for those living in communities along the corridor.”

Richard Jock, chief operating officer, First Nations Health Authority –

“We are encouraged by the action taken so quickly after the forum and by the substantial investment announced today. The FNHA looks forward to working with First Nations communities along the Highway 16 corridor and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to enact this action plan and remove barriers to reliable and safe transportation options along the Highway 16 corridor.”

Luke Strimbold, mayor of Burns Lake –

“I am honoured to be a part of the ten person advisory group, and I will be happy to work on this council to ensure that the transportation services reflect what was recommended at the recent transportation symposium in Smithers. Highway 16 is an extremely important corridor and it links many rural communities in Northern B.C., including Burns Lake. I believe that the five transportation actions outlined today will help to create safer connections for people living in rural communities along the corridor, connecting them to their families, friends, and local services.”

Chastity Davis, chair of Minister’s Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women –

“The Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women is committed to working in partnership with the B.C. government on our collective goals to develop the necessary support systems to address the risks and violence that many Aboriginal women and their children are exposed to, and this includes the risks for women hitchhiking along Highway 16. Today’s transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor outlines five steps that were informed by First Nation communities through consultation efforts of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority. Our hope is that the five steps that are outlined today will directly benefit Aboriginal women and girls in the north, by creating safe and accessible transportation systems such as expanded transit and community-based transportation.”

Shirley Bond, MLA Prince George-Valemont –

“This action plan will help improve safety and transportation options for those who live along the Highway 16 corridor, helping provide them with practical and sustainable services. It is built on a foundation of collaboration, using the input received from the recent Highway 16

Transportation Symposium to ensure that the voices of municipalities, First Nations communities and organizations are heard.”

Learn More:

For a summary of proceedings from the transportation symposium, go to:

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A backgrounder follows.

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

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Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

New advisory group established

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The members of the advisory group are:

1. **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (chair):** Deborah Bowman, assistant deputy minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
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3. **First Nations representative:** Reg Mueller, Saik'uz First Nation
4. **First Nations Health Authority:** Richard Jock, chief operating officer, First Nations Health Authority
5. **Highway of Tears Initiative:** Mary Teegee, Highway of Tears Initiative and executive director of child and family services at Carrier Sekani Family Services
6. **Local government representative:** Rob MacDougall, mayor of District of Fort St. James
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Page 230 to/à Page 231

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
December x, 2015

Ministry of Transportation and
Infrastructure

Ministry launching Peachland transportation study

PEACHLAND – Today, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is launching a transportation study which will look into Highway 97 improvements through and around the District of Peachland – both for the short term and the longer term.

This will be a two-year study focused on Peachland, and it will examine transportation alternatives, including the possibility of an alternate Highway 97 alignment around Peachland.

“We are listening to the people of Peachland, and we want to open it up to public discussion on ideas for short term and longer term traffic solutions for the community,” said Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Todd Stone. “The study will look into the options that will meet the transportation needs of Peachland including developing an alternate route, or improving the existing highway.”

This study will be carried out in concert with the ministry’s Central Okanagan Planning Study, which was launched in the fall of 2014.

The Peachland study will use technical work that has been done as a part of the Central Okanagan Planning study, including traffic counts and future traffic growth projections, the needs of the travelling public, and community land use plans.

Peachland Mayor Cindy Fortin and Council have been advised of the study, and they are very encouraged with the launch. At the annual Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention, they met with the Premier and Minister Todd Stone to discuss the possibility of a bypass study.

"This is wonderful news for Peachland," said Peachland Mayor Cindy Fortin. "We have been anxiously waiting for a definitive study on the Highway 97 corridor through Peachland, so that residents can get some answers regarding a bypass versus four-laning, and so that developers can confidently move forward with their plans."

The Peachland study will launch immediately and public engagement is being planned for spring 2016. The ministry will consider input from this consultation along with input from the local mayor and councilors, the Highway 97 Task Force committee, chamber of commerce as well as local First Nations, environmental stakeholder groups, and other local stakeholder groups.

"This is the most important issue affecting the future of Peachland," said Peter Warner, President of Highway 97 Task Force Society. "This decision will be much appreciated by the 820

members of our Highway 97 Task Force Society, who support the bypass option. This is an important step towards the possibility of achieving a bypass.”

Since 2001, the B.C. government has invested more than \$400 million in upgrades to improve safety and mobility on the Highway 97 corridor in the Central Okanagan. Some examples of improvements are: the William R. Bennett Bridge, Highway 97 six-laning from Water Street to Highway 33, four-laning of Highway 97 from Winfield to Oyama, the Westside Road interchange, and the Campbell Road Interchange.

Learn more:

- For more information on the Central Okanagan transportation study, or to submit your feedback online, go to: <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/okanagansecondcrossing/>
- For the latest B.C. transportation information, follow TranBC at: <http://tranbc.ca/>

Media contact: Media Relations
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1/11/2016



Conferencing Solutions – Confirmation

PARTICIPANT LIST

Company: GOBC
Chairperson: Minister Stone

Attention:	Deb Brendeland	Confirmation Number:	1190239
Telephone:	s.17	Conference Date:	Monday 14th 2015
E-mail:	Deb.brendeland@gov.bc.ca	Start Time:	12h40 PST

*	Names	Company	Location
1	Scott Ryckman	Today News Online	Victoria
2	Jordan Omand	The Canadian Press	Vancouver
3	Joe Campbell	SW Audio/visual	Vancouver
4	Christa Dao	CFTK Tv News	Prince Rupert
5	Bill Fee	CFNR	Terrace
6	Flavio Nienow	Lake District News	Burns Lake
7	Albert Fairchild	Tsui	Richmond
8	Andrew Kurjata	CBC Radio	Prince George
9	Collin Dacre	Vista Radio Prince George	Prince George
10	Greg Fry	250 News	Prince George
11	Estefania Duran	Cknw	Vancouver
12	Alicia Bridges	Smithers Interior News	Smithers
13	Ted Chernecki	Global News	Vancouver
14	Pooja Sekhon	93,1 Red FM	Surrey
15	Jane Trevor	Roundhouse radko	Vancouver
16	Jennifer Rice	GoBc	Smithers
17	Pierre Martineau	Radio Canada	Vancouver
18	Angelo Iacobucci	Chnl	Kamloops
19	Anita Bathe	News 1130	Vancouver
20	Eric Cheung	Am 1470	vancouver
21	Wendy Stueck	Globe and Mail	Vancouver
22	Sonia Lowe	Ministry of Transportation	Victoria

Call 1-877-944-MEET (6338) for more information or to make your conference reservation

Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

From:Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

Sent:14 Dec 2015 15:52:01 -0800

To:Bell, Jordan TRAN:EX;Diacu, Raz TRAN:EX;Sauder, Kit TRAN:EX

Cc:Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX;Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX;Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX;Lowe, Sonia GCPE:EX

Subject:Transportation Symposium Announcement - Media Call In

Attachments:partlist1190239_gobc.doc

Here is the call-in list for media this afternoon.

2	Jordan Omand	The Canadian Press	Vancouver
3	Joe Campbell	SW Audio/visual	Vancouver
4	Christa Dao	CFTK Tv News	Prince Rupert
5	Bill Fee	CFNR	Terrace
6	Flavio Nienow	Lake District News	Burns Lake
7	Albert Fairchild	Tsui	Richmond
8	Andrew Kurjata	CBC Radio	Prince George
9	Collin Dacre	Vista Radio Prince George	Prince George
10	Greg Fry	250 News	Prince George
11	Estefania Duran	Cknw	Vancouver
12	Alicia Bridges	Smithers Interior News	Smithers
13	Ted Chernecki	Global News	Vancouver
14	Pooja Sekhon	93,1 Red FM	Surrey
15	Jane Trevor	Roundhouse radko	Vancouver
16	Jennifer Rice	GoBc	Smithers
17	Pierre Martineau	Radio Canada	Vancouver
18	Angelo Iacobucci	Chnl	Kamloops
19	Anita Bathe	News 1130	Vancouver
20	Eric Cheung	Am 1470	vancouver
21	Wendy Stueck	Globe and Mail	Vancouver
22	Sonia Lowe	Ministry of Transportation	Victoria

Trish Rorison | Communications Manager
Government Communications & Public Engagement
B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Telephone: 250.356.7707 | Mobile: 250.580.6723 | email: trish.rorison@gov.bc.ca

Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

From:Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX

Sent:14 Dec 2015 13:30:08 -0800

To:Newnham, Jodi TRAN:EX;Gilks, Greg E TRAN:EX;Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX

Cc:Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX;Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX;Saunders, Meghan TRAN:EX

Subject:Updated - News Release with 10 advisory members

Attachments:2015TRAN0179-002092.pdf

Here is the updated NR. This is currently posted online.

Trish

Trish Rorison | Communications Manager

Government Communications & Public Engagement

B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Telephone: 250.356.7707 | Mobile: 250.580.6723 | email: trish.rorison@gov.bc.ca

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