



May 7, 2013

Mr. Darryl Hickie, Chair  
Special Committee on Traffic Safety  
105 Legislative Building  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
CANADA S4S 0B3

Dear Mr. Hickie:

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) Board and Members, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Provincial Government for appointing a special committee to conduct an inquiry into traffic safety in the province. We appreciate the Committee's dedication to consult with the public to identify traffic safety concerns and to determine the most effective means to improve traffic safety and reduce related fatalities.

At this time, we would like to formally provide some recommendations to the Committee for its consideration in developing a strategy to improve traffic safety in Saskatchewan.

**Reduction of Speed Limits for Certain Classes of Vehicles**—A rise in heavy traffic movement on municipal roadways has led to an increased risk of collision for road users. At this time, rural municipalities (RMs) do not have the authority to reduce road speed limits for large and heavy vehicles without implementing the same speed limit for the driving public. We feel that RMs should be afforded the authority to lower the speeds of commercial vehicles, which will improve the overall safety of the roadways and the health of the general public.

**Implementation of Speed Camera Programs**—Motor vehicles exceeding posted speed limits is a common traffic safety concern for municipalities. Unfortunately, the options currently available to RMs to enforce speed limits are often insufficient; thereby doing little to limit related safety issues. We believe that the use of speed cameras in RMs will reduce the significant risk to the public that driving at high speeds creates. We would, therefore, respectfully request that the Province undertake a review of the use of speed camera programs in other jurisdictions and, if deemed beneficial, update applicable regulations and guidelines to allow for the most efficient use of such technologies in Saskatchewan.

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Improved Provincial Highway Ditch Mowing Program – Accidents on highways across the province increasingly lead to loss of life and property damage. Uncontrolled vegetation growth on provincial highway road allowances causes visibility problems and is ideal harborage for wildlife; both of which reduce the safety of travelling motorists. We believe that Province should develop, with input from affected municipalities, and implement a more robust ditch mowing program to improve traffic safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss these recommendations further.

Sincerely,



Dale Harvey  
Executive Director