

Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
PO Box 9055 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2



February 10, 2023

RE: Critical Vehicle Incidents on Yellowhead Highway 5 Corridor

Dear Minister Fleming,

The Mayor of Clearwater, Mayor Blackwell and I would like to request a meeting with you as soon as possible.

The traffic along Hwy 5, which bisects Barriere and Clearwater is the main route between Vancouver and Edmonton, and the daily traffic count continues to increase each year and all indication shows that this situation will continue, particularly truck traffic and tourism. The average daily number of vehicles in September of 2022 was 15,000, according the official MOTI traffic count conducted by McElhanney. Two main reasons for the increased traffic are the Trans Mountain pipeline along Hwy 5, and the outdoor experience of our region with multiple lakes, rivers, camping and without question the amazing Wells Gray Provincial Park just 60 Km north of Barriere.

To date, I have had excellent dialog with Mr. Graeme Schimpf District Manager, Thompson Nicola District regarding a number of growth-related concerns for the District of Barriere. These following items are important discussions that we would like to have with you for the longer-term safety and prosperity of the District and Region:

- Traffic calming options;
- Driving training & use of dash cams;
- Variable speed signage; and
- Detour communication

Barriere's economy is driven primarily by the forest industry, agriculture and tourism and the Highway 5 route north of Kamloops is directly tied to the economy of the region and the Province. Every time there is an incident along this stretch, it directly affects thousands of people, including businesses. In addition, there have been a number of instances where area school classrooms are left without teachers due to a highway closure as a majority of the faculty commute into Barriere from Kamloops and area.

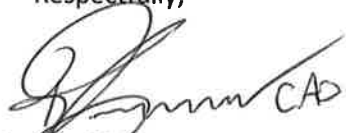
The traffic situation along this stretch of highway has become increasingly dangerous with multiple vehicle accidents (MVA) on a weekly occurrence; many with unfortunate fatalities and even more with serious, life-threatening injuries. This situation affects traffic flow for hours at a time as investigations and cleanup requires that the traffic be restricted and/or stopped for hours on end. In addition, the extra strain on Volunteer Fire Rescue & First Responder personnel, cannot be understated.

Residents have become **very** vocal regarding their concern about travelling on this highway. Many of these folks need to get back and forth on a daily basis for work, school and medical in and out of Kamloops and area.

This situation needs the highest level of concern and attention that we feel is not being given at the local level. This is not just a highway maintenance issue. It is also a traffic calming issue that requires imminent attention and active problem solving.

Mayor Blackwell and I will make ourselves available to discuss our concerns with you at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully,


Fol: Ward Stamer, Mayor
District of Barriere

Cc: District of Clearwater
Graeme Schimpf, MOTI
Black Press Media
CFJC Newsroom