

## 12.0 Transportation

### 12.1 Introduction

The Lac La Hache OCP area is bisected by Highway #97, also called the Cariboo Highway. The latter is a major highway corridor within the Province of British Columbia. The corridor provides service to resource areas and the various communities along the route it follows. In addition to providing access to forests, agricultural land and recreation areas, the Cariboo Highway is the prime conduit for resource industry products destined for provincial and export markets. The highway also serves a secondary function for commuters in the rural areas surrounding 100 Mile House, Williams Lake, Quesnel and Prince George.

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 the widening of 4.2 km near Lac La Hache, known as the Wright Station curves, to improve traffic safety. Other South Cariboo projects included the construction of four lanes 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 in 2017.

No plans have been prepared for upgrading to four lanes in the Lac La Hache Area as the priority traffic safety concern was addressed in Phase 1 and there are no capacity constraints. MoTI has indicated it will welcome consultation with the Lac La Hache community when funding for upgrading to four lanes becomes available. Issues identified by Lac La Hache residents include right of way acquisition requirements, frontage roads and sidewalks to serve the Townsite, accesses to individual commercial sites and high traffic locations such as the Garlic Festival site.

### 12.2 Objectives

- 12.2.1 Support a safe and efficient transportation system
- 12.2.2 Work with the MoTI to ensure the long-term safety and essential economic role of the Highway 97 corridor through Lac La Hache.
- 12.2.3 Encourage alternative modes of transportation, where feasible.

- 12.2.4 Support public and private transit options in cooperation with other stakeholders to permit the safe efficient travel of residents from Lac La Hache to larger commercial centres.

## 12.3 Policies

The Cariboo Regional District Board will:

- 12.3.1 Acknowledge the existing road network, as identified on Schedule 'I': Major Road Network.
- 12.3.2 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.
- 12.3.3 Work with MoTI to manage development along Highway 97.
- 12.3.4 Work with MoTI to ensure the Cariboo Connector program meets the local needs of residents and businesses as well increased capacity and safety along Highway #97.
- 12.3.5 Collaborate with other stakeholders to support new transportation initiatives as opportunities arise, such as sidewalks in the Townsite, an electrical vehicle charging station and car sharing program.
- 12.3.6 Encourage alternative passenger transportation options (e.g. winter ridesharing service to Mount Timothy) that are within the financial capacity of the CRD.