

HIGHWAY 3

FUNCTIONAL PLANNING STUDY

BC / Alberta Border to Frank

- PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET #3 -

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

This is the third Information Sheet providing periodic updates for the Planning Study of the Highway 3 corridor through the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass.

In the late 1970's, the Municipality and Alberta Transportation endorsed a route south of Coleman. The current study is undertaken at the municipality's request due to concerns the municipality now has with the south route. As design and environmental standards changed since the route was approved, Alberta Transportation agreed to the study to explore all potential options.

PROGRESS TO-DATE

Since April, 2003 McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd., on behalf of Alberta Transportation, has completed the following study objectives:

Project Appraisal: The project team consulted with the Municipality and other stakeholders to convey study objectives and receive input and conducted site examinations to document issues and concerns, problem definition and study objectives.

Develop Preliminary Alternatives: A high-level analysis was conducted of hundreds of concepts to identify preliminary routes options through the corridor.

Open House #1 was held January 20, 2004 to show the community the project information and the preliminary concepts and to discuss concerns with project staff. Information included project constraints, design standards, and the analysis that led to identification of four "base alternatives". These four alternatives can be described as alignments north, south or through Coleman.

OPEN HOUSE #1

The open house attracted 249 attendees and generated considerable public input. The Project Team was provided with valuable input into the current study phase – the detailed assessment, analysis and ranking of the four Base Alternatives. A Public Input Summary and Analysis is attached.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Prepare Preferred Plan: The team is reviewing public input to date and evaluating the four base alternatives. Evaluation criteria include:

1. **Highway Operations** (e.g. interchange spacing, grades and curves, access management, performance, staging and constructability).
2. **Environmental & Historical Impacts** (e.g. fish and wildlife, geotechnical conditions, water resources and wells, historical sites)
3. **Costs** (e.g. capital costs, property acquisition)
4. **Safety** (e.g. maintenance and design standards)
5. **Regional Impacts** (e.g. community development, aesthetics, integration with municipal roads)
6. **Property Impacts** (e.g. existing properties, potential growth areas)

Open House #2 will be held (tentatively June 2004) to invite the community to view the project information, public input received to date and the preferred plan and to discuss concerns with project staff.

Prepare Recommended Functional Plan: The team will review additional public input to refine the preferred plan and prepare the corridor strategy.

Open House #3 will be held (tentatively September 2004) to invite the community to view the public input received to date and the recommended functional plan and to discuss concerns with project staff.

INFORMATION

For more information on this study visit: <http://www.trans.gov.ab.ca/Content/doctype182/production/hwy3funcplan.htm> The website includes the Open House exhibits, Project Information Sheets and answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's). If you have any questions, comments or would like additional information, please contact Mr. Henry Devos at:

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