



ÚNAMAKIKA

| ÎLE ROYALE

| CEAP BREATAINN

| CAPE BRETON

Brenda Chisholm-Beaton - Mayor of Port Hawkesbury

## An Island-wide Collaboration Opportunity: Transportation Gateways



A scenic view of a large body of water, likely a lake, at sunset. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon. In the foreground, there is a bridge with a green metal structure and a road with a guardrail. Power lines and towers are visible in the background. The water reflects the colors of the sunset.

**Local leaders,  
stakeholders, and  
citizens must play a  
vital role in determining  
our Island's future.**

OUR MISSION:

# Collaboration.

MOMENTUM TO WORK TOGETHER, FOSTERED BY THE STRAIT AREA CHIEFS, MAYORS AND WARDENS COMMITTEE, AND THE ONE CAPE BRETON/UNAMA'KI LEADERSHIP, IS STRONG.

**Cape Breton Regional Municipality**

**Eskasoni**

**Inverness County**

**Membertou**

**Port Hawkesbury**

**Potlotek**

**Richmond County**

**Victoria County**

**Wagmatcook**

**We'koqma'q**





# Some examples of our Gateways:



## Canso Causeway – Entryway to the Island



## Highway/roads connecting our communities



## NFLD Ferry

## Strait of Canso and Sydney Ports



## Rail to Point Tupper



## Two Regional Airports, Smaller Airports



We all have a stake in ensuring our gateways are strong and sustainable!



# Why are our Gateways important?

If we collaborate to **improve, diversify** and **develop** our existing Transportation Gateways - it will *benefit our entire Island* – including visitors, citizens, businesses and industries.

Improving our gateways is a strategic way to maximize and grow the number of visitors to our Island.

Strong diversified gateways can serve as economic drivers for Island growth beyond tourism, now and in the future.

**If we work together in an integrated way** – on improving our existing gateways, better connecting the Island via our transportation assets in an intermodal way, then we can position our Island for sustainable growth and prosperity.

# A Focus on our Island Gateways

## A New idea?



Local Island leaders identified an interest in improving our Cape Breton/Unama'ki gateways at our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual One Cape Breton / One Unama'ki Summit hosted by Chief Terry Paul in Membertou in April 2019, with the assistance of Engage Nova Scotia and the Cape Breton Partnership.

As this discussion continues – we have been presented with our first potential Gateway project that involves the primary Gateway to our Island – **the Strait of Canso Gateway.**

# The Potential for a Broader Project:

## The Strait of Canso Causeway Gateway



Local Island leaders were interested in the Province of Nova Scotia's plans for this gateway. In late November Carla Arsenault (CEO of the Cape Breton Partnership) and I met with Minister Hines and NS TIR staff to inquire about the rotary. We were told the replacement of the rotary is in early design, and that it is possible to work with the Province to create a broader project.

So why is it important to bring all five First Nation and all five Municipal leadership together for a broader project with the Province, Federal Government, and other stakeholders?

We know **Visitor Trends** from **2018** show (Tourism NS): **1.6 million** people are arriving to our Province via **road connectors**. About 70% of visitors arriving in vehicles makes this gateway extremely important to the entire Island, with more than 9000 vehicles using the causeway daily.

Cape Breton is a world-class destination, yet, what is the welcome that the thousands of daily visitors see?



# The Strait of Canso Causeway Gateway



(Note: the following slides are from Google Earth and a bit dated; but other than updates to the swing bridge, the photos are similar to what you see today).



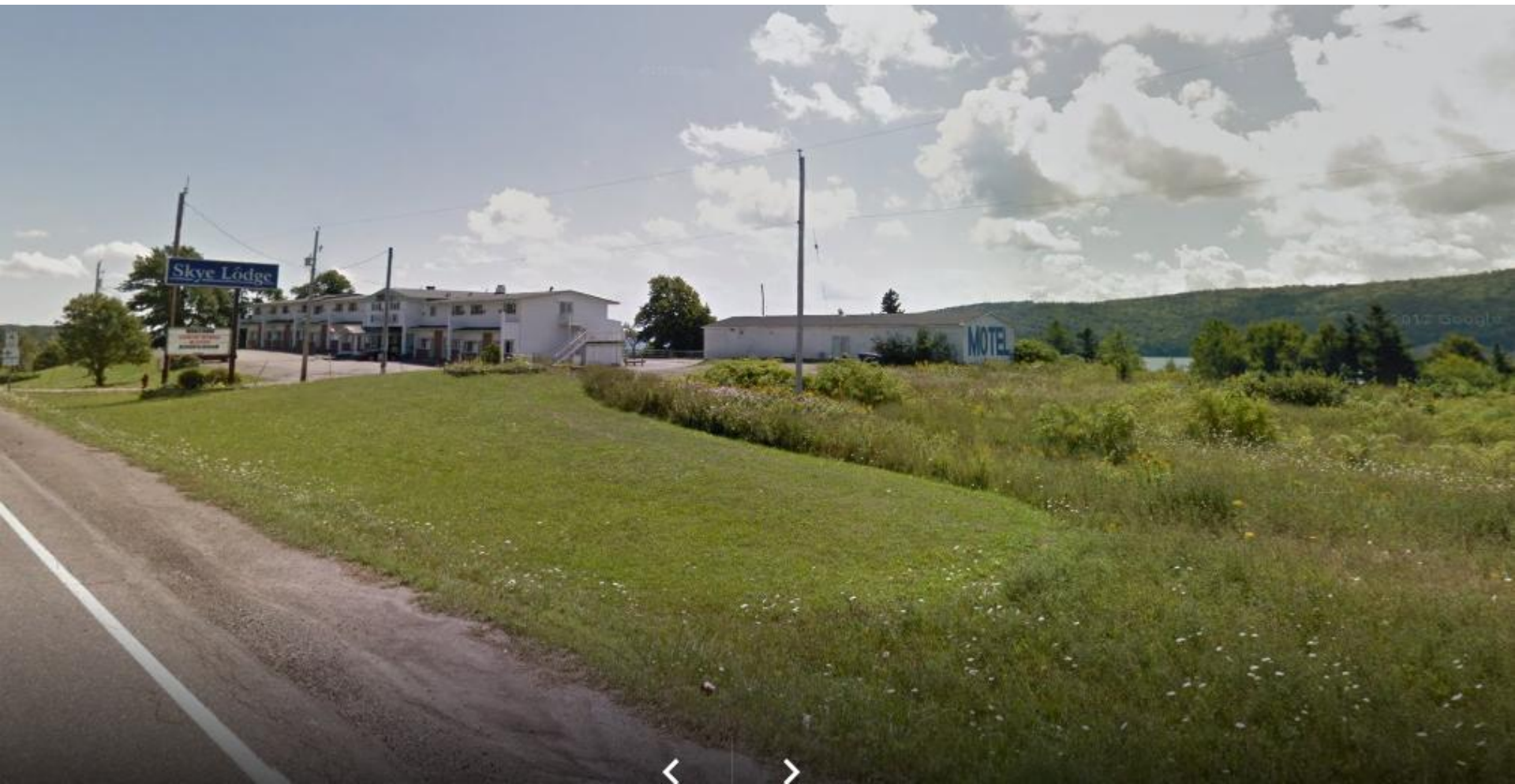
# The Strait of Canso Causeway Gateway



Confusing design to navigate.



# The Strait of Canso Causeway Gateway



Insufficient landscaping or maintenance.





# The Strait of Canso Causeway Gateway



Dated accommodations.





# The Strait of Canso Causeway Gateway



Properties in poor esthetical shape.



# The Strait of Canso Causeway Gateway



Properties in need of refresh.





# The Strait of Canso Causeway Gateway



Poor access management. Absence of Active Transportation Infrastructure.





# The Strait of Canso Causeway Gateway



Indistinguishable Visitors Centre with no room for expansion and insufficient parking.



# The Strait of Canso Causeway Gateway



No invitation to return.



# The Strait of Canso Causeway Gateway

Cape Breton is a World-class Destination.



We have an opportunity to have a world-class gateway.

## Next Steps?

Mobilized all Island-wide local government (5 First Nation/5 Municipalities) who will work with the Province, Federal Government and Multiple Stakeholders to create a broader Strait of Canso gateway project.



# Canso Causeway Gateway

## Together we can welcome the world.



Now that the Province of Nova Scotia confirmed their plans to do work to the rotary, This is a unique opportunity for:

- Island-wide collaboration with First Nation Leaders, Municipal Leaders, and provincial/regional partners/stakeholders.
- Provincial investment, along with other public and private investments can be used to leverage Federal Investments to develop this vital primary Island gateway.
- Inclusion of streetscapes, beautification, façade, signage/way-finding, access management, AT infrastructure, and possibility for new tourism assets/infrastructure.
- A chance to give a world-class tourism destination a world-class gateway so we build on our strengths as an Island.

# Request?

**For Inverness County to join with our One Cape Breton Leadership as well as the Cape Breton Partnership and other stakeholders as we mobilize to create a broader project to transition and revitalize this primary Island gateway.**

