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Prospero No: PL000243

Mr Dave Edgar
 Ministry of Transportation
 3rd Floor – 2100 Labieux
 Nanaimo BC
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Dear Dave

RE: University Village Local Area Plan and Trans-Canada Highway Study

Thank you for working with the Municipality of North Cowichan, Cowichan Tribes and the City of Duncan on developing a Local Area Plan for the University Village and a complementary transportation plan for the Trans-Canada Highway (TCH), and for assisting in the funding of this important study.

We have now received Stantec's final TCH study and we have incorporated the TCH recommendations into the University Village local Area Plan (UVLAP). In the near future Council will be considering adopting the UVLAP as a bylaw to assist in the implementation of the recommendations.

Staff has also now prioritized Stantec's recommended improvements for the wider TCH study area, creating a preferred short term program that the Local Government partners wish to accomplish within the next 5 years. Working together in partnership with MOTI and the other partners who have been working in collaboration to identify solutions to some of the problems identified through the study, we believe the changes proposed can offer significant safety and mobility benefits to the residents of the City of Duncan, Municipality of North Cowichan and Cowichan Tribes and the wider region. We also believe that these improvements will also deliver other improvements including aesthetic, social and environmental improvements to this major corridor, which in turn will boost economic confidence in the area.

The suggested program of improvements to the corridor is outlined below and is grouped by geographical area for ease of discussion.

Northern Area – James St to Beverly St

1. Continuous center median barrier with a median fence from Beverly St to James St that will include closing the southbound left turns into the Tim Hortons Road and also the McDonald's area (recognizing this will require further consultation);
2. Extending the 50 km/h zone to just north of Beverly St;
3. Adding a new sidewalk, curb and gutter on the west side;

4. Add a speed reader board for south bound traffic to reinforce the 50 km/h zone.
5. Constructing an eastside multi-use trail, and curb and gutter from James St to Beverly St;
6. Add a Gateway feature as per the report.

Central Area – Dobson St to James St

1. Add countdown timers to all the intersections;
2. Separate the eastbound and westbound traffic movements (what the Ministry calls split phase) at Trunk and Coronation.

Southern Area – Boys Rd to Dobson St

1. Connect the Trans-Canada Highway to Price Place;
2. Add a northbound speed reader board;
3. Add a new full signal at Cowichan Way;
4. Continuous center median barrier with a median fence from Boys Rd to Dobson Rd (recognizing this will require further consultation and the completion of the Cowichan Way signal and Price Place connection);
5. New multi-use pathway from Boys north to the south end of the bridge and then again from north end of bridge to Dobson Rd.

We look forward to discussing this program with the Ministry at your earliest opportunity to build on the momentum which has been generated through this extensive public engagement planning process which has been undertaken in partnership with the relevant stakeholders over the last 12 months. It is also expected once Council adopts the plan into bylaw that we will be discussing these identified priority projects with the Minister at the 2014 UBCM Convention this September.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely



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