**West Coast Communities Transportation Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, May 2nd, 2016**

**NETP Office, Ucluelet BC**

**10:00 pm – 12:00 pm**

**Present**

**Marilyn McEwan,** District of Ucluelet and Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce; **Tony Bennet,** ACRD, Area C; **Suzanne Williams,** Ucluelet First Nation; **Aaron Rodgers,** District of Tofino; **Jen Dart,** Tofino Long Beach Chamber of Commerce; **Josie Osborne,** District of Tofino; **Rebecca Hurwitz,** Clayoquot Biosphere Trust; **Evan Hauser,** NETP; **Marcie DeWitt,** ACHN.

**Intros and Updates**

Marcie acknowledged the traditional territory of the Ucluelet First Nations and thanked Evan from NETP for the use of the space. Introductions were conducted around the room and participants shared updates on transportation if applicable.

**Josie, District of Tofino**

The DoT Summer Shuttle will be running again from July through August with increased hours, now 8am to 11pm. The District currently tracks local ridership vs visitors and will be looking at ways to track those accessing shuttle for employment. It is a free service.

**Tony, Alberni Clayoquot Regional District**

ACRD is seeking funding to ensure that the Ucluelet and Tofino trail systems adjacent to highway 4 connect to the Pacific Rim National Park trail. This is a 2 km gap on the Tofino side and a 1 km gap on the Ucluelet side.

**Josie** - The District of Tofino has already secured partial funding to cover about 1 km of trail and the remaining is hoped to be leveraged through regional applications.

**BC Transit Update**

**ACRD**

Josie and Tony provided a quick update on the process being undertaken by the Westcoast Committee of the ACRD. BC Transit has identified that they would not be able to conduct a feasibility study in 2017. They will provide a list of contractors which they work with in order to conduct a business case as a first step, this information would feed into the feasibility study. The Westcoast Committee has allocated $5000 for this process but further questions arouse for the ACRD/BC Transit from the Transportation Working Group.

* What is the total cost of the feasibility study and what portion is to be covered by the communities? So we can anticipate costs and begin factoring them into budgeting
* Will the business case feed directly into the feasibility study? Is there any draw backs to collecting this data ahead of time rather than all together? Is there a case to wait until BC Transit can complete this all in one process?
* It was identified that we could use some additional information around terms from BC Transit as well as a more formal confirmation of timeline to have a feasibility study completed to ensure we are on the list for 2018 and can begin ear marking funds during budgeting processes and informing community members and partners.

**WC Transportation Working Group**

Marcie provided a quick review of work through the Working Group leading up/feeding into discussions around the feasibility study discussions. The question around the Working Groups interest in being involved as an advisory body and what that might look like was also posed.

* Group is absolutely interested as acting as an advisory body to the feasibility study process to ensure local priorities and information are identified and fed into the report
* Jen identified that the Chamber can assist with fundraising efforts (if required), information distribution and planting the seed with local employers around funding for transportation services.
* Group was very interested in ensuring that there was face to face meetings not just email decisions and input to ensure a holistic and full picture of local need.
* Would like more information around terms and parameters of the studies to ensure we know what we will need to ask for and ensure that all west coast communities with road access are included.

**Prospective Timeline**

To begin visioning and set forth goals to ensure work on this process stays on track the group came up with a preliminary timeline.

Spring/Summer 2017

* Gather initial data – CBT, VS, MHO, Airport
* Iron out questions around process, roles and feasibly study. How will business case feed into feasibility study, ensure all communities are included.
* Define meetings and how many

Fall 2017

* Process finalized and working group acknowledged as resource
* Planning for first phase (if it leads into feasibility study in a way deemed adequate by local communities)

2018

* Full Feasibility Study
* Begin financial planning with communities, advocacy for additional funds and support if necessary.

2019

* Transit System implementation!

**Transportation Project Updates**

**Regional Transportation Assets Map**

Marcie brought up the google map developed to highlight transportation corridors and access to services in the ACRD for advocacy, education and planning purposes. Overall functionality of map, community profiles and transportation summaries where reviewed.

Feedback – include last date updated in map summary to ensure transparency.

**Wheels for Wellness**

Numbers for the last term were as follows:

January – 19 rides

February – 29 rides

March – 25 rides

$320 was received in donations, which averages $4.39/ride; there has been an increase in overnight and escort rides which is challenging for the drivers if ridership is low as well an overall decrease in access by first nation communities.

Require more community knowledge required for the program

* Marcie will connect with Don around what can be done
* Require an electronic poster can distribute
* Marcie to bring posters to FNHA meetings and other network meetings
* Work with CHR’s in first nation communities to ensure program is known and accessed when applicable
* Add info to the rec guides
* Tony had an idea around a one year recognition for the program, sponsors and volunteers.

**Review Dialog to Action Plan**

Marcie led the group through areas of the action plan which have been met, remain unmet and are identified as additional opportunities. Overall the region has made vast improvements to accessibility in the last 2 years. All major priorities have been met, work will allow for additional advocacy opportunities which are required to move forward bigger priorities.

Group recommended a roundtable discussion to be hosted around the feasibility study when more procedural details are known.

**Additions**

**Highway 4 upgrade**

To mitigate concerns about the upcoming highway upgrades and subsequent closures while work is being done Mike Pearson from the Ministry of Transportation will be going to local leadership to get input on delays and impacts and seek feedback on ways to communicate and reduce impact.

**Next Meeting**

Fall 2017 for Transit Feasibility study input when process and details are clarified.