



MEDIA RELEASE: Peachland Council oppose Highway 97 transportation options proposed by Ministry

July 29, 2019

Peachland, B.C. – After much consideration, the District of Peachland Council concludes that they oppose the preferred alternate and existing Highway 97 transportation options presented by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI).

“Neither option has addressed the valid concerns of the community, and the technical options failed to give enough weight to the social and community impacts of the on-line or off-line routes,” said Mayor Cindy Fortin. “The alternate or bypass routes are definitely not what the community envisioned. To be blunt, it is very disappointing.”

Throughout 2019, MoTI has been engaging with a Technical Advisory Committee, Community Liaison Committee, Indigenous communities, and Peachland Council to help come up with the best options possible. “While we appreciate the efforts of the Ministry in consulting with the community, the proposed off-line routes do not bypass the community at all. In fact, they split our community in two, which is entirely unacceptable,” Fortin adds.

MoTI has been studying the transportation needs of the Central Okanagan since 2015. The Highway 97 – Peachland Transportation Study encompasses the last, remaining two-lane section of the highway that connects the Okanagan communities from north to south. It is projected that over the long-term, travel times are expected to gradually increase due to economic and population growth in the region.

In 2016, MoTI presented several alternate options for Highway 97 at an open house. From these designs, several preferred options were selected. To view the Phase 1 presented options, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/transportation-reports-and-reference/reports-studies/okanagan/peachland-study?keyword=Peachland>

--30--

Media Contact:

Cindy Fortin
Mayor
250-767-2647
mayorfortin@peachland.ca

Elsie Lemke
Chief Administrative Officer
250-767-2647
elemke@peachland.ca