

February 7th, 2018

Hon. John Horgan, Premier of the Province of British Columbia
Hon. Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure
Hon. Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Hon. David Eby, Attorney General
Hon. Bowinn Ma, Parliamentary Secretary for Translink
Hon. Rich Coleman, Leader of the Official Opposition
Hon. Jordan Sturdy, Opposition Critic for Transportation and Infrastructure
Hon. Andrew Weaver, Leader of the Green Party of British Columbia

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Modernizing the Motor Vehicle Act to improve safety

The Active Transportation Policy Council is a civic agency appointed by Vancouver City Council to advise on strategic priorities relating to walking, cycling, public transit and all active transportation modes in Vancouver.

We write to you to support and endorse Modernizing the BC Motor Vehicle Act to increase safety for our most vulnerable road users. The BC MVA was passed in 1957 with motorists in mind, and has not had any significant change since. The BC MVA does not provide adequate protection for pedestrians, cyclists, and children, and does not support the BC Government's "Vision Zero" plan to eliminate road-related injuries and deaths by 2020.

The Road Safety Law Reform Group of British Columbia, representing over 50,000 members, has published a Position Paper entitled, "Modernizing the BC Motor Vehicle Act". The position paper outlines 26 recommendations for change, including the reduction of speed limits to 30km/hour on neighbourhood streets. Reducing speed limits will reduce injuries and deaths. In London, the creation of 20 miles/hr (32 km/hr) zones was associated with a 42% reduction in road casualties. Lower speed limits have broad backing including the BC Provincial Health Officer, the World Health Organization and numerous health agencies. In addition, we believe that most people want slower speeds in their neighbourhoods. In a 2013 survey by the Canadian Automobile Association, 94% of respondents reported that speeding on residential streets was a serious threat to their personal safety.

We believe that by changing the BC Motor Vehicle Act to the BC Road Safety Act and enacting the recommendations of the Road Safety Law Reform Group will prevent injuries and deaths and protect our most vulnerable road users.

Yours truly,

Tanya Paz, Chair
Active Transportation Policy Council

e-mail: info@vancouver.ca

tel: 604.873.7011

fax: 604.873.7419

Copies to: Mayor and Councillors
City Manager
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk