

HIGHWAY 3

FUNCTIONAL PLANNING STUDY

BC / Alberta Border to Highway 507

- PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET #5 -

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

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

In the late 1970s, the Municipality and Alberta Infrastructure & 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 Infrastructure & Transportation agreed to the study to explore all potential options.

PROGRESS TO-DATE

Since April 2003, McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd 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 to develop hundreds of alignment concepts and identify preliminary route options through the corridor.

Open House #1 was held January 20, 2004 to show the community 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." The base alternatives were alignments north, south or through Coleman. The open house attracted 249 attendees.

Evaluation of Alternatives: The public input at Open House 1 permitted the project team to proceed with the detailed assessment, evaluation and preliminary ranking of the four base alternatives and resulted in the development of four new alternatives.

Two new options to the South Route were developed; a Central to South to South/East route option and a South to South/East route option. These options

provided an alternative to the previous south alignment crossing of the wetland area between Blairmore and Coleman. Two concepts suggested by the municipality were also developed; an Urban Four-Lane concept through central Coleman and an Urban Couplet concept.

Open House #2 was held June 29, 2004 to show the community the public input received to date, the new alternatives, the results of the preliminary route evaluation and to discuss concerns with project staff. The open house attracted 177 attendees.

Select Preferred Route Options: The project team developed a Central/CPR route option in response to the additional public input, extended the east study limit to Highway 507, reviewed construction and cost risks, and developed interchange/road network options to select the preferred plans.

Open House #3 is being held March 9, 2005 to invite the community to view the public input received to date and the preferred route options and to discuss concerns with project staff.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Prepare Recommended Functional Plan: The team will review additional public input to confirm the recommended plan and prepare the corridor strategy. The plan will be presented to Alberta Infrastructure & Transportation for approval.

Open House #4 will be held (tentatively May 2005) to invite the community to view the public input received to date and the approved functional plan and to discuss concerns with project staff.

INFORMATION

For more information visit: <http://www.trans.gov.ab.ca/Content/doctype182/production/hwy3funcplan.htm>
If you have any questions, comments or would like additional information, please contact:

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