



## District of Peachland

### PEACHLAND TRANSPORTATION STUDY by MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

June, 2016

#### INTRODUCTION

Concerns are being raised by residents regarding the Peachland Transportation Study that is currently being undertaken by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Primarily, concerns are related to the creation of a by-pass option for Highway 97, and where specifically such a by-pass might be located.

#### CURRENT INFORMATION

- The Highway 97 – Peachland Transportation Study was announced in December 2015 and is still in the early fact-finding/data collection stage. This is a two-year study focused on Peachland, in concert with the Central Okanagan Planning Study (COPS), which was launched in the fall of 2014.
- The purpose of the study is to objectively:
  - Examine current transportation needs for the Highway 97 corridor through Peachland.
  - Identify future transportation needs through Peachland.
  - Identify and assess possible short, medium and long-term solutions to address future needs through and/or around Peachland.
- The province's study is in the early stages of information gathering, and no improvement plans, including alternative highway alignments, have been developed.
- A public open house is planned in the near future, and will be advertised publicly, where the province will present information it has gathered through data collection and consultation with the District of Peachland and a Community Liaison Committee for discussion and comment.
- It is anticipated that the study will result in the development of two scenarios: upgrading within the existing corridor; and a potential alternative highway (bypass) alignment.
- The Peachland Transportation Study results will be an important element, along with input from local government and the community, in the province's future highway improvement planning through Peachland

## **BACKGROUND**

On August 11, 2015, the District of Peachland Council unanimously passed the following resolution:

**“WHEREAS** the Province of BC has initiated a study to determine the transportation needs of the Central Okanagan and recommend possible routing of highways in the area in conjunction with a second bridge crossing and;

**WHEREAS** any expansion of Highway 97 through Peachland will have significant and negative social, economic and environmental impacts on the future of the District of Peachland; and

**WHEREAS** a by-pass around Peachland will create economic opportunity and enhance Peachland’s desirability as a place to live and to visit;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Municipal Council of the District of Peachland hereby requests the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to construct a Highway 97 by-pass to the west of the District starting at or near Greata Ranch in the south and terminating at Highway 97C in the north leaving the existing Highway 97 as a designated scenic tourist route under municipal control.”

A meeting was held in September with Premier Christy Clark, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Todd Stone, Mayor Cindy Fortin, Councillors Thom and Schierbeck as well as Ministry and District staff. This meeting resulted in the announcement of a Peachland specific study to coincide with the Central Okanagan Planning Study (COPS).

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Anyone with questions regarding the Peachland Transportation Study can contact:

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Anyone with questions with respect to the Council resolution can contact:

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