

Minutes
Veterans Memorial Highway Association
North Zone District 1 Meeting
Held Friday, June 27th, 2014
Two Hills Senior Citizens Club
4903 – 47 Avenue
Two Hills, Alberta

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m. by Barry Morishita.
- In Attendance: The List of Attendants is attached and forms part of these minutes.
- Chairman's Report: Barry Morishita provided an over view of the Board's activities. He congratulated the Board Members elected at the Annual Meeting. The past the Board focus has been on the strategic plan, getting the pilot car training program underway, the Association providing input into the Provincial 40 Year Transportation Plan, the Legion Recognition Signage and safety along Highway 36 and 881. With the Alberta Transportation 40 Year Plan, the Association needs to make the importance of Highways 36 and 881 corridors more of a priority within the plan which can then provide stability to transportation of goods and services to the north and to the communities.
- Open Discussion: Chairman Morishita opened the floor to general discussion.
- High Load Corridor: Frank Sloan asked what was needed to be done to make Highway 36 a true and complete high load corridor. There is a section of Highway 36 in the south which is not designated and bridges between Highway 28 and Lac La Biche which need to be upgraded for the heavy loads.
- New Highway: Jane Stroud has information which indicates the Province wants to build a highway from Parsons Creek on Highway 881 west to the Peace Region which means more funding will be taken from improvements of existing Highway Programs both for primary and secondary. Bob Bezpalko feels the Association needs to know what is driving the new highway, politics or industry.

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Re-Numbering 881 Frank Sloan asked about the change request for Highway 881 to Highway 36. The process will take time and a lot of co-operation from M.L.A.'s, Local Municipal Governments and Alberta Transportation. There is an Issue about funding between Secondary Highways and Primary Highways.

Ports to Plains: Michael Simpson questioned the relationship between Ports to Plains Alliance and the impact for Highway 36. Ports to Plains wants to see a long term transportation strategy for increased and improved trade between Canada, United States and Mexico for the easy shipment of products back and forth. They see highway transportation as an intricate part to economic growth and trade. The Association has the same goals for Highway 36 and 881 and can work with Ports to Plains on highway improvements.

Rail Way

Intersections: Michael Simpson also asked that the closeness of railway tracks to Highway intersections is a problem. Not sure how we can fix this problem of safety. It effects at least three Highway intersections on Highway 36.

M.L.A. Meeting: Jane Stroud suggested the Association can make headway through the local M.L.A.'s who have a vested interest in the highways. Ben Elfring stated maybe we could meet with Rural Caucus to see if we can make our goals more of a priority with the Province. Through the Rural Action Plan we could develop a more detailed plan specific to our priorities. Elroy Yakemchuk feels we have to give them the ideas to move forward.

Discussion took place about conducting a study which document traffic volumes, commercial and industrial financial impacts and safety issues which we can then set priorities for the highways with information to back up the importance of those priorities. Michael Simpson feels we also have to brand the study. Bob Bezpelka feels when we have information we can push the priorities. We need to get the costs down versus the amount of product movement on Highway 36 and 881.

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- Advertising: Elroy Yakemchuk feels that the Association needs to be more proactive through advertising our goals and priorities.
- Oil Sands: Bob Bezpalka stated its important for the Association to communicate with the oil and gas sector organizations so we can learn about future development plans and what transportation needs they will have.
- Pilot Car Training: As we have not heard from the Western Pilot Car Association, the Association will try to contact various colleges about setting up a proper Certificate Program and what the process and costs are.
- Adjournment: There being no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Secretary - Treasurer