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March 25, 2025

File: 0400-20

The Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Transportation and Transit
Via email: TT.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Farnworth:

RE: SPEED LIMITS IN ELECTORAL AREAS

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, I write to request greater engagement from the Ministry of Transportation and Transit with the CRD Electoral Area Directors on matters relating to speed limits and highway signage in the Salt Spring Island (SSI), Southern Gulf Islands (SGI), and Juan de Fuca (JdF) Electoral Areas.

The unique needs and priorities of these areas often differ from those of more urbanized municipalities and the Electoral Area Directors play a critical role in advocating for the safety and well-being of their communities. Enhanced engagement between the Ministry and the Electoral Area Directors would ensure that their expertise and understanding of local contexts are integrated into transportation planning.

The Electoral Area Directors have advised that decisions regarding speed limits and highway signage are of significant importance to the residents they represent and that the current process for consultation and engagement does not fully reflect the perspectives of the Electoral Area Directors. While it is recognized that the Ministry must balance various interests and adhere to provincial standards, the CRD Board believes that involving Electoral Area Directors more closely in these decisions would result in more responsive and effective outcomes for rural communities.

Formalizing a consultation process that ensures CRD Electoral Area Directors have opportunities to provide input on proposed changes to speed limits and highway signage in their jurisdiction would contribute to safer, more functional roadways in the SSI, SGI, and JdF Electoral Areas. Providing regular updates to CRD Electoral Area Directors on transportation projects and initiatives within their areas would ensure they are well informed, able to address concerns from their communities, and increase public confidence in the Ministry's work.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Cliff McNeil-Smith'.

Cliff McNeil-Smith
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD