

HIGHWAYS 2/49 - FUNCTIONAL PLANNING STUDY
North of Valleyview to South of Nampa
Open House #2 - December 1 & 2, 2010

- PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET -

INTRODUCTION

Alberta Transportation has contracted McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd. to complete a Functional Planning Study along Highways 2 and 49, from north of Valleyview to south of Nampa. The long range plan will:

- Identify side of twinning for the initial expressway stage.
- Confirm previously identified interchange locations.
- Develop interchange configurations for the freeway stage.
- Define supporting access management with service road and local road network requirements.
- Identify the environmental and geotechnical issues associated with the highway improvements.
- Define right-of-way requirements.
- Assist the province and the municipalities in planning for property protection and future access management.

BACKGROUND

As part of the National Highway System, linking Alberta and the Northwest Territories, the ultimate design for Highways 2 and 49 is a free-flow four-lane freeway, with access only at interchanges.

WHAT IS A FREEWAY?

- Prior to the ultimate freeway stage, the highway will be twinned with at-grade intersections desirably spaced 3.2 km apart (Expressway Stage).
- Freeways are a free-flow highway.

- Access to freeways are limited to interchange locations only.
- All traffic signals, intersections and driveways are removed.
- Access will be consolidated through service roads or local roads.
- The National Highway System serves inter-provincial and inter-regional traffic flows.

WHY AN ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN?

- To remove direct access to the highway.
- Establish intersection / interchange locations at recommended spacing.
- To maintain public access to all affected properties.
- It is increasingly important to finalize the ultimate interchange locations and configurations to protect long-term right-of-way requirements and to enable the MD of Greenview and MD of Smoky River to effectively plan their future road network and land use requirements.

INTERCHANGE SPACING

To meet freeway planning objectives, the desirable rural interchange spacing is between 8 km and 16 km.

STAGING

Stage 1:

- 4-lane divided expressway plan, with access only at intersections desirably spaced 3.2 km apart, for the medium to long-term.

Stage 2:

- Ultimately a 4-lane freeway with access limited to interchange locations.

STUDY PROCESS

Project Appraisal: Met with the M.D of Smoky River and M.D. of Greenview to document issues, concerns and study objectives.

Development of Preliminary Plan: Consideration was given to interchange spacing, associated local road network improvements, geotechnical issues, environmental impacts, property impacts, and access management.

Open House #1 (held June 16 & 17, 2010): Invited the community and stakeholders to view the project information and preliminary plans and to provide project staff with their input and concerns.

Development of Recommended Plan: Reviewed public input in evaluating the preliminary plans concerning interchange spacing, twinning alternatives, local road network impacts, environmental and geotechnical requirements and access management.

Open House #2: Provide the opportunity to view the project information and recommended plan, and to discuss the plans with project staff.

Endorsement of Recommended Plan: Prepare the recommended plan and report for approval by Alberta Transportation.

RESULTS OF OPEN HOUSE #1

The following comments and concerns were received at Open House #1:

- Loss of direct access to a paved highway;
- Little Smoky River crossing Option A (near the existing) identified as preferred; and
- Requests to consider realigning the freeway 1 mile east of the existing highway between Donnelly Corner and Nampa to avoid impacting homes located adjacent to the highway.

The concerns were reviewed and addressed in the recommended plan.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Following this Open House, a recommended plan will be presented to Alberta Transportation for approval.

INFORMATION

If you were unable to attend the Open House and wish to make your comments known or would like additional information, please contact:

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