



DIRECTOR REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: DR-BRD-056

From: Brad Sperling, Director

Date: April 20, 2023

Subject: Sustainable Access for Old Fort Residents

PURPOSE / ISSUE:

To authorize that a letter be sent to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) inquiring about the status of sustainable access for the residents of Old Fort. During the May 26, 2022, Committee of the Whole Meeting, MoTI presented the Old Fort Road Option Analysis Study findings. The decision at that time was to maintain the existing road access. The Regional Board has not received any further updates since May 2022.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize that a letter be sent to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure inquiring about the status and timeline of providing sustainable access for the residents of Old Fort.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Following the landslides affecting the Old Fort Road and community in the fall of 2018 and the summer of 2020, the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) was notified by Minister Farnworth, on August 18, 2020, that "A multi-ministry committee had been established to review the following:

- Outcome of the Options Analysis for an alternate route or additional emergency route into Old Fort as identified by the MoTI project;
- Slope stabilization options (if viable);
- A cost-benefit analysis of establishing a new permanent route versus other options; and
- Other solutions or considerations that may be identified."

On December 23, 2021 the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure released the "Old Fort Options Analysis Study" (dated December 3, 2021) conducted by McElhanney on behalf of the Ministry.

On January 13, 2022, the Regional Board passed the following motion:

MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED

That the Regional Board invite representatives from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to attend a future Board meeting to present the findings of the "Old Fort Options Analysis Study" completed by McElhanney on behalf of the Ministry.

During the May 26, 2022, Committee of the Whole Meeting, representatives from MoTI presented an overview of the Old Fort Road Options Analysis Study. Topics included:

- Options (access, crossings, focus on long term access reliability, risks/unknowns, environmental impacts, field investigations);
- Environmental assessment (environmental footprint, permitting, habitat loss, First Nations consultation, new disturbance);
- Hydrotechnical assessment (Peace River adjacent to Old Fort slide area);
- Structural assessment on options with bridges (in river piers, deep pile foundations, higher costs associated with in stream works, permitting, potential schedule delays);
- Geotechnical assessment (completed by BGC);
- Cost estimates (construction, land acquisition, environmental / archaeological mitigation work, First Nations consultation, project management, engineering);
- Multiple criteria evaluation (design elements / components, constructability, access reliability, environmental impact, property impact / acquisition, economic impact, ongoing geotechnical rehab, total cost);
- Recommendation – Option F (maintain existing road access, highest multiple criteria evaluation score, lowest cost option, no requirements for land acquisition or new construction, lowest environmental impact); and
- Next steps (geotechnical field investigation).

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Not Applicable to Strategic Plan

External Links:

1. [August 18, 2020 letter from Minister Farnworth to Residents of Old Fort](#)
2. [MoTI December 3, 2021 Old Fort Options Analysis](#)
3. [MoTI – Old Fort Road Options Analysis Study Delegation – May 26, 2022, Committee of the Whole](#)