



**The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office**

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Sent via email: Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca

March 25, 2021

The Honourable Rob Fleming, M.L.A.  
Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure  
PO Box 9055 Prov Stn Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fleming:

**Re: Update from Saanich Council on its application for a *Motor Vehicle Act* Pilot Project**

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On behalf of Saanich Council, we thank you and your staff for your support while we worked through the process to arrive at a multi-municipal framework to apply to the Province for a *Motor Vehicle Act* (MVA) pilot project study exploring speed reductions on residential streets without a continuous yellow centerline.

Together with Central Saanich, Esquimalt, Oak Bay, North Saanich, and Sidney it has been a remarkable 2.5 year preparation for a joint pilot project application set at 40 km/hr. Further to our recent correspondence this letter provides some updated information.

On March 22 Saanich Council voted unanimously in support of a report to amend our MVA pilot project application from 40 km/h to 30 km/h, resolving as follows:

1. *"That Council direct staff to amend Saanich's application to reduce the default speed limit on streets without a continuous directional dividing line to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for a pilot project under Part 13 of the Motor Vehicle Act, from the originally proposed speed reduction of 40 km/h to 30 km/h, and submit it when the application for Phase two opens.*
2. *That Council direct staff to bring back a formal resolution to participate in the pilot project at the appropriate time.*
3. *That the Mayor write on behalf of Council to CRD municipalities that have shown interest in speed reduction pilots, advising them of Saanich's change in direction and that there are opportunities to participate in pilots at 30 km/h and 40 km/h in the region."*

During the meeting and in advance, Council had the benefit of hearing from the Saanich community that they are keenly interested in exploring the improved livability experience on our residential roads that a 30 km/h pilot project would deliver over the current framework of a 40 km/h pilot

project. Given the strong public appreciation of the benefits demonstrated for livability, walking, cycling and the safety of residents when residential speeds are set at 30 km/h, this is the direction Saanich will now be taking for our application.

We believe that our region provides an ideal test-bed for a pilot project of this nature. Our municipalities include the characteristics realized across British Columbia, for example; rural, suburban, large and small urban areas, coastal towns, down town cores, wooded and coastal areas. This is in addition to the daily arrival into our municipalities of considerable road traffic from our ferry terminals and airport.

To rebuild a renewed regional municipal collective for the application at 30 km/h, we have reached out to the City of Victoria to explore their interest in participating in a joint application for a 30 km/h MVA pilot project. We are also asking those municipalities that previously agreed to join in the original 40 km/h regional pilot project (Central Saanich, Esquimalt, Oak Bay, North Saanich, and Sidney) if they would consider joining us in a 30 km/h pilot project.

Additionally, we have written to the municipalities of Colwood, Highlands, Langford, Metchosin, Sooke, and View Royal to advise them of this change from 40 km/h to 30 km/h and to request if their councils and communities will reconsider joining us in a 30 km/h pilot project.

As you can see, Saanich remains committed to working in partnership with all interested regional partners on speed limit reductions on our residential roads to improve the livability experience and the safety of our streets. We continue to see immense value in a regional approach and hope to see this initiative continue to be embraced across the region.

A copy of the recent correspondence dated March 4 and the report to Council are attached for further information. The minutes of the March 22 Council meeting are available on our website at: <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/local-government/mayor-council/schedule-agendas-minutes.html>.

We look forward to hearing from your office on the appropriate next steps to make this vision reality.

With appreciation,



Fred Haynes  
Mayor

Enclosures

c.

Saanich Council  
Sharon Hvozdzanski, Director of Planning  
Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering



April 9, 2021

His Worship  
Mayor Fred Haynes  
District of Saanich  
770 Vernon Avenue  
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

Reference: 301660

Dear Mayor Haynes:

**Re: Motor Vehicle Act Modernization**

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the Motor Vehicle Act.

Our government worked diligently in late 2019 to pass amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) to [enable pilot projects](#) to research, test and evaluate new and emerging forms of transportation and rules of the road. Recently, [the ministry announced](#) that we will be collaborating with six municipalities on Phase 1 of the pilot project program, which is focused on e-scooters and other similar micro mobility devices.

As you know, the ministry anticipates launching a second pilot project process in the future that will support active transportation with a focus on initiatives that increase the safety of vulnerable road users, including potential changes to speed limits on municipal streets. Although no decisions have been made yet with respect to timing on Phase 2, I have shared your email with the project staff involved in this work to ensure they are aware of the District of Saanich's continued interest in taking part.

I meanwhile appreciated you sharing with me the District's recent resolution supporting a speed limit reduction to 30 km/h as part of a potential future pilot project, as well as your efforts to collaborate with other municipalities in the Capital Regional District on this goal. Provincial regulation is required to establish a pilot project under the MVA, and so careful consideration and extensive consultation with communities is necessary before authorizing new devices and rules of the road to be piloted for a temporary period. For local governments, some important considerations include potential bylaws to support a pilot project, possible changes to road infrastructure, and education and awareness for residents.

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While a provincial pilot project remains one potential approach to learning more about how best to keep everyone safe, the MVA also currently provides local governments with the authority to set and change speed limits on municipal roads as they deem appropriate. To that end, some municipalities have chosen to create 30 km/h speed zones in residential areas, such as the City of Vancouver's [recently launched slow zone pilot](#) for streets in the Grandview-Woodland neighbourhood. You can be sure the ministry remains committed to continuing to work with local communities to explore solutions that support active transportation and the protection of vulnerable road users.

If you have any questions or would like an update on timing around Phase 2 of the pilot project program, please do not hesitate to contact the ministry at 778 974-5469 or [MVA.Pilot.Project@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MVA.Pilot.Project@gov.bc.ca).

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Fleming". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Rob Fleming  
Minister