

Minutes  
Veterans Memorial Highway Association  
North Zone District 1 Meeting  
Held Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Vilna & District Cultural Centre  
Vilna, Alberta

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:09 a.m. by Chairman Arnold Hanson.
- In Attendance: The List of Attendees is attached and forms part of these minutes.
- Introductions: All persons in attendance introduced themselves and which jurisdiction they represented.
- Chairman's Report: Chairman Hanson reported on what the activities the Board has been working on. In previous zone meetings we have had in attendance Alberta Transportation representatives to discuss concerns raised by the members of the Association about Highway 36 and 881. We have also been in contact with the Alberta Motor Transport Association about the Pilot Car Training Certificate program. Chairman Hanson attended the Global Forum recently in Camrose and was interested in comments made by Shawn Hammond about planning for the needs of the highways in the Province. In the future highway development will be addressed by traffic destinations either for commerce or the movement of people. To meet the needs Alberta Transportation has to have planning in place which is based on where products have to be moved and in a reasonable time.
- Pilot Car: Chairman Hanson also stated that the Association has supported the development of a Pilot Car Training program. This was driven by the membership who have had numerous experiences with oversize/wide loads on Highway 36 and 881. There is no uniformity in how pilot car operators move traffic around the loads and what they want regular traffic to do.

A concern expressed about regulating Pilot Car Operators is that farm equipment could or may come under a regulation which would be detrimental to the farming operation. Wayne Hammergren stated that most farmers are very carefull about planning and moving their machinery. Chairman Hanson said that there has been increased scrutiny by enforcement on the movement of farm commodities. When regulations are being drafted the Association has to make sure that we stipulate commercial/industrial operations only.

High Load  
Corridor:

Robert Richard said that there continues to be a difference in what the term “High Load Corridor” means. In our case we think it means vehicles moving oversized high loads, but to others it means a utility corridor especially for electrical power movement. Mr. Richard stated that we should have an explanation from Alberta Transportation as to what use they consider a high/load corridor to be.

Permits:

Chairman Hanson stated that permit revenues collected has ended up going to electrical wire development.

Minister Meetings:

Elroy Yakemchuk asked whether there was still a possibility of meeting with the Minister of Transportation. From previous correspondence it would appear that the Minister wants us to work through the Regional Directors. Sonny Rajoo stated that with Minister Mason having both Transportation and Infrastructure portfolios probably creates time Constraints for him.

#### Lac La Biche

**Traffic Re-Routing:** Robert Richard stated that there has been no work done regarding the re-routing of traffic around Lac La Biche from 36 to 881 or work on a proper rest area or pull out. Wayne Hammergren said he discussed the matter of pull outs and rest areas with Shawn Hammond who said that the Province is more receptive to government cooperating with private enterprise to create rest stop areas. Ben Elfring reported that the MD of Taber is still working toward a 3P type of rest area at Vauxhall. The Association has to pursue these matters through the Regional offices on behalf of the members to at least move the discussions forward for the municipalities involved.

#### HUB Transportation

**Study:** Bob Bezpalko provided information about the Alberta HUB recently completed Transportation Study. The study is country based looking at the economics of setting up value added industry and the transportation network required to move the materials either to the value added processor or to the end market. Movement of these raw or processed goods need a good highway infrastructure. Good feeder highways are required in addition to the main provincial network along with integrated transportation such as rail. The study used existing reports as well as trying to get more relevant information. The study also showed the economic impact that Eastern Alberta has on the overall Provincial economy. The study identified a problem in the classification of highways in that it becomes an issue when developing a Master Plan for planning development and how the highways are evaluated. Wayne Hammergren feels that this study is a valuable tool that the Association supports and work with Regional Directors to put forward the ideas for improvements to Highways 36 and 881. Use economics as the driving force.

Pamphlet and App Chairman Hanson told the attendees that the Association is investigating the development of a pamphlet and app which would include references and a data base for the trucking industry as well as tourism. The idea would be to provide the information at the border to promote the use of Highways 36 and 881 and what the highways can deliver. The general travelling public could use the information to plan trips within Alberta. Michael Simpson explained that the development would be cost neutral based on sale of advertising. The Association would have to front the funds for initial start up costs.

Motion: Elroy Yakemchuk that the Veterans Memorial Highway Association continue to investigate and pursue the development of a Highway 36 and 881 information brochure and a timely electronic application for the trucking industry and tourism.

Carried Unanimously:

Issues and Concerns: Chairman Hanson asked the attendees what issues or concerns they had regarding the highways in the area. Mayor Romanko of the Village of Vilna said that turning or passing lanes at the entrance to Vilna is a necessity for safety especially when wide oversized loads are involved. There are no passing lanes or rest areas available and accidents have happened. Roy Dyck said that EMS, Fire and School Buses have all had incidents involving wide loads and nearly been clipped because there just is not enough room. East of Vilna at Cats Lake a turning lane is needed for the same safety reasons. Maxine Fodness said that the Highway 28 and Highway 36 intersection continues to be a concern. You just do not have a proper site line looking east on Highway 28 from Highway 36 when turning west on 28. Would also like to see 80 km. zones on all highways when a school is located along the highway.

M.L.A. Hanson: M.L.A. Hanson thanked the Association for inviting him to the meeting and is supportive of its members and the mandate to see Highway 36 developed into a major north south corridor which is so important to the economic development of eastern Alberta. He asked the Association to provide him with details for questions which he could put before the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure during question period if a project of safety or improvement does not move forward or delayed.

MGA Wayne Hammergren stated that with the major revue of the Municipal Government Act starting the near future, municipalities will be asked to look more and more at joint venture partnerships and collaboration with their municipal neighbors. He wanted to emphasize the importance of being fully involved in this legislation review process.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary-Treasurer