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September 26, 2017

File: 0400-20 Attorney General

Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Room 128 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Honourable David Eby, Q.C.
Attorney General
Room 232 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Honourable Eby and Honourable Farnworth:

RE: PILOT STUDY OF INTERVAL-BASED SPEED ENFORCEMENT ON TRANS CANADA HIGHWAY NO. 1, VANCOUVER ISLAND

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, I write to request that the Province of British Columbia consider the development of a pilot study of an Interval-Based Speed Enforcement System on Trans Canada Highway No. 1, between Langford Parkway and the Mill Bay Road underpass (Bamberton) on southern Vancouver Island. Also known as the Malahat Drive, this section of highway connecting the CRD and the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is approximately 20 km long, and in recent years has frequently been the subject of scrutiny focused on safety.

As you know, speeding on British Columbia roads leads to preventable injuries, deaths and expensive claims paid out through the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. The use of interval-based enforcement has proven successful in every jurisdiction which it has been employed, with research showing significant reductions in speeding where continual monitoring in place.

The process that led the CRD Board to submit this request began with the CRD's Traffic Safety Commission debating and proposing the pilot as a trial project that could potentially prove beneficial to other regions in the province. Subsequently, the CRD Board asked the CVRD Board to support the request. At its meeting of August 23, 2017, the CVRD Board passed the following resolution:

That the Cowichan Valley Regional District supports enhanced speed enforcement on the Malahat Highway, including investigating the use of interval speed cameras.

We recognize that statements have been made about not returning to photo radar use in British Columbia. However, we believe there are merits in examining and testing interval-based speed enforcement technology as it differs from how photo radar was previously practiced in British Columbia. The goal of this request is to make our roads safer and to provide disincentives to drivers who create unsafe conditions through excessive speed on our roads.

I would be pleased to discuss this topic further with you and/or your staff at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your consideration to this request.

Sincerely,

Barbara Desjardins
Capital Regional District Board Chair

cc: CRD Board
CVRD Board

CRD Traffic Safety Commission
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
Brian Carruthers, Chief Administrative Officer, CVRD

