

Minutes
Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Central Zone Meeting
Held Friday, September 11th, 2015
Vegreville Centennial Library
Board Room
Vegreville, Alberta

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.

- Attendance: The List of Attendees is attached and forms part of these minutes.
- Chairman: Chairman Hanson and Vice-Chairman Yakemchuk were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments and Barry Morishita agreed to be the Chairman for the meeting.
- Board Report: The Secretary-Treasurer informed the meeting that the Board has been occupied with the Highway 36/881 project report. This report is such an integral part of the Association for it to move forward. Financially the Association is in good order and is able to meet its obligations.
- Highway 36/881
Project
Interim Report: Chairman Morishita asked Mr. Siddle and Mr. Cole to proceed with their presentation of the interim report. Mr. Siddle wanted to give the attendees a sense of what they have found to date. They have talked to many people about Highway 36 and 881 which included Provincial Government Departments, industry, schools, EMS, municipalities and economic development. They offer a wide variety and range of opinions about transportation. The focus of the brief is the projects which were identified by the Association. Mr. Siddle and Mr. Cole will prepare a power point presentation for the Association to use in whatever manner it sees fit. They then went on to describe and discuss the various identified projects.

- Pull Out/Rest Areas** Their recommendation is that pull out rest areas are needed to move traffic efficiently. They identified four places which require the pull out rest areas. The industry recommended standard is one every 80 kms. Some of the attendees felt that is too long. Alberta Transportation sets the standard based on oversized and standard loads. Pull out rest areas do not have to be paved. Examples of private commercial pull out rest area operations were Killam and Cactus Corner. These are working very well and show that opportunities do exist. Chris Warnick stated that private development like Cactus Corner is practical and can work very successfully. Robert Richard said that commercialization of pull out rest areas is practical; however Alberta Transportation does not seem overly supportive of those types of projects. Mr. Siddle stated that Alberta Transportation needs to accept changes to the design of pull outs; they have to firstly consult with local municipalities. The Association needs to review the standards and look to actively change the high/load corridor so that the highway is more than a single use transportation corridor. Mr. Cole said that there is no process to recognize private sector development by Alberta Transportation. Michael Simpson stated that there is a planned industrial development at the intersection of Highway 36 and Highway 16. Ben Elfring stated that M.D. of Taber is still open to discussions for a pull out/commercial venture at Vauxhall. Mr. Siddle stated the discussion held will be part of the final report.
- Climbing/Passing Lanes** Mr. Siddle reviewed the suggested development of climbing and passing lanes. These include the Battle River North and South, North of Matchewan Creek and North of Emerson Bridge and 3 major hill climbs on 881 and one at Cottonwood. Mr. Siddle said that passing lanes need to be at least 14 feet wide and wider for oversized loads. Highway 881 are very long pulls which have to be considered.
- Railway Crossings:** Alberta Transportation knows that the proximity of railway crossings to highway intersections is a serious problem. Since rail traffic has priority over vehicle traffic solving these problems will be costly and require some complex solutions which need to be discussed.

- Overpasses:** The report outlines that overpasses are required at the Highway 36 and Highway 1 intersection. In order to be able to accommodate high/wide loads the overpass needs a design which can work. Mr. Siddle outlined a design which can work to accommodate the high/wide loads. Wayne Hammergren asked how the height restrictions could be overcome. Mr. Siddle showed his idea of a tentative design to overcome the problem. It would mean have an exclusive right of way for the high/wide loads which would only be used when required. This right of way would not be used for regular traffic, but be available when needed by the high/wide traffic.
- Highway Planning and Studies:** The report outlines that the Province needs to facilitate discussions with municipalities, first nations and highway associations when they do their long term transportation planning. There has to be an opportunity for their involvement and be meaningful dialogue. All transportation projects are on hold at this time until the budget is completed. Any studies which effect Highway 36 and 881 should see the final outcomes approved by consensus of the municipalities involved.
- Permit Funding:** The report contains recommendations that would see permit revenue allocated on the basis of number of loads travelling the highways so that funding is available for work required on those highways. Presently, very little funding is available from permits for Highway 36 and 881.
- Pilot Car Training:** The Alberta Motor Transport Association is in the process of creating a pilot car training program for people to become certified. The VMHA must continue to support and lobby to see this training program become reality.
- Other Information:** Mr. Siddle asked everyone who has pictures of oversized, high/wide loads on Highway 36 and 881 to send them to him for use in the report. The want to be able to emphasize the recommendations being put forward visually.

Final Report: If all the information comes together the final report should be completed shortly. Mr. Siddle and Mr. Cole are available to assist the Association with any presentations if needed.

Central Zone Issues: Chris Warnick mentioned that Highway 36 south of Hanna to Brooks is in need of resurfacing. The shoulders of the highway need work due to the sharp drop off. The Town of Hanna plans to meet with Alberta Transportation at the AUMA conference to push for the needed resurfacing.

There being no further discussions the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer