



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office
770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

March 11, 2020

Mayor & Council
Township of Esquimalt Municipal Hall
2339 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

[VIA EMAIL: barb.desjardins@esquimalt.ca](mailto:barb.desjardins@esquimalt.ca)

Dear Mayor Desjardins & Council:

RE: Invitation to collaborate on BC Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Project

As you may be aware, on November 25, 2019, Saanich Council in open meeting sent a letter to Premier John Horgan requesting a review of the default speed limits defined in the *Motor Vehicle Act* (MVA). Our community has, as does yours, a vast number of residential roads. Many of these are without sidewalks and it is simply inappropriate for a driver to legally operate their vehicle at 50km/h with children walking and cycling on the same road.

While it is technically and legally possible to create bylaws and install signage on each of these roads, it would be far easier to update the MVA and begin a cultural shift that prioritizes safety, over speeding, on roads that should place families and our most vulnerable users first.

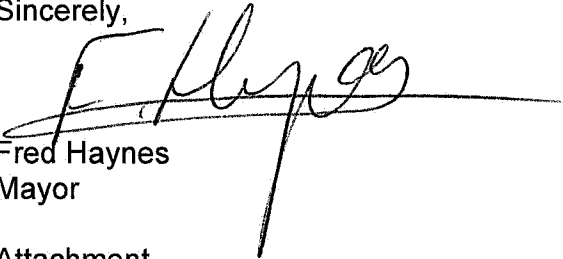
On February 6, we received a response from the Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, that outlines the potential for two phases of pilot projects in the area of road safety which would be enabled through regulation under the provisions in part 13 of the MVA. These pilot projects would be initiated by local government through an application process to the Ministry. The first phase pilot project has been selected and focuses on the use of zero emission mobility devices and involves micro-mobility devices (sidewalk scooters, skateboards, etc.). More germane to the issue of road speeds, the second phase includes pilot projects where the Ministry will "work with interested municipalities to lower the default speed limit on their streets." Please see letter, attached.

As there is no longer time to wait, we are asking our staff to begin work on forming a proposal to the Ministry that would set the statutory speed limit to 40km/h on streets without a yellow centreline (residential roads) for Phase 2 of the pilot program. To highlight the regional importance of the issue and to maintain consistency we ask that you consider joining in this proposal development and including your Municipality in the pilot project. We appreciate that you may already have approaches in line with this. My staff and I would be pleased to meet with you about this proposal at your convenience and request. Ideally a regional or sub regional approach may be possible.

We will be holding a series of meetings with technical staff in the second quarter of this year. If you are supportive of this initiative, please ask your senior staff to reach out to our Engineering Department for an invitation to join these meetings. The purpose of these meetings would be to discuss the opportunities, challenges, alternatives, and risks of this proposal prior to when the next round of applications are due, likely in the third quarter of this year.

Like us, your streets are your products and the time to support our most vulnerable transportation users is now. Please consider joining us in taking a leadership role to make meaningful change to improve road safety for all residents across the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Haynes', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Fred Haynes
Mayor

Attachment

cc: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, CAO
Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering



FEB 06 2020

His Worship
Mayor Fred Haynes
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Avenue
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

Reference: 290420

Dear Mayor Haynes,

Re: B.C. Motor Vehicle Act

Premier John Horgan has asked me to respond on his behalf to your letter regarding the B.C. Motor Vehicle Act (MVA). I am sorry it has taken me so long to respond.

Safety is our top priority, and I agree speed limits play an important role in keeping everyone safe. The ministry is considering the request to amend statutory speed limits in the MVA; however, such a change would represent a significant policy and regulatory shift that would affect all road users.

As you likely know, the government amended the MVA last year to allow for pilot projects that would research, test and evaluate new regulatory approaches to matters not currently set out in the MVA framework. Pilot projects will provide opportunities for the provincial government to work with local communities to support active transportation and better protect vulnerable road users.

The first phase of pilot projects in 2020 will focus on the use of emerging zero-emission mobility devices, such as e-scooters. A second phase of pilot projects could allow the ministry to work with interested municipalities to lower the default speed limit on their streets.

The ministry is accepting proposals for the first phase of pilot projects until 4 p.m. on March 6, 2020, for potential implementation in summer 2020. More information on the pilot projects and a proposal package for interested communities is available through the ministry's website at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020TRAN0005-000033>

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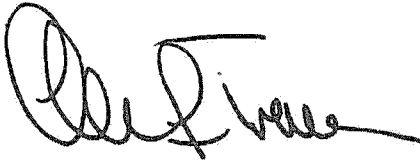
The ministry looks forward to working with local communities like yours to expand the use of active transportation and keep pedestrians, cyclists and other road users safe. If you have any questions about the pilot projects, please contact the ministry at 236 478-0460 or at MVA.Pilot.Project@gov.bc.ca.

As you are aware, my colleague, the Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, is also working to improve road safety. In 2019, RoadSafetyBC implemented the Intersection Safety Camera program, an initiative that has proved very successful in reducing crashes at high-risk intersections with cross traffic. After the successful 100 per cent activation of red-light cameras at 140 of B.C.'s most crash-prone, dangerous intersections, the Province announced it would be taking further action by adding automated speed enforcement technology at 35 high-speed and high-crash Intersection Safety Camera locations. To learn more, you can read the news release at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019PSSG0047-000861>.

Additionally, RoadSafetyBC expanded the provincial Administrative Driving Prohibition program following the federal legalization of cannabis. The program expanded to include drug-affected driving, extended zero tolerance provisions for drivers in the graduated licensing program to apply to drugs, strengthened and enhanced review processes for 24-hour prohibitions, and aligned the MVA with amendments to the Criminal Code contained in Bill C-46.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Trevena
Minister

Copy to: Premier John Horgan

Honourable David Eby
Attorney General
MLA, Vancouver-Point Grey

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Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
MLA, Port Coquitlam

Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
MLA, Victoria-Swan Lake

Honourable Carole James
Minister of Finance
Deputy Premier
MLA, Victoria-Beacon Hill

Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture
MLA, Saanich South

Mitzi Dean
MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

Adam Olsen
MLA, Saanich North and the Islands

Andrew Weaver
MLA, Oak Bay-Gordon Head



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November 28, 2019

via email: premier@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable John Horgan, M.L.A.
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9422 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

Dear Premier Horgan:

RE: Modernizing the Motor Vehicle Act

We compliment you that British Columbia is recognized as a leader on so many levels. Consequently, Saanich Council received with disappointment your Deputy Director, South Coast Region's letter of November 5, 2019 (attached). We believe continued inaction to update the Motor Vehicle Act is concerning and contradicts a number of Provincial plans, studies and publications. We question why outdated statutory speed limits are retained while we continue to see unacceptable fatalities, collisions, and serious injury rates on our roads, far higher than many other progressive countries.

For the past three years local governments have been waiting, hoping, for change following the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's January 2016 publication of *Moving to Vision Zero: Road Safety Strategy Update and Showcase of Innovation in British Columbia*. And then the March 2016 publication from the Provincial Health Officer, *Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Reducing the Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes on Health and Well-being in British Columbia*. Understandably, there was a period of silence as these documents circulated through government agencies and local municipalities followed by the Provincial Election in early 2017.

In the past couple of years we've seen two more plans, *Move Commute Connect* from CleanBC in December 2018 and most recently the *BC Active Transportation Design Guide*. Taken together, we have four excellent planning documents and it is time for action. Specifically, significant updates to the Motor Vehicle Act to support, protect and encourage healthy transportation choices and much safer roads.

The current legislative reality of enacting municipal bylaws to change the speed limit on every block of every street is an administrative burden, but not one that can't be overcome. Rather, it is the financial burden and visual clutter of having to install the tens of thousands of signs province-wide that is at issue. More importantly, the current piecemeal nature in which speed

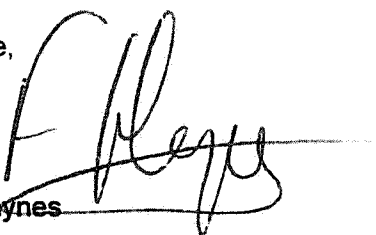
limits are being lowered lacks consistency, effectiveness and safety. More cost-effective, consistent and safer solutions rest with changes that can be made through the Motor Vehicle Act.

We are looking for changes to your laws governing our roads to help end the epidemic of road crash fatalities, serious injuries, collisions, and near misses. We believe this is an opportunity for leadership from our Honourable Premier in directing action similar to the nation-leading impaired driving laws enacted in 2011 which were followed by an immediate and sustained drop in fatalities and serious injuries.

The broad and far reaching support for this change across British Columbia is shown by endorsed resolutions at UBCM in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2015, and 2019. As fellow politicians we understand that some issues are so large they transcend multi-election cycles and party lines. This is evident by the repeated discussions at UBCM. Road safety is not a political issue that can be continuously delayed and deferred, with endless studies and reports that wither with each change of government. We must do better. We can do better.

On behalf of the District of Saanich, and in the spirit of your leadership for all communities in British Columbia, we respectfully ask that you act swiftly and make the changes to the Motor Vehicle Act needed to improve road safety in our wonderful province.

With hope,


Mayor Haynes

cc:

Saanich Council
The Honourable Claire Trevana, MLA, Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure
MLA s of Greater Victoria
Mayors of British Columbia
President of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities