



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

of BRITISH COLUMBIA



Dan Davies, MLA
Peace River North

May 26, 2020

Hon. Claire Trevena
Minister of Transportation
RM 306, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister,

I am contacting you again today to talk about the absolute disrepair of the Taylor Bridge. We are putting millions of dollars every year to do welding on this bridge. Every spring and summer there is a "routine welding" regime costs an exorbitant amount of taxpayers money, not to mention safety concerns. Each time the bridge is having maintenance, it is reduced to single lane traffic for weeks, delaying commuters, the movement of commerce and industry for 20 to 30 minutes or more throughout the day.

If this bridge was to be out of commission for any period of time (and we have had many times that they bridge has been closed for hours due to accidents and fatalities) all traffic would have to be rerouted 252km to Hudson's Hope, which it is rated for 64000 kg only, so heavy traffic would not have this option. Alternatively, 144 km through Clayhurst and these roads have switchbacks up the single-lane Golatta Creek gravel road into Goodlow and Cecil Lake. Many people need to drive to Fort St John for work, school, grocery shopping, accessing doctors and dentists, the hospital as well as the airport.

I hope that maybe this will be enlightening for all involved to see just how important it is to replace and twin this bridge.

Back in May of 2019, Scott Maxwell, the ministry's executive director for the northern region spoke at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon. He stated that they were "preaching to the converted" about the need for a fix sooner than later. He also goes on to state that "We would like, in a perfect world, to have four lanes all the way from Alberta to Fort St John."

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By twinning the bridge, the original one can stay in place. Once a new bridge is built beside the existing structure then the old bridge can be shut down and the replacement of the decking can be done. By having both bridges, when one is down for maintenance or an accident, the other one can be used to divert traffic.

This bridge is a huge priority for the Northeast region as well as our neighbours in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Alaska. Every hour, millions of dollars in merchandise, food, fuel, and equipment travel over this bridge. This highway is an integral artery for the north.

As stated by the ministry's own executive director for the north region, "We need a fix sooner than later"! The time has come that something needs to be done. We need the Ministry to commit to a time frame to get the job done. The people in the north are relying on you. We need to show them that their safety matters. This is not just wanting a new structure, this is needing a new structure so that we can keep residents safe, keep their commutes reasonable, and show them that the people in the north matter too.

In light of the economic turmoil, the federal and provincial governments are talking and promoting government infrastructure project to get the economy moving again. I implore you to work with your federal partners and move this project to the top of the list. I look forward to working with you to help get a plan in place and make this bridge a priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dan Davies', written over a horizontal line.

Dan Davies
MLA – Peace River North

cc: Peace River Regional District
Fort St John Mayor and Council
District of Taylor Mayor and Council
Bob Zimmer, MP
Mike Bernier, MLA
Marvin Hunt, Critic
Hon Richard Mostyn, Yukon Minister of Transport
Hon Katrina Nokleby, NWT Minister of Transport
Hon John McKinnon, Commissioner Alaska Department of Transportation