

# 7 Interagency Communications

## 7.1 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has had a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Environment concerning highway operational activities since 1996. This agreement was renewed and substantially revised in 2003 and is presently in the process of being renewed again. Essentially, this MoU is a commitment by both ministries to work together to ensure that highway operational activities are carried out in the most practical manner, while ensuring that environmental values are protected, and where possible, enhanced.

The goals of the current MoU are as follows:

### **Facilitate communications to improve the understanding of operational works and environmental requirements**

- The ministries will improve dialogue by holding regular pre-construction and post-construction meetings at the working level, as well as periodic meetings at the Executive level to address policy and other matters affecting operations of both organizations

### **Ensure the impacts of highway operational activities on the environment are minimized**

- The ministries will be open to exploring various options to achieve operational objectives in a timely manner, while ensuring environmental protection
- Encourage the timely resolution of issues to reduce the potential for formal legal action
- Where environmental stewardship issues are identified by MoE, resolution of those issues will follow a protocol to resolve matters at a local level before they are elevated to the Executive level.

The MoU is available for viewing or download from the MoT Environment Management Section website:

[http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/mot\\_org/hwyeng/environmenthome.htm](http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/mot_org/hwyeng/environmenthome.htm)

## 7.2 Communications Protocol

The following sample agenda is provided as a guide to support the working level meetings outlined in Goal 1 of the MoU. Regular pre-construction and post-construction meetings are an essential part of communication between the MoT and MoE, enabling both Ministries to help streamline field operations, and promote environmentally responsible works. Key individuals,

with the authority to act and implement as needed, should be in attendance at these meetings.

### Example



### Interagency Highway Operations Update Meeting

#### Agenda

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- 1. Introduction of Participants (including roles and responsibilities)**
- 2. Regulatory Updates/New Areas of Regulatory Emphasis – MoE**
- 3. Summary of Proposed/Completed Operational Works – MoT**
- 4. Issues Arising Related to Proposed/Completed Operational Works (e.g., anticipated challenges, lessons learned) – All**
- 5. Review of and Suggested Revisions to Local Environmental Best Practices – All**
- 6. Partnering and Coordination Opportunities (e.g., coordination of invasive plant management, work “window” extensions) – All**
- 7. Summary of Actions Arising from the Meeting – MoT**
- 8. Meeting Wrap-Up/Scheduling of Next Meeting – MoT**