

February 26, 2010

Campbell River Hosts Official Ground Breaking for Highway 19A Upgrade Project

The \$13.5 million Highway 19A Upgrade project, that will see upgrades and improvements to the main scenic entryway into Campbell River, officially broke ground today with federal, provincial and community partners on site to mark the occasion.

This significant capital works project includes a mix of water and sewer infrastructure renewal as well as above ground improvements such as sidewalks, landscaping, better lighting, and transit features.

“Highway 19A’s waterfront provides a spectacular entrance to the City,” said Mayor Charlie Cornfield of Campbell River. *“It also runs on top of major sewer and water infrastructure. The Highway 19A upgrades will improve our ability to deliver services to residents. And the above-ground improvements, similar to those in Willow Point, will enhance how local people and visitors experience the shoreline.”*

Joining Mayor Cornfield and Council for the ground breaking were John Duncan, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Island North, Don McRae, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Comox Valley, and Steve Watson of BC Hydro.

Funding for the \$13.5 million project is provided by the federal and provincial governments through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (part of Canada’s Economic Action Plan) and the Building Canada Fund, and by City reserves. Senior government funding amounts to approximately two-thirds of the cost. Federal contributions are \$4.38 million and provincial contributions are \$4.38 million. Campbell River contributes approximately \$4.73 million funded through surplus sewer and water funds and development cost charge reserves.

Also announced today was additional funding of approximately \$405,000 provided by BC Hydro through the BC Hydro Beautification Fund. This funding is applied against BC Hydro’s portion of the project and helps reduce the amount of this work that the City has to pay for.

“Under Canada’s Economic Action Plan, the federal government is committed to funding important infrastructure improvements,” said John Duncan, MP for Vancouver Island North. *“This will create immediate jobs and a legacy that will improve the quality of life and prosperity of the people of Campbell River. I am delighted that this project also complements the sewer extension to Crawford Road and south in Area D.”*

“This stretch of Highway 19A travels along some of the most beautiful scenery in B.C.” said Don McRae, MLA for the Comox Valley. *“These upgrades will benefit both residents and visitors alike. Helping communities on the Island to build and prepare for their future growth is a provincial priority of which I am proud to be part of.”*

As part of funding requirements the City must complete the project by March 31, 2011. Work has been broken into three phases to meet this deadline. Phase one involves water main and sewer line work and runs from March to June. Phases two and three follow immediately and involve constructing a new lift station and roadway improvements. Construction is estimated to run from March 2010 until March 2011.

Highway 19A will be closed between Hilchey Road and Rockland Road between March 2010 and November 2010 to accommodate construction. One-lane restricted road access will be maintained for residents living along this stretch, as well as for transit, emergency vehicles, and service vehicles. All other traffic will be directed to alternate routes.

For more information including a map of suggested detour routes visit the Highway 19A Upgrade pages on the City of Campbell River website: www.campbellriver.ca

BACKGROUNDER

PROJECT DETAILS

The Highway 19A Upgrade project starts at Hilchey Road and continues north for just under one kilometre. Work includes the replacement of sewer, water, storm drain, and conversion of all overhead utilities (hydro, telephone and cable) to underground. The project will add curbs, sidewalks, landscaping and street lighting, to a similar standard as constructed through Willow Point, to the south.

The project includes improved vehicle, transit, cycling and pedestrian routes as well as reconstruction of a major sewage pumping station. The project fills in one more piece of the waterfront vision established by the community to encourage medium-high density residential in-fill along the corridor. The project will also upgrade utilities and infrastructure to meet current and future City needs. In doing so the upgrades make possible sewer and water connections with Area D in the future.

Project design is being completed by Campbell River consulting firms McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd., and Highland Engineering, as well as by RF Binnie of Qualicum Beach. The construction tender for the first phase of the project has been awarded to Uplands Excavating Ltd. of Campbell River.

PARTNERS AND FUNDING DETAILS

The capital cost of this development is approximately \$13.5 million. Senior government funds are being provided through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, part of Canada's Economic Action Plan (www.actionplan.gc.ca) and through the Building Canada Fund.

- Federal government contribution: \$4,380,250
- Provincial government contribution: \$4,380,250
- City of Campbell River contribution: \$4,739,500
- BC Hydro funding, applied to the project: \$405,000

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