



Engineering & Public Works
Staff Report to Council

File: 11-5330-01

DATE: September 19, 2016
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Hirod Gill, Manager of Engineering Design and Planning
SUBJECT: **Priority Highway Projects**

RECOMMENDATION: Council consider and resolve:

That a letter be forwarded the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding priority projects in the District of Mission.

PURPOSE:

This report seeks Council's approval for staff to communicate with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) regarding priority highway projects that should be expedited in the District of Mission.

BACKGROUND:

In response to the staff report on December 1, 2014 to identify four MoTI projects that the District deems to be of high priority, Council resolved that:

RECOMMENDED: That the following project priorities be forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation for their 10-year Transportation Plan:

- Cedar Connection, Highway 7 and Highway 11 intersection improvements;
- Widening of Highway 7 from Nelson Street through to River Road in Maple Ridge;
- Widening of Highway 7 from Murray Street to Dewdney Trunk Road; and
- Highway 7 and Dewdney Trunk Road intersection improvements.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS:

Since receipt of this December 2014 letter, staff have met with the MoTI many times to discuss these, and other projects, within the District. Recently, advancements have been made by the MoTI on the planning of some of these projects. As well, numerous maintenance issues within the District have been addressed.

While all of the projects listed in the December 2014 letter are still a priority for the District, staff suggest that a letter be sent to the MoTI communicating that, in particular, the capital projects be expedited as soon as possible to address issues that are causing traffic congestion and frustration within the community. The intersections of Highway 7 and Highway 11/Cedar Valley Connector, and Highway 7 at the Murray Street overpass experience significant traffic delays in both the morning and afternoon peak traffic hours.

As a result, staff recommend that Council give the following projects the highest priority and authorize staff to communicate these with the MoTI for consideration.

1. Cedar Connector, Highway 7 and Highway 11 Intersection Improvements

This intersection experiences significant traffic delays and is in need of upgrades including, but not limited to, road widening, traffic signal timing modification, and pedestrian and cyclist facility upgrades.

2. Widening of Highway 7 from Murray Street to Dewdney Trunk Road

Traffic delays at the intersection of Highway 7 and the Murray Street Overpass are a frequent occurrence. Traffic queues have extended as far east as Dewdney Trunk Road, which is approximately 4 km away from the above mentioned intersection. Road widening in this area, with an immediate focus on the Murray to Stave Lake Street/Highway 7 area, would be a significant benefit to motorists. As well, a traffic signal should be installed at Highway 7 and Dewdney Trunk Road.

The purpose of selecting these two as the high priority projects is to request that the MoTI concentrate their efforts to resolve the District's most significant traffic concerns, which in turn could result in having these two intersections upgraded sooner.

COUNCIL GOALS/OBJECTIVES:

The proposed action is in line with Council's goal and objective to enhance lifestyle opportunities and community health in Mission.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

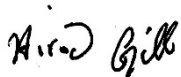
COMMUNICATION:

If Council approves, staff will issue a letter to our local MLAs and the MoTI, communicating the District's request.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

On December 1, 2014 Council approved four project priorities to be forwarded to the MoTI for their 10-year Transportation Plan. This report seeks approval for staff to communicate with the MoTI regarding priority highway projects that should be expedited in the District of Mission.

SIGN-OFFS:



Hirod Gill, Manager of Engineering Design & Planning



Reviewed by:
Tracy Kyle, Director of Engineering & Public Works

Comment from Chief Administrative Officer:
Reviewed.