

BY EMAIL

June 30th, 2021

Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister Transportation and Infrastructure

Honourable Bowinn Ma
Minister of State for Infrastructure

Dear Honourable Ministers,

Transportation is integral to the well being of business on the Coast. We, as the Chamber, have received a number of complaints and concerns about the infrastructure on the lower Sunshine Coast.

The highway, and this terminology is generous, is unsafe in its current state. Accidents and fatalities have been increasing and since the pandemic has helped to illustrate the safety and beauty of our Coast, many new residents now call us home and with them they bring the expected increase in vehicular traffic both on the highway and the ferry system. Lines of cars on the highway that were once associated with “ferry traffic” have now become the norm. The highway was never built to manage this number of vehicles.

In addition, the single road from end to end adds to the lack of security for the residents. One accident at one of the many bottlenecks can paralyze the Coast for hours, providing a real sense of anxiety should a more widespread event take place. This was the case recently when a fatal crash caused the highway to be closed for several hours.

The ferry system serving the Coast as it is, was a great model for the 1980’s. Staycations are much more prevalent now and for the foreseeable future. The normally busy summer season, has grown to include a busy spring, fall and late winter season. Often resources are not able to deal with the demands. Ferries are routinely late, under resourced to meet the needs of passengers with and without vehicles. In addition, the BC Ferry website seems designed to confuse and cloak information needed at a glance to make informed decisions. One can equate the site to a game where the prize is information as to how late the ferry will be. A change is needed with the business model and possibly management.

The pandemic highly affected our ability to connect face to face with our members and to connect them with influential elected officials such as yourselves.

To that end we would be pleased to invite you to our first face to face meeting with our membership to hear about government plans to address the infrastructure issues we face on a daily basis.

Regards,

Board of Directors Sechelt & District Chamber of Commerce.

Sechelt & District Chamber of Commerce

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