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## REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

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**SUBJECT**     **Advocacy on Speed Limits in Electoral Areas**

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

To consider options for advocacy to the Province for more engagement with Electoral Area Directors on speed limits and road hazard signage in Electoral Areas.

### **BACKGROUND**

At the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the CRD Board passed the following Motion with Notice, raised by Director Wickheim and endorsed by the Electoral Areas Committee:

*Whereas incorporated areas have the ability to set speed limits to reflect local conditions and hazards, and that Electoral Areas have similar conditions and hazards in select spots,*

*Therefore we seek the Capital Regional District Board to advocate to the Province (Ministry of Transportation and Transit) to engage with the Electoral Areas to establish speed limits and road hazard signage in their rural areas.*

At the Regional Board meeting, an amendment was raised as follows:

*And that staff report back to the EAC on the potential wording for a UBCM Resolution to be submitted prior to the deadline.*

Attached at Appendix A is a guide to submitting resolutions for consideration at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) annual convention. The deadline for submission of resolutions for the 2025 convention is June 15, 2025. While there is time for the Board to advance a resolution for consideration, UBCM strongly recommends that resolutions first be submitted to the Area Association for consideration prior to advancing to UBCM. The Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) is the CRD's Area Association, however, the deadline to submit resolutions to AVICC was February 7<sup>th</sup>. Late resolutions can be considered but only in cases where the topic was not known prior to the regular deadline date, and therefore is not an option in this case.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### *Alternative 1*

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That the Board Chair write a letter to Minister Farnsworth advocating for greater engagement with Electoral Area Directors on matters relating to speed limits and highway signage in the CRD Electoral Areas; and,
2. That staff be directed to request a meeting at UBCM between the Electoral Area Directors and Minister Farnsworth to discuss the need for more engagement on speed limits and highway signage.

*Alternative 2*

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:  
That the Board endorse the resolution attached at Appendix B for submission and consideration at the 2025 UBCM convention.

**IMPLICATIONS**

While staff acknowledge the important role UBCM plays in advancing advocacy, it's important to note that there may be equally or more effective ways to advance this request other than through a UBCM resolution. Matters that are best suited to UBCM are those that affect many jurisdictions in BC and are likely to be strongly supported by other elected officials. Furthermore, UBCM is particularly effective where elected officials are seeking a policy or legislative change by the Province and resolutions should contain a clear "take action" request.

The Motion with Notice appears to be directed at establishing better channels of communication with Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) staff to enhance the level of engagement and consultation with responsible CRD staff and Directors in the Electoral Areas. Staff do have existing relationships with senior MOTT staff and have engaged on some transportation issues recently, notably related to highways in Magic Lake Estates on Pender Island, and regarding a speed limit change in Ganges. Advocacy directly from the Board Chair to Minister Farnsworth may help support and encourage the development of that relationship with senior MOTT staff. Further, every year at the UBCM convention it is possible to request a meeting with Provincial Cabinet Ministers which can be an effective mechanism to bring provincial attention to an issue of concern. Requesting a meeting at the 2025 convention may, if accepted, be an effective way for the Electoral Area Directors to discuss this matter directly with the responsible Minister.

**CONCLUSION**

The Board has endorsed a Motion with Notice that MOTT engage with Electoral Areas on speed limits and hazard signage in the Electoral Areas, and that staff report back with suggested wording for a UBCM resolution. Attached at Appendix B is suggested wording for a resolution. While the Board may advance a resolution directly to UBCM, and is within the timeline to do so, a more effective outcome may be achieved by a letter to the Minister followed up with a request for a face-to-face meeting at UBCM with the Electoral Area Directors.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That the Board Chair write a letter to Minister Farnsworth advocating for greater engagement with Electoral Area Directors on matters relating to speed limits and highway signage in the CRD Electoral Areas; and,
2. That staff be directed to request a meeting at UBCM between the Electoral Area Directors and Minister Farnsworth to discuss the need for more engagement on speed limits and highway signage.

Submitted by:	Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services & Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Appendix A: Procedures for Submitting Resolutions to UBCM  
Appendix B: Proposed UBCM Resolution