



JAN 10 2012

His Worship  
Mayor Keith Fielding  
District of Peachland  
5806 Beach Avenue  
Peachland BC V0H 1X7

Reference: 200175

Dear Mayor Fielding:

**Re: Four-Laning of Highway 97 in Peachland**

Thank you for your letter of November 14, 2011, conveying Peachland District Council's request that the ministry commission a study to determine the costs, impacts and benefits of four-laning Highway 97 through your community.

I recognize the evaluation of Highway 97 routing options is important to your Council, and I am pleased to hear that priorities on the Highway 97 corridor were discussed at the Okanagan Valley transportation symposium process that took place this past summer.

Ministry staff will be happy to work with representatives from your community to discuss the next steps in planning and prioritizing transportation improvements in the Okanagan Valley, including through Peachland. It is important to note, however, that when developing a business case for any highway project, one factor to consider is the expected time frame for project implementation based on available funding and competing priorities. A business case should be developed within a five-year window of possible implementation, in order to accurately reflect the costs and benefits.

I have asked Murray Tekano, the ministry's local District Manager, to contact you to discuss the next steps in the development of transportation priorities in the Okanagan Valley, including the potential timing and process for business case development. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns about this matter, Mr. Tekano can be reached by telephone at 250 712-3629 or by e-mail at [Murray.Tekano@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Murray.Tekano@gov.bc.ca), and would be pleased to assist you.

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MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION

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I hope this information is helpful to you. Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blair Lekstrom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Blair Lekstrom  
Minister

Copy to: Bill Barisoff  
MLA, Penticton

Grant Main  
Deputy Minister

Murray Tekano, District Manager