

**"Kristen Oliver"**  
<admin@noma.on.ca>

27/05/2015 12:43 PM

To "Kristen Oliver" <admin@noma.on.ca>

cc

Subject: Creation of a Common Voice Northwest Transportation Task Force

Good Afternoon,

On behalf of Common Voice Northwest, I am sending correspondence for your review and action. Please distribute the attached letter to your mayor and council.

Thanks,  
Kristen

## **Kristen Oliver**

Executive Director

e. admin@noma.on.ca

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Letter re joining Transportation Task Force.pdf

## **Common Voice Northwest**

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**Chair:** Barry Streib **Executive Director:** Iain Angus

May 27, 2015

To NWO Aboriginal, Business, Economic Development and Municipal Leaders

### **Re: Transportation Task Force: Members Wanted**

Greetings from Common Voice Northwest

At the Annual General Meeting of CVNW the transportation realities and needs of the Northwest were identified as a key issue facing the region.

It was noted that the Ministry of Transportation, on behalf of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, were partway through the development of a Multi-Modal Transportation Strategy for Northern Ontario. This strategy development was one of the three key initiatives announced by Minister Gravelle at the outset of the Northern Growth Plan.<sup>1</sup>

CVNW decided that it was in the best interest of Northwestern Ontario to pull together a group of knowledgeable transportation and economic development professionals to monitor, evaluate and inform the region on the work of the Multi-Modal Transportation Study. This study, when completed, will have far reaching consequences for the economy of Northwestern Ontario (as well as the entire North of this province.)

To this end, CVNW is creating a Transportation Task Force and are seeking individuals who can contribute to the work of reviewing the Multi-Modal Study through a Northwestern Ontario lens.

We have already made a good start.

Gary Woodbeck, retired transportation professional with NM Paterson and Sons and Armstrong Van and Storage and the founding Chair of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee has agreed to take on the role of Chair of the Task Force. In addition to his experience in Transportation, Gary has been the Chair of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce as well as being active in the Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce.

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<sup>1</sup> The other two being the Northern Policy Institute and the pilot project into regional economic development planning zones.

We are looking for the following to join Gary :

- Transportation and logistics professionals who understand the movement of goods and/or people across the Northwest. We want to include all modes – road, rail, air and marine. While we would prefer active members of the industry, retired individuals are also welcome to participate.
- Economic development professionals who understand the economic impact of a transportation system on the economy of the region
- Citizens who have an understanding of the politics of the region and are willing to participate on a multi-discipline task force aimed at arriving at a common approach to the transportation needs of the region.

We are also looking for those individuals who have already participated in the MTO led workshops to become members of the Task Force.

The meetings will be held primarily by teleconference, however it is likely that those from the same community may gather in a central location to 'dial in.'

When there are face to face meetings, it will be up to each member to provide their own trip financing as CVNW has limited funds.

If you or someone you know are interested and willing to participate on the Transportation Task Force please send an email to

Gary Woodbeck,  
Chair, CVNW Transportation Task Force  
[gary.woodbeck@gmail.com](mailto:gary.woodbeck@gmail.com)

We hope to have the first meeting in June of this year. Members will be supplied an MTO produced CD which has three documents on it:

- Commercial and Passenger Vehicle Surveys for Northern Ontario 2011, 2012
- Transportation requirements for Economic Sector Development in Northern Ontario (Final Draft Report)
- Background Data/Research for Development of the Northern Ontario Multimodal Transportation Strategy

We reached out to Caroline de Groot, the MTO lead on the project earlier this month to get an update on where the project is. Below is her response:

"I am pleased to let you know that as of April we have hired a consultant, IBI Group, to carry out the third and final study that will lead to the development of the Northern Ontario Multimodal Transportation Strategy (NOMTS).

In the past two weeks we have had our Kick Off meeting with our consultant to discuss their workplan. We have shared the workplan with our MTO Directors Committee and our Interministerial Directors Committee.

One of the first tasks for our consultant is to develop the project website. I am hoping this website will be up and running by June, I will send you the link as soon as I can.

In the coming weeks, we will be having highway inventory discussions with the MTO regions to start to map out the existing highway network. Our consultant will begin to map traffic data, review collision statistics and other pertinent details of the highway system in an effort to begin the discussion of existing highway issues and opportunities.

Our consultant team will also begin the socio – economic and climate change analysis for northern Ontario and begin working on some of the working groups."

On behalf of Common Voice Northwest I look forward to the creation of the Transportation Task Force and the participation of those individuals that I know you will put forward for membership.



Barry Streib  
Chair