



Meeting with City of Vernon Councillors

December 17, 2019

**Commonage Road  
Improvement Committee  
(CRIC)**



Area 6 – has two world renowned resorts 15 minutes from downtown Vernon.

7 Wineries all ramping up for long term prosperity

Investors: Kingfisher

Over 100,000 people visiting PR facilities in a season

3000 vehicles traveling the corridor

Opportunity to plan for the future,

Economic spin off, taxes, jobs, tourism dollars



# Start Now to Prepare the Corridor

- We are not going to stop progress, let's embrace it and utilize the time to do it right, to benefit from foresight instead of hindsight .
- The commonage corridor has increased its use over the past years
- More functions than vehicle transportation, major corridor and link to CoV and the rail trail
- Cyclist groups from all over are using this corridor to access Wineries, Pr and Sparkling hill
- Need to improve the corridor overall functionality
- What can we do to improve the corridor and make it a safe path to prosperity in area 6 and for CoV



# Active Transportation Lane

- MTO has a program that promotes ATL.
- Would improve the use of Commonage Corridaor
- Phased in approach.
  - 1. Predator to junction –
  - 2 Junction to trail trail
  - 3. Junction to Bench Row Road Connecting with Trails

# + Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Introductions and information sharing
- Express concerns raised over Commonage Road (Bailey Road Intersection to Predator Ridge) and Bailey Road
  - Public Safety Concerns with Road Maintenance (summer and winter), no paved shoulders, high number of accidents
- Discuss support and assistance with the path forward to paving the road shoulders.
  - Recognizing that this section of road is outside CoV jurisdiction, but principal users are residents of Vernon plus high number of tourists accessing Predator Ridge, Sparkling Hill, wineries, bike trails etc.

# + Progress to Date

- Meetings with Erik Lachmuth, Area Manager, Roads Division from MTI.
- Met with Eric Foster, MLA
- Winter 2018 traffic count performed by MTI
  - ~1900 vehicles/day between Predator and Bailey Road
  - ~1800 vehicles/day between Bailey Road and City of Vernon
- As a result of the Winter Traffic Count, MTI has changed the road classification from a C/D to a B.
  - Substantial difference in winter maintenance schedule; resolved concerns on Commonage road from Bailey Road to CoV limits.
- Summer 2019 traffic count performed by MTI
  - ~3600 vehicles/day between Predator and Bailey Road
  - ~ 3000 vehicles/day between Bailey Road and City of Vernon
  - No change to summer road classification.

# + Progress to Date (cont'd)

- New 60 km/h speed limit and “share the road” signs installed
- New reflective “delineators” installed on one corner to test for winter season
- White line painted on one side of the road
- Predator Ridge residents educated regarding road ownership
- Predator Ridge (Wesbuild) and Sparkling Hill have both written letters of support for road improvements
- Over 1000 signatures received endorsing support to “Improve the Safety of Commonage and Bailey Roads”.

# + Outstanding Issues and Next Steps

- Monitor performance of new contractor in both summer and winter maintenance
  - Hold contractor accountable to terms of contract by encouraging road users to phone contractor hot line.
- Continue with minor road improvements: delineators, rumble strips, painted lines on both sides etc.
- Pave shoulders of road to improve safety for both vehicles and cyclists
  - Multiple studies conclude that paved shoulders significantly improve safety on high traffic two lane roads
  - MTI has no plans or funds for improvements to Commonage Road: suggested we engage interested stakeholders in funding partnerships to pave the shoulders of the road.



# + Why is this Important to City of Vernon?

- **Enhanced road safety for both vehicles and bicycles**
  - For Vernon residents who live at Predator Ridge
  - For Vernon residents who commute to or from Predator Ridge for work
  - For Vernon residents that travel to and from Predator Ridge for access to recreational facilities (trails, tennis, pickle ball courts)
  
- **Commonage Road provides access to and from major tourist areas, that are growing rapidly with a very bright future.**
  
- **Providing proper access draws tourists to City of Vernon rather than elsewhere.**
  
- **Paved Shoulders opens up great cycling opportunities:**
  - Enable cyclists from Predator Ridge to access City of Vernon and vice versa
  - Connect Predator Ridge Bike Trails to existing City of Vernon Commonage Loop
  - Aligns with proposed Rail Trail access



# We are asking for your assistance:

- **This is a complex situation;**
  - This section of road is provincially owned and maintained,
  - However City of Vernon residents are principal users,
    - Residents of Predator Ridge, employees at Predator Ridge and Sparkling Hill, various contractors, plus other CoV residents utilizing the multiple Predator Ridge recreation facilities.
  - High tourist traffic with continued expansion of tourist facilities along this corridor..
  
- **We need guidance, advice and support :**
  - Assistance in working with and navigating through the various levels of government.
  - Influence key people.
  - Support at City Council and RDNO Board for funding and prioritization
  - Find ways to provide incentive for stakeholders to support the paving of the shoulders.