

GREATER LANGLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

POSITION STATEMENT RE 16th AVENUE

A major concern for the Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce is transportation throughout the Metro Vancouver Region. The following is the position and efforts the Chamber has made with regards to the movement of goods, services, and traffic between the Abbotsford International Airport, Canada/US border crossings, and Highway 99 to YVR.

Beginning in 2007, the Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce identified the need for a major road connection between the Abbotsford Airport and Highway 99. In partnership with the Surrey and Abbotsford Chambers of Commerce we submitted and received support for a resolution recommending that the Provincial Government identify and begin to protect a new traffic corridor through South Abbotsford, Langley, and Surrey for future development. Over the years it has become quite evident that the costs to develop a completely new traffic corridor would be prohibitive, and TransLink and the City of Abbotsford have identified 16th Avenue as part of the major road network through Surrey and Langley to Abbotsford. We are also aware that Abbotsford has acquired title to property and plans to extend this corridor to provide a direct East-West connection from Abbotsford Airport to Highways 13, 15, and 99.

At the BC Chamber AGM in 2014, we amended the resolution to request that the Provincial Government designate 16th Avenue as a Provincial Highway, that the corridor be developed to improve access, enhance safety, and ensure consistent maintenance. Our recommendation includes property acquisition to widen 16th Avenue to four lanes, develop frontage roads for safe residential traffic movement and reduction of the number of North-South intersections across the corridor, and installation of traffic lights at critical intersections.

16th Avenue carries a significant amount of traffic - both passenger and commercial vehicles - on a daily basis. Unfortunately, it has also experienced a significant number of serious traffic incidents. The purpose of our recommendations to the Provincial Government is to address an existing transportation need, plan for projected growth in the region, and address substantial safety concerns. These now form part of the official BC Chamber Policy that is being presented to the Provincial Government.