



August 15, 2017

Honourable Brian Mason  
Minister of Transportation  
319 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Delivered via email: [transportation.minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:transportation.minister@gov.ab.ca)

Dear Minister Mason:

**Re: Highway 40 Proposed New Bridge**

We would like to update you on the Bridge Replacement in the Summer Village of Waiparous. You may be aware that the Village reinstated its' Road Committee, who contacted South Regional Director Davidson and asked for communication, collaboration and input with Alberta Transportation (AT). We received a positive response.

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Larry Anderson, Councilor Matthew Sundal along with the Road Committee met with representatives of Alberta Transportation (AT) and its consultants (HATCH and AMEC) on plans for the proposed new bridge in the Village. The meeting was cordial and included time for questions and concerns.

After hearing their presentation, Mayor Anderson, expressed his vehement opposition to the proposed alignment and offered the current location as a less objectionable alternative. Mayor Anderson, Councilor Sundal, and The Road Committee then asked specific questions and listed our many concerns. For instance some of the concerns included:

- Up to 8% loss of property taxes (potential \$12K a year financial impact based on appropriating 6 properties).
- Loss of road access for property owners off highway 40.

Honourable Brian Mason

August 15, 2017

Page 2

- Concerns of vulnerable users in crosswalks as well as paths to & over the bridge.
- Overall safety as there is no Police Force within the Municipality.
- The Village is not a typical urban area, it is environmentally sensitive where 2 waterways confluence into one in the area of the bridge. Minimal clearing, no curbs and no gutters are requested.
- Historical issues at the confluence of 2 rivers & a multi-generational property.

AT listened and acquiesced by allowing the future study to look at current and alternate alignments. However, they did not confirm that they would look into Social Impacts such as safety of vulnerable pedestrian users. Plus, we were disappointed in their lack of knowledge of the Village topography and layout. They did affirm they would meet with the Village representatives again after the preliminary design stage to go over specific design modifications.

We would like to express our gratitude that your department is amiable to working with the Village on this important infrastructure project. We are cautiously optimistic that a mutually beneficial bridge can be achieved for both residents and travelers. At the end of the year most of their studies will be completed and we expect some compromises and alterations to be made on the bridge design, location and roadway at that time.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter for the future of the Summer Village of Waiparous and we hope to update you at the first of next year with positive developments.

Sincerely,

SUMMER VILLAGE OF WAIPAROUS

for: Highway 40 Road Committee

Cc Cameron Westhead, MLA Banff-Cochrane  
Mayor Larry Anderson  
Councillor Matthew Sundal  
Sharon Plett, Municipal Administrator