

2021 UBCM Minister Meeting



Meeting with Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure—September 2021

Meeting Topics

The Township discussed with the Ministry of Transportation about the development of the Highway 97A upgrades and the request to address the McLeod Road access with an interim measure to ensure public safety and a long-term solution. Further the request was to consider the effects on the neighboring communities of Armstrong, Enderby and Spaltsin First Nation.

Proposed Solution

As the construction project had been in the development process for many years, the Township was seeking an interim/permanent measure to ensure the public's access and egress into the McLeod Road/Highway 97 and Pleasant Valley Road/Highway 97 areas of our community. Our master transportation plan had identified issues with traffic operations including high collision history for both these intersections. The plan recommended mitigation to be installed at both these locations to improve safety and mobility.

MCLEOD ROAD:

The Township's residents have realized a fatality at this location which may have been avoidable with safety measures implemented. With the increases in tourism in the region this places additional pressures on communities to find solutions to ensure the safety of the public. The Township understands that the full construction of a safety measure was unlikely but were requesting that MOTI and the Province consider the request to install a temporary safety measure to ensure public safety.

Background

The four laning of the Highway 97A corridor was a priority for the Ministry. The segment of Highway 97A through the Township of Spallumcheen between Armstrong and Enderby was the first two-lane cross section of the highway north of Kelowna, making this upgrading project a high priority for the Ministry. While the study was being completed there were still growing safety concerns with specific intersections that access Highway 97.

In 2021 the Mayors of Spallumcheen, Armstrong, and Enderby met to discuss their growing concerns with the safety of accessing the highway, increased congestion on Highway 97A from Spallumcheen, past Armstrong and through to Enderby and the issues caused by excessive speed at the access points. Each municipality has passed the following resolution:

"...THAT the Township of Spallumcheen Council direct staff to send a letter to the Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, to request a meeting with the Township of Spallumcheen, the City of Armstrong and the City of Enderby, regarding joint concerns over speed, access and congestion along Highway 97A."

The stretch of Highway 97A which runs through the Township of Spallumcheen, City of Armstrong and the City of Enderby has required safety upgrades for some time. With the summer and tourism season, the traffic that passes through this corridor increases accordingly, again increasing the dangerous situations that our municipalities see every year.

The Mayors of Spallumcheen, Armstrong and Enderby were eager to work collaboratively with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to facilitate a plan that addresses concerns regarding traffic congestion, speed issues and access.

This was a follow-up to the Township of Spallumcheen Highway Traffic Signal Review Select Committee where the Township hired a consultant to review the intersection at Highway 97A and Smith Drive. Through the committee review, the Township organized discussions with the Mayors from Armstrong and Enderby to work collaboratively towards solutions within our jurisdictions based on traffic flow and the creation of breaks in traffic, resulting in improved safety between Armstrong, Spallumcheen and Enderby.