

12.0 Transportation

12.1 Introduction

Road Network

The South Cariboo OCP area contains two primary highways: Highway 24 and Highway 97, and two main collector routes: Canim Lake/Hendrix Road and Horse Lake Road. The most important is Highway 97, which crosses the entire plan area on a north-south axis. Highway 97 is the main transportation corridor in the Cariboo and the longest provincial highway in the Province, extending from the Canada-United States border near Osoyoos in the south to the British Columbia-Yukon border in the north. Highway 24 starts at the Highway 97 intersection in the east (93 Mile) and traverses through the Interlakes area east to Little Fort where it meets with Highway 5.

The Canim Lake/Hendrix Road provides access to the Buffalo Creek, Gateway, Forest Grove and Ruth Lake communities. At Forest Grove the road heads east to Canim Lake and Mahood Lake and eventually to Hendrix Lake.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI), for both safety and transportation efficiency reasons, has a long term plan to upgrade Highway 97 to four lanes between Cache Creek and Prince George. The objectives of the Cariboo Connector project are to increase safety and decrease traveling times while providing northern communities with a first-class trade corridor that will support increased commercial traffic to meet the needs of an expanding economy. Phase I consisted of 18 projects between 2007 and 2011 including four-laning south of 100 Mile House (83 to 94 Mile) and intersection improvements between 100 Mile House and the 108 Mile Ranch. Nine additional projects in Phase 2 will add 30 km of new four-lane sections with five completed and the remainder to be underway by 2017.

Public Transit

The 100 Mile House Fixed Route Transit System began in September 1993. There are four kinds of transit services available to the area:

- Fixed route providing scheduled service to major destinations and residential areas in 100 Mile House, 103 Mile House and 108 Mile Ranch,
- Transit provides service by request only on Thursdays from Lac La Hache to 100 Mile House,
- HandyDART provides shared door-to-door, accessible transit for those unable to take regular transit, and
- Health Connections provides service to Williams Lake.

12.2 Objectives

- 12.2.1 Support a safe and efficient transportation system
- 12.2.2 Work with MoTI to ensure the long term safety and essential economic role of the Highway 97 corridor through the South Cariboo Area.
- 12.2.3 Encourage alternative modes of transportation, where feasible.
- 12.2.4 Support public and private transit options in cooperation with BC Transit and the District of 100 Mile House to permit the safe, efficient travel of local residents within the South Cariboo Area.

12.3 Policies

The Cariboo Regional District Board will:

- 12.3.1 Designate the road network as shown on Schedule 'L': Road Network.
- 12.3.2 Maintain the existing road network and work with MoTI to ensure the safety and efficient circulation of the transportation system.
- 12.3.3 Work with MoTI to ensure the transportation network is safe and suitable for all users - pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicles - by striving for recognized engineering, environmental and safety standards.
- 12.3.4 Work with MoTI to manage development along highways.
- 12.3.5 Liaise with MoTI - identified specific improvement projects.
- 12.3.6 Work with MoTI to support the Cariboo Connector program to improve safety and capacity of Highway #97 from Cache Creek to Prince George.
- 12.3.7 Collaborate with other stakeholders to support new transportation initiatives, such as electrical vehicle charging stations and car sharing programs.
- 12.3.8 Encourage alternative passenger transportation options that reduce single occupant automobile trips (e.g. ridesharing services) within the financial capacity of the CRD.
- 12.3.9 Continue to develop an integrated trail network for both recreation and transportation purposes. The network should incorporate safe, permeable and all-season design guidelines giving priority to:

- i 100 Mile House to 108 Mile;

- ii 100 Mile House to Horse Lake;
- iii Highway #24 in the Lone Butte area; and
- iv Canim-Hendrix Lake Road in the Buffalo Creek area.

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