



November 29, 2023

His Worship
Mayor Ward Stamer
District of Barriere
PO Box 219
Barriere BC V0E 1E0

Reference: 320719

Dear Mayor Stamer:

Re: UBCM Meeting 2023

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me in Vancouver during the 2023 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention.

I appreciated the opportunity to discuss your concern regarding commercial vehicle safety, including your support for requiring commercial vehicles to be equipped with mandatory dash cams. I was also glad to discuss your interest in safety improvements along Highway 5, including your support for increased passing opportunities along the corridor.

Every year at UBCM I am reminded how fortunate British Columbia is to have local leaders who are dedicated, informed and passionate about the future of their communities. Our governments are most effective when we bring together our insights and resources, and my team and I were honoured to be part of this year's gathering to hear more about the ideas and priorities B.C.'s communities care about most.

As mentioned during our meeting, the ministry's Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement officers have increased their patrols on Highway 5 north of Kamloops. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve safety in the trucking industry, ministry staff are reviewing the feasibility of requiring the use of front-facing dashboard cameras in commercial vehicles in B.C.

You likely know that since August 1, 2023, provincially regulated commercial vehicle operators are now required to use electronic logging devices to track drivers' time behind the wheel, reducing the likelihood of driving while tired. You can find more information online at news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023MOTI0013-000178. We also passed new legislation this spring to make the use of speed limiters mandatory in B.C. to help keep commercial drivers within posted speed limits: news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023MOTI0046-000449.

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Ensuring safety along Highway 5 remains a priority for the ministry. I have asked local ministry staff to meet with you to discuss in more detail the District's priorities with respect to safety measures, as well as maintenance activities, along the corridor.

As you likely know, rumble strips have now been installed from McLure to Louis Creek and will also be installed from Blackwater Road to Birch Island Road this fall. We will also install electronic curve warning signs at Exlou and Purcha's Corner later this fall. Other static curve warning improvements have been completed along the Highway 5 corridor between Kamloops and Tete Jaune Cache. We are also installing southbound overhead signage at the junction with Highway 24, as well as reviewing design options for sightline improvements at Purcha's Corner.

Additionally, we continue to conduct operational and safety reviews of the Highway 5 corridor to identify locations for improved signage and to evaluate the feasibility of a variable speed limit system.

In the medium and long term, we continue to explore potential weather-activated signage at Fishtrap Canyon, possible sightline improvements and minor realignments along the corridor and the potential addition of a commercial vehicle pull out and southbound passing lane south of Barriere. These improvements are being prioritized based on available funding.

Please do not hesitate to contact Thompson Nicola District Manager Graeme Schimpf if you have any questions in the meantime. He can be reached at 250 554-7142 or Graeme.Schimpf@gov.bc.ca and would be pleased to assist you.

With the help of leaders like you, my ministry is building a resilient transportation network that will continue to keep people safe and connected in a changing world. Our goal is a sustainable multimodal network that advances our climate and housing goals and that delivers the efficient supply chains and economic opportunities needed to keep life affordable for B.C. families.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Fleming', with a stylized, flowing script.

Rob Fleming
Minister

Copy to: Kathryn Krishna, Deputy Minister

Kevin Richter, Associate Deputy Minister
Highways and Regional Services Division

Kevin Volk, Assistant Deputy Minister
Integrated Transportation and Infrastructure Services Division

Steve Sirett, Executive Director
Southern Interior Region

Steve Haywood, Executive Director
Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Branch

Kenedee Ludwar, Executive Director
Engineering Services Branch

Graeme Schimpf, District Manager
Thompson Nicola District