



October 31, 2023

Heather Grieve, Chair
School District No.73 (Kamloops-Thompson) Board of
Education
1383 - 9th Avenue
Kamloops BC V2C 3X7

Reference: 320093

Dear Chair Grieve:

Re: Highway 5 Safety

Thank you for your letter of August 16, 2023, regarding safety along Highway 5.

As you may know, I met with District of Barriere Mayor Ward Stamer this past spring to discuss ways to enhance highway safety in the region. I also had the opportunity to discuss this matter with District of Clearwater Mayor Merlin Blackwell and Simpcw First Nation Chief Shelly Loring at the recent Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention in Vancouver.

We have been working hard to carry out several improvements along Highway 5 based on these discussions. Rumble strips have now been installed from McLure to Louis Creek and from Blackwater Road to Birch Island Road. We will install electronic curve warning signs at Exlou and Purcha's Corner this fall, along with other static curve warning improvements along the entire 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. This type of system would use sensors to measure weather, pavement conditions and traffic flow and then display an appropriate speed limit for the conditions on electronic signs.

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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.

Your letter mentioned commercial vehicle safety. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve safety in the trucking industry, starting August 1, 2023, provincially regulated commercial vehicle operators are [required to use electronic logging devices](#) to track drivers' time behind the wheel, reducing the likelihood of driving while tired. We also [recently passed](#) new legislation to make the use of speed limiters mandatory in B.C. to help keep commercial drivers within posted speed limits. Ministry staff are also reviewing the feasibility of requiring the use of front-facing dashboard cameras in commercial vehicles in B.C.

You may already be aware that, in October 2021, our government introduced [Mandatory Entry Level Training \(MELT\)](#) for all new B.C. commercial drivers, with input and support from the BC Trucking Association. We are confident that this initiative will result in better-trained new drivers entering the commercial truck driving industry, increased professionalism and improved road safety.

I have shared your email with staff involved in this work.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Fleming". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rob" being more prominent than the last name "Fleming".

Rob Fleming
Minister