



Rob Fleming
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
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RE: Safety Concerns

To the Honourable Rob Fleming:

At a Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools Board of Education meeting held on September 28, 2022, following concerns raised by members of our community, the Board passed the following motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) ask the Board Chair to write a letter to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure acknowledging the community safety concerns in Cedar and South Wellington and ask that crosswalks used by children along walking routes to school and to bus stops be repainted. Further, that crosswalks along Cedar Rd at Gould Rd and, at Furn Rd, on Holden Corso at McMillian, and on Morden Rd at South Wellington Rd be noted as crosswalks of particular concern at this time.

We want to acknowledge that the Ministry has a variety of pressing road safety needs. However, the school district is committed to encouraging active transportation and believe that these road improvements will address some safety concerns and will encourage more students to walk and/or bike to school. Our collaborative efforts to increase active transportation serve educational purposes by improving student concentration, as well as environmental goals by decreasing vehicle traffic.

The conditions of rural roads present additional challenges that increase risk to children's safety and decrease the likelihood of choosing to walk or ride to school and to bus stops. Rural roads tend to have higher speed limits, little or no space to walk along side the road, and greater foliage that limits visibility and walking/riding space. Parents in this community have expressed concerns about the safety of their children when walking or riding to school and are choosing to drive their children because of these concerns.

Increasing the visibility of crosswalks should provide a visual reminder to drivers that children may be or are attempting to cross the road. Along Cedar Road, the speed limit at the above-mentioned crosswalk is 50 kilometres per hour. We note statistics of increased likelihood of fatality at 50 kilometres in comparison to 30 kilometres. Although the other crosswalks mentioned are at an intersection with a stop sign, the crosswalk is not visible to drivers thereby not reminding them of safety considerations and the need to allow pedestrians to cross.

We ask that these crosswalks be repainted to improve visibility and increase children's safety when walking or riding to schools and to bus stops. We restate our commitment to encouraging active transportation across our school district and encourage the Ministry to consider additional safety measures that would support this goal in our rural and urban communities.

We are eager to work together in pursuit of our mutual goals of ensuring student safety, increasing active transportation, and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C McKay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charlene McKay
Board Chair