

I am writing to you and your Committee on Traffic Safety.
I am writing as a parent, grand-parent and as a co-chairwoman of the
“TIME TO TWIN... HIGHWAYS # 39 AND #6 COMMITTEE”.

On Saturday March 16, my daughter Jessica and her boyfriend Mike traveled to Regina to go and see Globe Theatre’s presentation of “Pride and Prejudice”. Then on Sunday March 17, they left Regina just after lunch to return to Estevan. The weather and the roads were deteriorating.

Around Milestone a chain of events occurred that could have taken their young lives several times in a short space of time on this un-twinned unsafe highway.

A snow plow ahead, had slowed the traffic to 50km/hr and it was throwing snow, into the air.

Then an on-coming semi threw even more snow, into the air so everyone was temporary blinded.

From behind, came a half ton truck, traveling 80km/hr and partially rear-ended, the vehicle my daughter was in, before turning toward the ditch.

(LUCKILY IT WASN’T A SEMI THAT HIT THEM)

No one was injured and because of the road and weather conditions, the RCMP, wouldn’t travel to the area.

The 3 truck passengers were able to get a ride to Weyburn with my daughter and her boyfriend.

Shortly after, because the roads were covered in snow, 3 semis were in the wrong lane of traffic and were heading straight for them. To avoid a head-on collision, Mike had to drive almost in the ditch to get out of the semis way.

Then because Mike had slowed down to avoid the semis, his truck was almost rear-ended, for a second time.

After this, they were able to continue on to Weyburn and drop the 3 fellows off where they lived.

My daughter and Mike were too traumatized to carry on, and had to stay in Weyburn over night, to gather the courage, to go the rest of the way to Estevan, the next day.

We do not have the luxury of TWINNED HIGHWAYS in S.E. Saskatchewan. Had this occurred on a twinned highway, the first semi would not have thrown up the snow and blinded on-coming vehicles. Secondly, the 3 semis would not have been in their lane, creating a potential head-on collision.

We have to battle: weather, road conditions, semis, semi convoys, speeding half ton trucks, and LOTS of traffic on our un-twinning highways

YES, the OIL BOOM, has brought us LOTS of jobs and people to the S.E. BUT, it has also brought LOTS of heavy, dirty, speeding, and dangerous traffic.

People have mentioned to me recently, seeing convoys of 6 semis traveling, with no room, in between, for any vehicle, to pass them. It is not unusual, to hear about this. I've heard also about a convoy of 12 semis traveling together. I've heard about a semi speeding at approximately, 120 km/hr, passing by 8 vehicles all traveling at 80km/hr due to road conditions. Then the semi nearly had a head-on collision because he barely made it back into his own lane in time.

Last Monday morning on March 18th, I awoke to hear Doug Wakabayashi, of the Minister of Highways office, telling everyone to slow down for snow plows.

BUT...with all of the semi traffic on our area highways kicking up snow, people like my daughter and her boyfriend, could have been killed when they were rear-ended on an un-twinning highway, while they were slowing down for a snow plow.

THEY CONSIDER THEMSELVES LUCKY TO HAVE BEEN HIT BY A HALF TON TRUCK AND NOT BY A SEMI !!

That's the first thing I said...THANK GOODNESS... IT WASN'T A SEMI THAT HIT THEM.

There's something wrong when we in S.E, Saskatchewan consider ourselves lucky, to not be hit by semi.

But because there's so much danger out there, that is our mentality, and everyone is always worried about the semis.

Many people are AFRAID to go out on our area highways, # 39, #18. #13, #47 , #9 , because they are all very dangerous.

These are the highways leading North, South, East and West of Estevan. People feel trapped in our own city. There are no safe highways to travel on to go places.

Most of the fear is created by the huge number of semis, 2 or 3 tonne service vehicles, oil tanker trucks, and many, many half ton trucks, that are in a hurry and are speeding.

This winter has been a terrible winter for weather and highway conditions. But the one thing that has been a constant in most of the fatalities in the S.E. this winter is that there have been **semis involved**.

Recent accidents involving semis.

#13 highway...2 fatalities

#39 highway... 2 fatalities

#18 highway...1 fatality

#47 highway...1 fatality

#9 highway....2 fatalities

The Ministry of Highways have recently provided us with TRAFFIC COUNTS on highway #39.

*Midale to Estevan (taken Sept 25 & 26, 2012)

20123835 A.D.T. (Ave. Daily Traffic) with 933 of them being trucks (2 tonne and larger)

2011..... 3550 A.D.T. with 660 of them being trucks (2 tonne and larger)

* Estevan to Bienfait (taken Sept. 25 &26, 2012)

2012.....6900 A.D.T with 1500 of them being trucks (2 tonne and larger)

2011.....6220 A.D.T. with 790 of them being trucks (2 tonne and larger)

THIS IS A HUGE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF LARGE TRUCKS FROM 2011 UNTIL 2012!

So, there you have it...

My concerns as a parent, grand-parent and as a co-chair-woman of TIME TO TWIN COMMITTEE

As a committee, that has been in existence since the Fall of 2009, we have worked to keep showing the Government of Saskatchewan, that we need to have highways # 39 & #6, twinned.

In 2011, we collected well over 1, 000 signatures on some area mini petitions asking our Govt. to twin highways # 39 & # 6.

We, also have collected over 250 safety surveys from area residents, truckers, and travelers, who tell why these highways # 39 and #6, are so dangerous. It tells of their concerns and fears and why they need to be twinned asap.

The binder and the mini petitions were presented to Minister of Highways, Jim Reiter in 2011.

We requested that he pass them on to Minister of Highways, Don McMorris.

Please obtain the mini-petitions and the binder and read all of the statements they contain. We have more safety surveys to add to that original binder.

Is there a possibility, that your Traffic Safety Committee is coming to S.E. Saskatchewan to hold one of your public meetings.

Our committee would be greatly interested in meeting with you.

Thank you for your time.

Marge Young phone# 306-421-0456

Co-Chairwoman...Time To Twin Committee

Highway 39 & Highway 6 - North Portal to Regina Collisions

Head On Collisions by Year and Severity

	Collisions			
Year	PDO*	Injury	Fatal	Total
2002	1	1	2	4
2003	0	2	0	2
2004	0	2	1	3
2005	0	1	0	1
2006	0	0	2	2
2007	0	0	2	2
2008	0	5	3	8
2009	1	2	2	5
2010	0	3	1	4
2011	1	4	2	7
2012	0	3	1	4
Total	3	23	16	42

Victims		
Injuries	Fatalities	Total
4	2	6
7	0	7
5	1	6
1	0	1
1	3	4
3	2	5
17	4	21
4	3	7
12	1	13
7	2	9
14	1	15
75	19	94

Rollover Collisions by Year and Severity

	Collisions			
Year	PDO*	Injury	Fatal	Total
2002	65	18	2	85
2003	54	27	1	82
2004	72	27	2	101
2005	65	11	1	77
2006	49	27	3	79
2007	71	24	3	98
2008	82	31	4	117
2009	102	22	3	127
2010	94	29	3	126
2011	110	33	5	148
2012	30	27	2	59
Total	794	276	29	1099

Victims		
Injuries	Fatalities	Total
30	2	32
47	1	48
41	2	43
14	1	15
35	6	41
33	3	36
51	5	56
30	4	34
47	3	50
43	5	48
41	2	43
412	34	446

All Other Collisions by Year and Severity

	Collisions			
Year	PDO*	Injury	Fatal	Total
2002	15	5	0	20
2003	19	14	1	34
2004	21	12	0	33
2005	14	4	0	18
2006	12	11	0	23
2007	16	12	0	28
2008	16	15	1	32
2009	15	10	0	25
2010	19	12	0	31
2011	30	13	0	43
2012	2	12	0	14
Total	179	120	2	301

Victims		
Injuries	Fatalities	Total
5	0	5
19	1	20
19	0	19
4	0	4
12	0	12
15	0	15
21	1	22
13	0	13
19	0	19
15	0	15
13	0	13
155	2	157

*Property Damage Only - All police reported accidents and claims over \$5,000

Preliminary