

November 2, 2010

Mayor and Council Re-Open Highway 19A to Traffic

Highway 19A between Hilchey and Rockland Road was officially re-opened Nov. 1 by Mayor and Council. The first stage of paving on the South Island Highway (19A) between Hilchey and Rockland Road is complete. The road is now open to two-lane traffic through the construction zone. The Seawalk is also open.

Mayor Charlie Cornfield was joined by members of Council Monday at 2 p.m. as he cut the banner to mark the re-opening of the road. *"We are very pleased to be here today, marking this milestone for the Highway 19A Upgrade Project,"* said Cornfield. *"We broke ground in March, and now we are opening the roadway today. The past seven months have been highlighted by great successes on this \$13.5 million project. For example, we are now standing on top of new water and sewer infrastructure. And you can all see the above ground improvements such as a new roadway, new sidewalks, landscaping, better lighting and transit features."*

Construction will continue along the sides of the road with work still happening on the Simms Creek Pump Station and restoration and landscaping work occurring along the route. Drivers should expect some delays along this section until the entire project is complete in March 2011. The speed limit will be 30km/h until construction is complete. All 19A traffic detour signs and routes are being removed.

In his opening remarks, Mayor Cornfield thanked the local contractors working on the project, specifically Uplands Excavating, Tayco Paving, Highland Engineering and Raylec Power. He also thanked residents, Council and funding partners. *"I want to thank the local residents who live in the 75 households along this route. They have been patient and cooperative throughout this project. I also want to thank our funders and Council for having the vision to build 19a into such a scenic entryway to the city. And finally, thank you to the community for their patience during the 19a road detours."*

The upgrade work so far has involved installing new water, drainage and sewer infrastructure between Hilchey and Rockland road, and major roadway improvements along the route. In July, Council decided to add on an additional 265-metre section of water and sewer infrastructure. This decision was made possible due to BC Hydro savings that provided surplus funds. *"The contractors worked hard to include this additional work in the original timeline. Today is a success in that we were able to complete the main portion plus the extended area on time, and within budget,"* said Ron Neufeld, general manager of operations.

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. BC Hydro also contributed through their beautification fund.

For more information on the Highway 19A Upgrade project, please visit the project pages on the City of Campbell River website: www.campbellriver.ca

– 30 –

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