

Rockerbie, Kirk TRAN:EX

From: Barker, Brian TRAN:EX
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2009 12:06 PM
To: Audley, Mary Ethel TRAN:EX
Subject: FW: "Distracted Driving" Bill

Here is a response I received from one of the data collection contractors. He makes a very good point.... that the equipment in these vans is of significant value, and that the operators must/do not jeopardize their safety, and their ongoing capacity to do such work, by doing unsafe acts. (This firms equipment is I believe, even at ~\$500k... one of the cheaper set-ups!)

Brian Barker
Manager, Asset Condition Evaluation
Rehabilitation and Maintenance Branch
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
P.O. Box 9850, Stn Prov. Govt.
4th floor - 940 Blanshard St., Victoria B.C. V8W-9T5

Victoria: Phone: (250) 356-5540 Fax: (250) 356-7276
Nanaimo: Phone: (250) 751-3272 Fax: (250) 751-3290
Cell: (250) 616-7798
Email: Brian.Barker@gov.bc.ca

From: David Hein ARA/TRANS [mailto:dhein@ara.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2009 11:42 AM
To: Barker, Brian TRAN:EX
Subject: RE: "Distracted Driving" Bill

Absolutely. X years would be >20 years going back to the old film days. And, the operators certainly have significant training. The equipment is frequently worth in excess of \$500k so they are quite careful.

Dave

From: Barker, Brian TRAN:EX [mailto:Brian.Barker@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2009 2:36 PM
To: David Hein ARA/TRANS
Subject: RE: "Distracted Driving" Bill

Super,

Thanks David... I appreciate the input. Will fwd to the powers that be to ensure that we can get an exemption.

Can I say that this work has been done with the driver using such devices, without incident, for x years? (I need the value of x)

I think it is safe to say that that such practices are the 'industry standard' for such work, and that the drivers are suitably trained to undertake such work in a safe manner... n'est pas?

Brian Barker
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Cell: (250) 616-7798
Email: Brian.Barker@gov.bc.ca

From: David Hein ARA/TRANS [mailto:dhein@ara.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2009 10:08 AM
To: Barker, Brian TRAN:EX
Cc: DJ Swan ARA/TRANS
Subject: RE: "Distracted Driving" Bill

Thanks Brian,

Our law came into effect last week. The Section 4.1 covers our pavement testing equipment and would be necessary in B.C. as well. We operate several pieces of equipment that require the driver to view a computer screen including profiler, digital video, FWD, skid testing trailer, etc. Without this exception, the cost to collect the data would rise substantially as for all operations, we would require an additional person in the vehicle to operate the equipment. I would say that the cost would increase in the order of 30 to 40 percent depending on the equipment/operation.

Dave

From: Barker, Brian TRAN:EX [mailto:Brian.Barker@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2009 12:27 PM
Subject: FW: "Distracted Driving" Bill

I am sending you this email regarding BC's proposed 'Distracted Driving' Bill; as it may have an impact on your pavement surface condition data collection and/or roadway strength testing operations within the province. As noted below, there is a "narrow opportunity to exempt certain categories from these bans."

I'd like you to consider the impacts this proposed legislation may have on such activities, and advise me if you have any concerns.

As noted in the email below, Ontario has some interesting exemptions that we should perhaps consider / advocate for.

Cost is another factor... if the driver can do an activity safely, but the legislation won't permit same... will there be a cost impact if no exemption is given?

Your thoughts?
Please advise asap...

Brian Barker
Manager, Asset Condition Evaluation
Rehabilitation and Maintenance Branch

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
P.O. Box 9850, Stn Prov. Govt.
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Cell: (250) 616-7798
Email: Brian.Barker@gov.bc.ca

From: Audley, Mary Ethel TRAN:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 5:03 PM
To: Mazuruk, John TRAN:EX; Barker, Brian TRAN:EX
Cc: Disegni, Rodrigo TRAN:EX
Subject: FW: "Distracted Driving" Bill

Further information on the request forwarded by Rodrigo. Please call me if you have any questions.

Thanks.

Mary-Ethel Audley
Manager, Policy & Legislation
Transportation Policy Branch
phone: (250)387-1483
fax: (250) 356-0897
mary-ethel.audley@gov.bc.ca



Please consider the environment
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From: Audley, Mary Ethel TRAN:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 5:00 PM
To: Baskin, Kevin TRAN:EX; Miska, Ed TRAN:EX; Fredrickson, Reg TRAN:EX; Mortimer, Scot TRAN:EX
Cc: Disegni, Rodrigo TRAN:EX; Gilks, Greg E TRAN:EX; Watson, Suzanne TRAN:EX
Subject: "Distracted Driving" Bill

A new Bill was introduced last week in the Legislature to ban hand-held devices and other electronic devices while driving. This will include viewing computer screens while driving, and is expected to come into force on **January 1, 2010**.

- http://www.leg.bc.ca/39th1st/1st_read/gov15-1.htm

I am gathering information on any exemptions which may be required by this ministry from the requirements of the new Bill. Regulations are in the process of being drafted now, and there is a narrow opportunity to exempt certain categories from these bans. CVSE will be exempted as "peace officers", but I am canvassing for any other required exemptions.

Below are the links to the Ontario legislation and regulations, which are very specific as to exemptions. For example, in the regulation, section 4(1) allows for "viewing pavement evaluation indices"

Ontario:

- http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=2099
- http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2009/elaws_src_regs_r09366_e.htm

Please contact me if you have any questions, or have any exemptions which should be considered.

Thanks.

Mary-Ethel Audley

Manager, Policy & Legislation

Transportation Policy Branch

phone: (250)387-1483

fax: (250) 356-0897

mary-ethel.audley@gov.bc.ca



Please consider the environment
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Rockerbie, Kirk TRAN:EX

From: Chen-Kuo, Gigi <Gigi.Chen-Kuo@translink.ca>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2009 1:52 PM
To: Windsor, Devon SG:EX
Cc: Audley, Mary Ethel TRAN:EX
Subject: Photos Distracted Driving Translink submission
Attachments: IMG00053.jpg; IMG00052.jpg

Hi Devon, as requested, here are the 2 photos I took today. The first one shows the corded receiver, and the 2nd shows the mobile data terminal (just the top rectangular device – the one below it, with the number pad, is for the farebox). On the MDT, the only buttons that can be pressed while the vehicle is in motion are the RTT (request to talk) and PRTT (priority request to talk).





Rockerbie, Kirk TRAN:EX

From: Chen-Kuo, Gigi <Gigi.Chen-Kuo@translink.ca>
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2009 5:20 PM
To: Windsor, Devon SG:EX
Cc: Audley, Mary Ethel TRAN:EX; david.guthrie@bctransit.com; Sierpina, Stan; Lay, Martin; Madill, Mike; Gareth Rowlands
Subject: Distracted Driving - Request for Exemptions - Translink
Attachments: Request_for_Exemption.docx

Importance: High

Hi Devon, further to our discussion last Friday, I attach our request for exemptions from Bill 15. Please let me know if you require any further information or photographs.

Thank you,

Gigi Chen-Kuo
General Counsel
TransLink (South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority)
1600 - 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2
Tel: 604-453-4536
Fax: 604-453-4678
email: gigi.chen-kuo@translink.ca

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Bill 15 – Motor Vehicle Amendment Act, 2009

Exemptions Requested by TransLink

Introduction

The South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority (also known as “TransLink”) is responsible for the public transportation system in Metro Vancouver. The public transit system includes transit buses, community shuttle vehicles, and HandyDART vehicles operated by Coast Mountain Bus Company Ltd. (a subsidiary of TransLink), Municipality of West Vancouver, and private contractors.

Public transit vehicle operators need to communicate with their communications and dispatch centres to ensure (a) the safety of operators, passengers and the public, and (b) service reliability. For example, an operator may need to report a vehicle malfunction or a passenger altercation while the vehicle is in motion.

TransLink requests that it be provided with the specific exemptions set out below. Certain exemptions are requested for the Olympic Period only; others are required for ongoing operations.

Exemptions - Olympic Period Only (February 1, 2010 to March 31, 2010)

Transit Bus and Community Shuttle	
Transit buses and community shuttle vehicles operated by Coast Mountain Bus Company Ltd. (CMBC)	In order to meet the increased travel demands caused by the Olympic Games, CMBC will be utilizing approximately 165 additional buses. Approximately 65 of these buses will not be equipped with the standard Transit Management and Communication System (TMAC). Instead, operators will be equipped with cell phones in order to communicate with the Transit Communications Centre (TCOMM).
West Vancouver blue transit buses operated by Municipality of West Vancouver	In order to meet the increased travel demands caused by the Olympic Games, West Vancouver will be utilizing approximately 10 additional buses that will likely not be equipped with a radio communication system. Instead, operators will be equipped with cell phones in order to communicate with dispatch.

Exemptions - General

Transit Bus and Community Shuttle	
Transit buses and community shuttle vehicles operated by CMBC	All vehicles are equipped with the standard TMAC. TMAC consists of (a) a mobile data terminal screen display, fixed to the vehicle, that allows an operator to activate a “request to talk” or “priority request to talk” button while driving, and (b) a phone receiver, attached to the vehicle by a cord, which can be picked up by the operator when TCOMM responds to the “request to talk” or “priority request to talk” activation. TMAC allows for two way voice communication, but not for the transmission and receipt of voice communication at the same time.

Transit road supervisor vehicles operated by CMBC	All vehicles are equipped with a mobile radio system similar to TMAC. However, instead of a receiver, the radio system has a hand-held microphone. The mobile radio system allows for two way voice communication, but not for the transmission and receipt of voice communication at the same time.
West Vancouver blue transit buses operated by Municipality of West Vancouver	All vehicles are equipped with an "open mike" mobile radio system. The operator must use a phone receiver, attached to the vehicle by a cord, for communication with dispatch. This is for "request to talk" calls or when requested to talk. Activation is by way of a "push to talk" function on the phone handle. The mobile radio system does allow not for the transmission and receipt of voice communication at the same time.
Transit road supervisor vehicles operated by West Vancouver	All vehicles are equipped with an "open mike" radio system. Instead of a receiver, the radio system has a hand-held microphone this is operated by a "push to talk" function. The radio system allows for communication with dispatch by way of the hand-held microphone and built-in speaker, but not for the transmission and receipt of voice communication at the same time.
Community shuttle vehicles operated by private contractors	All vehicles are equipped with a radio system similar to TMAC. However, instead of a receiver, the radio system has a hand-held microphone this is operated by a "push to talk" function. The radio system allows for communication with dispatch by way of the hand-held microphone and built-in speaker, but not for the transmission and receipt of voice communication at the same time.
All transit buses and community shuttle vehicles – communication system malfunction	In the unlikely event that the communication system on a vehicle malfunctions, the operator should have the ability to operate the vehicle in revenue service with a cell phone. This will assist in maintaining service reliability and efficiency.
Custom Transit	
HandyDART vehicles operated by private contractor	All vehicles are equipped with a radio system similar to TMAC. However, instead of a receiver, the radio system has a hand-held microphone that is operated by a "push to talk" function. The radio system allows for voice communication with dispatch by way of the hand-held microphone and built-in speaker, but not for the transmission and receipt of voice communication at the same time.
HandyDART road supervisor vehicles used by private contractor	Road supervisors communicate with dispatch and a group of other users by way of a hand-held radio system. The radio system requires two-digit calling and activation of a "push to talk" system.
Security	
Security vehicles operated by CMBC	All vehicles are equipped with a mobile radio system similar to TMAC. However, instead of a receiver, the radio system has a hand-held microphone. The mobile radio system allows for two way voice communication, but not for the transmission and receipt of voice communication at the same time.

Rockerbie, Kirk TRAN:EX

From: Audley, Mary Ethel TRAN:EX
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2009 9:07 AM
To: Windsor, Devon SG:EX
Cc: Coombs, John TRAN:EX
Subject: FW: BC Transit Request for Exemption from Bill 15 - 2009, Use of Electronic Devices While Driving
Attachments: BC Transit Exemption Request on Bill 15 - 2009 Distracting Devices.pdf

Response from BC Transit.

MEA

Mary-Ethel Audley
Manager, Policy & Legislation
Transportation Policy Branch
phone: (250)387-1483
fax: (250) 356-0897
mary-ethel.audley@gov.bc.ca



Please consider the environment
before printing this email.

From: Guthrie, David [mailto:David_Guthrie@BCTransit.Com]
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2009 7:20 PM
To: Audley, Mary Ethel TRAN:EX
Cc: Coombs, John TRAN:EX; Davis, Mike
Subject: BC Transit Request for Exemption from Bill 15 - 2009, Use of Electronic Devices While Driving

Hello Mary-Ethel,

Please see the attached letter requesting that BC Transit be exempt from Bill 15, 2009, "Use of Electronic Devices While Driving". If you have questions feel free to contact me at the number below or on my cell at 250-415-1992.

Thank you,

David Guthrie, MBA
Director, Safety and Security



520 Gorge Road East
PO Box 610
Victoria, BC V8W 2P3
Phone: 250-995-5717
Fax: 250-995-5714
Email: david_guthrie@bctransit.com
Web: www.bctransit.com



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October 30, 2009

Mary-Ethel Audley
Manager, Policy & Legislation
Transportation Policy Branch
BC Provincial Government

Re: Bill 15, 2009 Amendment to BC Provincial Legislation around Distracting Devices

Dear Mary-Ethel:

BC Transit agrees that Bill 15 is a needed amendment to provincial legislation, however; we require the following exemptions to continue with, safe, efficient and uninterrupted transit service:

- 1) While in operation under the authority of the BC Transit Act, drivers of BC Transit conventional, community bus, Para transit, handyDART and public intercity commuter buses must have the capability to have unlimited use of;
 - a. Two-way radio communication with dispatchers, mechanical repair facilities and on road Transit Supervisors.
 - b. Electronic terminals within sight and reach of the driver providing information on route guides, passenger manifests, destination information, engine diagnostics, bus stop indicators and upper saloon driver monitoring on double deck buses.
- 2) While in operation under the authority of the BC Transit Act, marked and unmarked BC Transit Supervisor vehicles and repair service vehicles must have unlimited use of;
 - a. Vehicle mounted and hand held two-way radio communication with dispatchers, mechanical repair facilities, drivers, and all emergency first responders (police, fire, ambulance).
 - b. Vehicle mounted and hand held electronic terminals within sight and reach of the driver providing information on route guides, passenger manifests, destination information, electronic maps and other information sources required to maintain basic public transit.
 - c. Hands free and hand held cellular phones for the purposes of calling all emergency first responders (police, fire, ambulance) and for calling other BC Transit Supervisor vehicles for emergency incident response.

It is imperative that these exemptions are included in the new legislation amendment. Failure to do so will not only cripple BC Transit's ability to conduct it's business efficiently, it will leave the riding public exposed to dangerous delays of emergency response.

Please feel free to contact me directly at 250-995-5717.

Sincerely Yours:



David Guthrie, MBA
Director, Safety and Security

Shepard, Aaron TRAN:EX

From: Writing Services, Transportation TRAN:EX
Subject: FW: s.22 - Texting/cell phone using drivers

From: Falcon.MLA, Kevin [<mailto:Kevin.Falcon.MLA@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2008 10:16 AM
To: WEBMASTER TRAN:EX; Minister, SG SG:EX
Subject: FW: Texting/cell phone using drivers

Natasha Westover

Constituency Assistant to

Kevin Falcon, MLA

Ph. 604-576-3792

Fax 604-576-3797

Natasha.Westover@leg.bc.ca

From: s.22
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2008 7:56 PM
To: Falcon.MLA, Kevin; van Dongen.MLA, John; Kwan, Jenny (Office)
Subject: Texting/cell phone using drivers

Dear Members of the Legislative Assembly of BC,

I would like to refer you to the following news story, of which I am certain you are already aware:

<http://www.cbc.ca/consumer/story/2008/09/22/texting-driving.html>

Three weeks ago, ^{s.22} were involved in a motor vehicle accident. A commercial van driver was busy using his cell phone and pulled his vehicle out into the path of oncoming traffic. Unfortunately, given the number of other vehicles around me, I could not evade the collision. ICBC has found 100% in my favour but that is a small boon considering how bad it could have been given the small size of my vehicle. There is some coincidence in the fact that it was my ^{s.22} second collision in as many days. Her mother was driving her down a residential street when a vehicle turned left in front of her - and while I cannot say that the driver of that vehicle was using a distracting mobile device, it is possible that they were.

I've evaded several motor vehicle accidents caused by inattentive or distracted drivers but I suppose the appalling thing about this is the number of drivers I see in traffic who are "busy" doing something other than driving.

Speeding and HOV misuse are easy targets for our police because they're clear violations of law that are easily tested. The former doesn't cause many accidents, though it certainly contributes to the harm caused by some of them, but the latter causes no accidents. Why don't we set up traps to check for drivers who are not "driving" but texting, chatting, watching movies (I've seen it), eating oatmeal or studying (also seen it)?

I am not a traffic expert but from the studies cited by CBC and in other places it seems certain that distracted

driving causes far more accidents than speeding, thus more deaths, injuries and property damage. I am not an advocate for looser speed laws. I do believe that it would be a fairly simple matter to put in place a program to target distracted drivers (perhaps with video) and issue them with warning tickets. This could be combined with a media blitz. Eventually fines for extreme cases would be announced and executed, resulting in drivers that would smarten up and remember the responsibility of being behind the wheel of a machine capable of ending lives. All of this would move the public consciousness into a direction that would:

- save lives
- reduce pain and suffering
- reduce property damage

Perhaps checking text and voice call logs after an accident would help as well - it should be mandatory in my opinion.

I would dearly love to see some movement on this as portable devices become even more capable (and thus more distracting) before more deaths and injuries occur needlessly. While my s.22 and still young and flexible - she was hurt and traumatized by the events. She has mostly forgotten the events. My back still is stiff but this too will pass - I was lucky and so were my kids. A larger vehicle, coupled with a faster closing speed could have had deadly consequences.

Please do see this as a viable threat and take the appropriate action.

Thanks very much, a concerned voter:

s.22

Shepard, Aaron TRAN:EX

From: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2009 2:48 PM
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, SG SG:EX
Subject: 173564 – Cell Phones

s.22

173564 – Cell Phones

Dear s.22

Thank you for your e-mail of October 28, 2008, regarding the use of cell phones while driving.

I agree that using hand-held devices while driving is dangerous, and I encourage all cell phone users to either use a hands-free set or wait until they are safely stopped before taking or making a call.

Policies about the use of cell phones in vehicles in British Columbia fall under the jurisdiction of my colleague, the Honourable John van Dongen, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. As such, I've taken the liberty of forwarding your e mail to him for his consideration.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Best regards,

Kevin Falcon
Minister

Copy to: Honourable John van Dongen
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
MLA, Abbotsford-Clayburn

From: s.22
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2008 7:40 AM
To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Subject: Cell Phone use

Hello Mr. Falcon,
Public safety is a major concern of your ministry and of course all people who use our transportation systems, whether it be road, transit and other means. Each life lost, each person injured each vehicle damaged causes hardship and disruption to British Columbians.

When is the BC Government via the Ministry of Transportation going to show some responsibility and determination and ban the use of hand-held cell phones when operating a vehicle? This should hopefully include truck drivers, bus drivers, train operators, motorcyclists and cyclists. All over Europe such a ban is in effect. Other Canadian provinces have such a ban. The public is waiting...

Sincerely, s.22

Shepard, Aaron TRAN:EX

From: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2008 9:15 PM
To: Writing Services, Transportation TRAN:EX
Subject: s.22 · Use of cell phones while driving

Log as forward to PSSG. Check with Tiny Vermaning to see if they can respond on behalf of Minister Falcon.

From: s.22
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2008 4:12 PM
To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Cc: GlobalNews.BC@globaltv.com
Subject: Use of cell phones while driving

Minister,

Every day I see people driving while using a hand held cellphone or worse still, text messaging and invariably witness them make simple errors of judgement in their driving. These types of distractions are known to cause fatalities and your ministry must have statistics on such incidents.

Now that Ontario has joined 3 other provinces in banning the use of hand held phones while driving, with 2 other provinces considering such a ban, is it not about time that we in BC also considered this.

If you make the fine substantial enough to deter such bad driving habits, you will undoubtedly be improving the safety on our roads.

yours sincerely,

s.22

January 20, 2009

s.22

Reference: 174307

Dear s.22

Re: Cell Phone Use

Thank you for your letter of November 6, 2008, expressing your concern over the use of cell phones while driving. Please accept my apologies for the lateness of my reply.

Safety is my ministry's highest priority, and drivers need to act responsibly on the roads to protect their own safety and the safety of others, including pedestrians. I would encourage all cell phone users to either use a hands-free set or wait until they are safely stopped before accepting or making a call.

Provincial government policies about the use of cell phones in vehicles fall under the jurisdiction of my colleague the Honourable John van Dongen, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. As such, I have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to him for his consideration.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

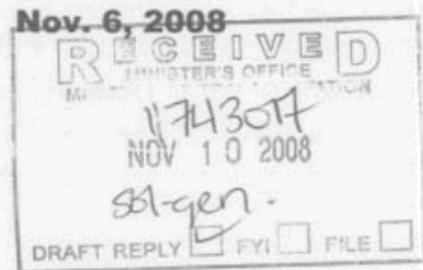
Kevin Falcon
Minister

Copy to: Honourable John van Dongen
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
MLA, Abbotsford-Clayburn

Information provided by: ML 172808

**Ministry of Highways
P.O. Box 9055 STN Prov. Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2**

Attention: Honourable Kevin Falcon



I would like to forward my concerns about the use of cell phones while driving. It is becoming a serious problem.

The following are dates and examples of what are my concerns.

August 3, 2008: Hwy 3 between Keremeos and Manning Park at least 3 vehicles, going 15 km or more under the posted speed limit, were holding up a line of vehicles of 8 to 15 vehicles while they tried to talk on their cells. This was leading to frustration of many drivers some of who made "bad" passes. We sat in one of these lineups for a period of over 10 minutes.

Aug 3, 2008, Highway 1 at Chilliwack:

A vehicle, in the on coming inside lane, was one his cell phone, holding it in his left hand and he appeared to be "leaning" on his window while talking. Immediately behind him was an RCMP cruiser with his lights and siren on and the vehicle was not making any attempt to move into the right (outside lane). The Cruiser was on it way to some type of problem towards Hope, we had seen another cruiser heading that direction a few minutes earlier.

Within less that a minute of this incident we came up behind a vehicle in the right hand lane traveling at about 20 km under the posted speed limit. We waited behind him for a couple of minutes until the inside lane was free and passed him. When I looked over at him to see if there was a problem here he was with both hand at the top of his steering wheel holding his cell phone and by the movement of his thumbs it appeared he was "texting". Absolutely absurd on a 100 km freeway, with weekend traffic.

Aug 12, 2008, Victoria, Prospect Lake Road:

If you have never been on this road it is extremely narrow and windy. Within a distance of less than 1 km two separate vehicles crossed the centre line, on an inside corner, and we both had to take evasive action to avoid a head on. One was a lady on a cell phone with her head turned towards a child in the passenger seat the other was a pickup, the driver was dialing his cell phone.

Aug 22, 2008, Malahat:

As we reached the top of the Malahat, traveling north, a car on the outside lane (traveling under the speed limit) drifted into our lane as we were about to pass. My wife backed off a little and when it appeared like the vehicle was "under control" again. She proceeded to continue pass this vehicle and it again drifted into our lane. We again backed off and finally were able to pass him. The driver was on his cell phone and his head was turned looking toward the passengers in the back seat.

Nov 1, 2008 Saanich:

I was second car in the left hand turn lane waiting for the turn signal off McKenzie on to Cedar Hill Rd. When the left turn signal came on the vehicle in front of me was almost "T" boned by a vehicle in the on-coming outside lane, which had a red light. She had seen our vehicles start to move so she accelerated through her red light. She was talking on her cell phone and as I passed in front of her she was laughing (as she was still talking). She seemed to think this was rather funny.

Nov 1, 2008 Langford:

I was in the left hand turn lane on Hoffman turning south onto Memorial Parkway. A lady in front of us was talking on her cell phone. She was holding the phone with her left hand up to her left ear. After she started to move she switched to holding the phone to her left ear with her right hand. She turned south, but not into the inside lane, she headed on an angle across to the outside lane almost colliding with a vehicle turning right from Massie Dr on to Memorial. She had to "drop" her phone to complete the turn.

Then we could get into the number of drivers in the populated areas who are attempting to make a left (or right turn) with one hand while talking on their cell phones. Also those backing out of their parking area while talking on their "cells" (one handed steering, looking for pedestrians, vehicles, bikes etc).

As good as most of us think we are at driving and multi tasking, we are not and must concentrate on our driving and not on a cell phone conversation. "Bluetooth" or not a, cell phone conversation is much more distracting than a personal conversation in a vehicle (plus it usually ties up one hand. If we are having a personal conversation the other passenger will understand why the conversation is interrupted but we seem to have an aversion to "being rude" to someone who is on the other end of the cell phone conversation.

I feel that the cell phone is now becoming a major traffic hazard, especially since the introduction of text messaging.

Yours truly,

s.22



Shepard, Aaron TRAN:EX

From: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 3:24 PM
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, SG SG:EX
Subject: 174651 - Public Transportation Options

s.22

174651 - Public Transportation Options

Dear s.22

Thank you for your e-mail of November 18, 2008, regarding public transportation options in the Lower Mainland and the Interurban Railway.

The \$14 billion Provincial Transit Plan was announced this year by Premier Gordon Campbell, and it's the most ambitious transit expansion in our province's history, designed to double transit ridership and eliminate 160 million car trips per year on provincial roads. The plan calls for three major new investments in rapid transit lines and will increase rapid transit capacity in Metro Vancouver by 70 per cent. We're introducing nine new high-speed RapidBus BC routes, a rapid-transit style bus service. We also intend to significantly expand the bus fleet in Metro Vancouver with up to 1,000 new clean-energy buses. Our goal is to be a world leader in transit ridership by 2030 with the same percentage of travellers using public transit as in Paris, London and Melbourne.

The Fraser Valley Transit Study is being conducted in partnership with the Fraser Valley Regional District, BC Transit and TransLink, and will be a foundational report for all of our long-term planning. To ensure we're investing tax dollars responsibly, it's important that we look at all the feasible public transportation options, and the Interurban railway is one of them. We intend this to be a comprehensive analysis with public and stakeholder consultation, and I look forward to the results.

I appreciate hearing your ideas about congestion and traffic flow. Reducing congestion and improving the efficient movement of people and goods is one of the priorities of my ministry's Gateway Program which includes not just a new, wider Port Mann crossing, but also the construction of the South Fraser Perimeter Road (SFPR), a new 40-kilometre, four-lane route along the south side of the Fraser River that will provide some commercial vehicles an efficient alternative to the other arterial highways and community streets used by commuters and local traffic. The use of dedicated lanes in the Gateway Program will likely be for RapidBus service and high-occupancy vehicles. If you would like to learn more about the Gateway Program, you may want to visit the program web site at <http://www.gatewayprogram.bc.ca/>.

I am pleased to hear you have also been discussing your concerns with my colleague, the Honourable John van Dongen. As Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, police enforcement and provincial policies about the use of cell phones in vehicles are both within his jurisdiction. As such, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your correspondence to Minister van Dongen for his consideration as well.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Best regards,

Kevin Falcon
Minister

Copy to: Honourable John van Dongen
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
MLA, Abbotsford-Clayburn

From: s.22

Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2008 6:42 AM

To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX

Subject: light rail

Honorable Kevin Falcon:

Sir, having read the local Abbotsford paper, I see there is going to be a study on the feasibility of light rail for the valley. I believe that there has been studies in the past and as the inter-urban was quite successful in the past could it not be utilised again. If the Campbell government is committed to being a carbon reduced province would it not be the best solution to get us out of our cars and onto a rail system. We are so far behind on what Europe uses to transport their population. Having to drive everyday into Vancouver is becoming a taxing affair and with the volumes increasing every year it becomes a daunting task. I know that there is the new transportation gateway project and the costs are an issue but if we plan to reduce our impact on the planet, what cost is our lives worth. If the planet is warming and the use of carbon fuels is one huge issue, the sooner we get out of the car, the better off we will all be.

Another issue, as a commuter, is the large class 8 trucks that frequent the highway as we travel east to Abbotsford. If there is going to be expansion of the highway network, how about implementing a truck only lane all the way out to Chilliwack which would not impede the flow as it does now with the way some but not all truckers climb the fast lane slowly up the hill because they have more power and can pass the other truck going too slowly. How about policing the highway more effectively to get the traffic moving with enforcement of aggressive drivers, the same as California, and to go after the cell phone users who have to talk and drive with complete disregard for the traffic flow. I think that the most dangerous, that we have seen, is the text messenger driving on the freeway looking down at their cell phone and paying little heed to the cars in front. When will cell phone usage be banned while driving. The other point I would like to make is the so-called professional driver that is talking on the cell phone while driving along the freeway loaded at 63,500 Kgs and talking away while driving with only one hand. Great faith that he or she is not going to come into my lane as we or they pass by.

Having had discussions with my MLA John Van Dongen, he is all in favour of light rail. It is our best alternative to get out of our cars. The only issue would be the car dealer association who for their financial reasons will oppose the idea of light rail.

Just some ideas from a commuter and the others I commute to explain how others feel but never write to officials in government.

Regards

s.22

Shepard, Aaron TRAN:EX

From: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2008 7:59 AM
To: Writing Services, Transportation TRAN:EX
Subject: s.22 - Safety Concern
Attachments: Celular1.wmv; Justdrive2.wmv; Celular2.mpg

Forward to PSSG to respond.

From: RonRealtor s.22
Sent: Sunday, November 23, 2008 10:51 PM
To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Cc: PSSG WEBFEEDBACK SG:EX; Transportation, Deputy Minister TRAN:EX; Passenger Transportation Br, TRAN:EX; Passenger Transportation Board, TRAN:EX
Subject: Safety Concern

Dear Sirs: I have tried once before to bring this topic up with the Primer. I have personally saved the life of a young boy who was about to cross a major street in Vancouver while using a crosswalk and a controlled traffic light. He was about to step out and cross with the light turning solid green, when I noticed a car not willing to stop for a red light as the rest of the traffic had already did. The driver was talking on a hand-held cell phone and did not even notice the possibility of hitting the young boy as he drove past, talking. Please have a look at these three short videos as they may convince someone in government, that it is time to take the initiative and a positive stance for a change to hands-free cell phones useage! Please forward this message to the correct people if you are not responsible to make a change for the betterment of public safety.

Thank you for attention to this matter.

s.22

Associate Broker

RE /MAX Central

Office: 604 433 2211

s.22

Shepard, Aaron TRAN:EX

From: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2009 4:56 PM
To: s.22
Subject: 179919 Road Safety

Dear s.22

Please be assured your e-mail of May 28, 2009, has been received and a response is forthcoming. Given the volume of correspondence the Minister receives responses can sometimes take longer than anticipated.

Sara Haskett
Manager, Corporate Writing Services
Finance and Management Services Department
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Telephone: 250 387-5705 Facsimile: 250 356-7706 E-mail: Sara.Haskett@gov.bc.ca

From: s.22
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2009 9:36 PM
To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Subject: Fw: Road Safety

Just a quick inquiry to ascertain that you've received the aforementioned e-mail.

----- Original Message -----

From: s.22
To: Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2009 7:50 AM
Subject: Road Safety

Dear Minister, When is your government going to enact legislation to make our families safer on our roads by the outright banning of cell phone usage while driving? I have seen stupidity galore observing people on cell phones whose driving ability is compromised. This puts us all in a precarious situation. Don't you think it is a no-brainer to put this legislation in place quickly? Do we have to wait for further serious injury to occur before your government acts? Why not be pro active and do the right thing by implementing this NOW. Thank you, s.22

Shepard, Aaron TRAN:EX

From: Vermaning, Tiny SG:EX
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 3:08 PM
To: Writing Services, Transportation TRAN:EX
Subject: 181387 RE: s.22 -- Ban on Cell Phone Usage

We will respond. Thanks.

From: Writing Services, Transportation TRAN:EX
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 3:07 PM
To: Vermaning, Tiny SG:EX
Subject: s.22 · Ban on Cell Phone Usage

Hi Tiny,

Please see the e-mail below. Can your ministry respond obo Minister Bond? Of note, MLA Simons (NDP) was addressed as well.

Please advise whether you can respond.

Thanks very much,

Christine

Christine Haltner

A/Correspondence Advisor, Corporate Writing Services
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
christine.haltner@gov.bc.ca
phone: 250 356-0863 fax: 250 356-7706

From: s.22
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2009 10:38 PM
To: Simons.MLA, Nicholas; Bond.MLA, Shirley
Subject: Please support the police chiefs request for a ban on cell phone usage

Dear Mr Nicholas Simons and Shirley Bond

As my MLA and Minister of Transportation respectively, I am writing to you in support of the cell phone ban for drivers which my local paper tells me the Union of Police Chiefs is proposing. As Minister of Transportation, Shirley, you are no doubt aware that cars kill more people than gangs, around a person a day in BC.

There are numerous studies that point to the dangers of cell phone usage. Perhaps the most striking compare it with alcohol usage and find that it causes reduced reaction time greater than a .08 alcohol blood level. <http://www.driveandstayaalive.com/articles%20and%20topics/crash%20causation/cell-phone-dangers.htm>, http://www.driveandstayaalive.com/info%20section/news/individual%20news%20articles/x_040804_exxonmobil-cellphone-initiative.htm and http://www.nsc.org/news/death_by_cellphone.aspx. In fact the NSC data suggest

that cell phone usage is a factor in 6% of accidents which equates to about 20 deaths per year in BC.

My most vivid experience of the issue was watching a driver make a right turn out of his driveway who went half way into the oncoming traffic lane nearly hitting a cyclist who was able to move to the side. I'm not sure if the driver's failure to turn directly into the correct lane was a result of unawareness of the oncoming cyclist or the fact that he only had one hand on the steering wheel. (The cyclist was in the middle of the lane because in our community there are no shoulders and I was walking on the side of the road so that the cyclist had to be in the middle to avoid me.) In either case his cell phone usage nearly caused a serious accident.

My wife and I have a policy of asking our friends and family to call back when they're off the road if we discover that they're driving when we call them. We love them too much to endanger their lives. Can you help us reduce the risk to their lives and others by ensuring that other drivers are also paying full attention to driving?

Sincerely

s.22

Shepard, Aaron TRAN:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2009 10:27 AM
To: MoT Client Relations TRAN:EX
Subject: DriveBC - Feedback Response

DriveBC - Feedback Response

Name: s.22

Rating: no response

Comments:

Re Cell phone use: The technology already exists to limit the use of cell phones while the user moves along the road. The cell phone transmission could be terminated by the provider if the phone changes location during a , say 30 second time frame. This would allow the user to record the number that was trying to reach him/her so that the user could stop and answer the call. Certain cell numbers like 911 and other emergency numbers could be exempted. Cell phone companies would love it because it would increase their revenues. It would greatly improve safety on the road. Cell phone companies would sell more options like call display. If it becomes illegal to use the phone it will only take up the policing time to write tickets, piss people off, and take time away from the police to do more important things. This suggestion will solve all the problems without wasting resources. s.22

E-Mail: s.22

Shepard, Aaron TRAN:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2009 1:49 PM
To: MoT Client Relations TRAN:EX
Subject: DriveBC - Feedback Response

DriveBC - Feedback Response

Name: s.22

Rating: Good

Comments:

I would ask why the use of cell phones, in vehicles used on the roadways, has not been banned by the Government. It appears that the first thing some do is start thr car, drive off, and then call someone, on the phone - Dangerous to say the least. The next is the use of laptops, cell phones by police while driving on the roadways. Very bad example to the general public. Any argument to the "need" for this is just a line of nonsense, pull over do your communication on the side of the road then continue. How many accidents are the direct cause of these communication devises? Why has I.C.B.C. not led a campaign for the ban of such devises - maybe the executives can't see this use of this because they are to busy with their "Blackberries".

E-Mail: s.22

Shepard, Aaron TRAN:EX

From: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2009 10:52 AM
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, SG SG:EX
Subject: 182071 – Personal Digital Assistants

s.22

182071 – Personal Digital Assistants

Dear s.22

Thank you for your e-mail of July 30, 2009, regarding the use of personal digital assistants (PDAs) while driving.

Please be assured safety is my ministry's highest priority. In order to make road condition information more accessible to the travelling public, we have included web camera links on our web site that can be viewed on PDAs. However, drivers have a responsibility to drive with due care to protect their own safety and the safety of others. You may be interested to know in the recent Throne Speech, our government committed to introducing legislation to restrict cell phone and PDA use while driving a vehicle to create a safer driving and pedestrian environment for all.

As provincial government policies about the use of cell phones and other devices in vehicles fall under the jurisdiction of my colleague the Honourable Kash Heed, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, I have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to him so he will be aware of your comments.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Shirley Bond
Minister

Copy to: Honourable Kash Heed
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
MLA, Vancouver-Fraserview

From: s.22
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2009 3:15 PM
To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Subject: Oddities of Government

It seems somewhat odd if not bizarre that in an era in which there is a lot of talk about banning hand held cell phone usage while in motion government appears to be making highway camera information available on PDAs.

What could be more distracting than a PDA which includes texting a major source of traffic accidents.

Shepard, Aaron TRAN:EX

From: Colin Brander .s.22
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2009 3:29 PM
To: Distracted Driving
Cc: Heed.MLA, Kash LASS:EX; Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: 182353 Submission - Public Consultation - Distracted Drivers: Use of Cell Phones and other Technologies while Driving
Attachments: Distracted Drivers-Use of Cell Phones and other Technologies while Driving.pdf

Please find attached our submission on this topic.

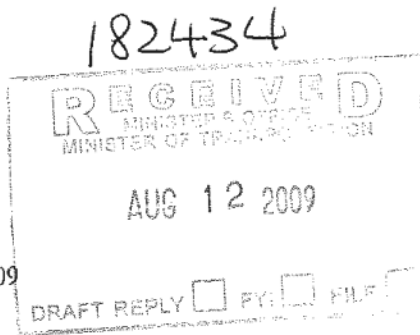
Please contact me if you have any problems reading the attached file.

Sincerely,

Colin Brander
Director and Chair, Motor Vehicle Act Review Committee

--

"All this free parking is charity for cars" - Donald Shoup - The High Cost of Free Parking



RECEIVED

AUG 11 2009

BRITISH
COLUMBIA
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION



August 6th, 2009

Hon. Shirley Bond,
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and MLA, Prince George-Valemount
1350 5th Ave
Prince George BC V2L 3L4

Suite 115
1665 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6J 5A4

T. 604.736.5551
F. 604.736.3987
www.bcma.org

Dear Minister Bond,

The British Columbia CMA applauds the recent decision of the provincial government to hold a public consultation on the issue of distracted driving in British Columbia. Cell phones and other electronic devices are causing preventable accidents, injuries and deaths on BC's roads, and it is time to take action.

The BCMA welcomes the opportunity to provide evidence and recommendations on this timely issue. Please find enclosed a copy of the BCMA's formal submission "Time to Hang Up".

If you have any questions about our submission please contact me directly at (604) 638-2846 or by email at president@bcma.bc.ca. Alternatively, if you would like to talk with a local physician about this issue, your staff may contact Ms. Geraldine Vance, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, at 604-638-2809 or by email at gvance@bcma.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Brian Brodie, MD
President

Encl:

Nov 30, 2009

s.22

Reference: 183288

Dear s.22

Re: Speed Limits

My colleague, the Honourable Kash Heed, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, forwarded me a copy of your letter to respond to your concerns about highway speed limits.

My ministry takes its responsibility to provide a safe, effective transportation network very seriously, and much care is taken to ensure that speed limits along our provincial corridors are appropriate for any particular route. You may be interested to know that provincial speed limits were independently reviewed several years ago. The results of the review were discussed with key stakeholders including the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, the RCMP and the British Columbia Automobile Association. It was determined that the posted speed limits on our highways are appropriate.

I appreciate your suggestion to lower speed limits in order to conserve fuel; however, ministry studies indicate that most motorists will disregard speed limits that are set artificially low or lower than required by road, traffic and geometric conditions. Currently, it is a widely accepted practice in North America to set speed limits as close as possible to the speed at which 85 per cent of motorists travel. This speed is then considered according to such contributing factors as a road's accident history, geometric features and adjacent landscape and development. My ministry also uses the Institute of Traffic Engineers' Speed Zones Guidelines to help determine speed limits.

If there is a specific location of concern to you, with respect to existing speed limits, please don't hesitate to contact Ed Miska, my ministry's Chief Traffic, Electrical, Highway Safety and Geometric Standards Engineer. He can be reached by telephone at 250 387-7676 or by e-mail at Ed.Miska@gov.bc.ca, and would be pleased to assist you.

.../2

- 2 -

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

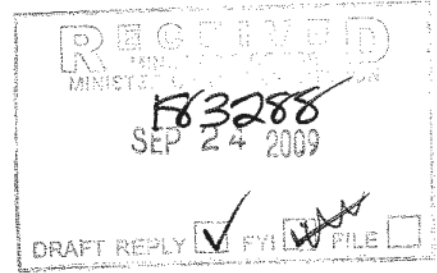
Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Shirley Bond
Minister

Copy to: Honourable Kash Heed
 Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
 MLA, Vancouver-Fraserview

Information provided by: ML 169522



September 23, 2009

s.22

Dear s.22

I am responding to your letter regarding aggressive driving and cell phone use while driving. As the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, I welcome the opportunity to respond, and I share your concern regarding dangerous driving. There is no question that speeding and distracted driving cause problems on our roads.

Road safety and driver behaviour are a top priority for me. Vehicle collisions continue to be the number-one cause of fatalities and serious injuries from birth to aged 25, and remain a leading cause of death thereafter. Many factors contribute to vehicle crashes, but speeding is clearly a top contributor. Under the authority of the *Motor Vehicle Act*, police officers currently have the ability to impound the vehicles of drivers involved in street racing. If the police officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe a driver is engaged in a race and intends to charge the driver with a serious offence, the officer can impound the vehicle for 48 hours for a first time offence and up to 30 days for subsequent offences.

Regarding your concerns about cell phone use while driving, I initiated a public consultation process on distracted driving. The consultation ended on August 7, 2009, with 3,666 submissions received. As a result of the consultation, forthcoming legislation was announced during the Throne Speech on August 25, 2009.

.../2

The Honourable Solicitor General,
Kash Heed

Dear Honourable Kash Heed,
Solicitor General

RE: AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

With approximately Four Hundred and Seventy-Five persons killed on our Provincial streets and roads per year, and Thirty Thousand injured, we must introduce "and pass" Legislation as Ontario has, to impound vehicles and drivers licence, plus fines. Forty percent of fatalities are due to speed.

Besides the carnage, driving 100 Km/H versus 120 Km/H will reduce fuel consumption by about Fifteen percent and reduce pollution likewise.

RE: CELL PHONES

Drivers use of cell phones while the vehicle is in motion shall be prohibited.

s.22

cc: Superintendent of Motor Vehicles
cc: Honourable Michael deJong, M.L.A.

RECEIVED	
MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL	
JUL 21 2009	
REFER TO MAIL REGISTRY	
OTHER	377685
<input type="checkbox"/> DRAFT REPLY	REPLY DIRECT <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> ATTN FILE	FILE <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION <input type="checkbox"/>

advocacy

Brainstorming for Speed-Norming

If posted limits aren't curbing lead foots, what are the alternatives?

Copyright

A2

The Abbotsford News - Tuesday, January 4, 2005

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High speed on Hwy. 11

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Rolling Resistance

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Page 40

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Shepard, Aaron TRAN:EX

From: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2009 3:26 PM
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, SG SG:EX
Subject: 183888 – Cell Phones

s.22

183888 – Cell Phones

Dear s.22

Thank you for your e-mail of October 18, 2009, regarding cell phone use while driving.

I agree that motorists have a responsibility to exercise due care and attention and that distracted driving is a significant safety issue. My ministry supports recent changes made to the Motor Vehicle Act by the Solicitor General, the Honourable Kash Heed, that are proposed to take effect on January 1, 2010. This new legislation prohibits using hand-held cell phones and portable electronic devices, and text messaging while driving, and permits only hands-free cell phones and devices that require one touch to activate. Drivers in the Graduated Licensing Program will not be permitted to use any of these devices while driving. For further information on this legislation, you may wish to review the News Release posted on the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's web site at the following link:
<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/mediaroom/events/2009-oct-21/index.htm>.

I've taken the liberty of forwarding your correspondence to Minister Heed so he will be aware of your support for this legislation.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and for your kind words of support.

Sincerely,

Shirley Bond
Minister

Copy to: Honourable Kash Heed
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
MLA, Vancouver-Fraserview

From: s.22
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2009 9:57 AM
To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Subject: Cell Phone Use while Driving

HONOURABLE SHIRLEY BOND
PO BOX 9055 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bond,

I am taking the opportunity to write directly to you regarding an issue that I feel is a significant safety concern for B.C. residents and drivers. I will reference Ontario's Bill 118 and would ask that this be looked at in the context of moving forward versus any suggesting that we are lagging behind the Province of Ontario.

On a daily basis, living in the City of Vancouver, I observe drivers using cell phones while driving their vehicles at all different speeds and while performing all kinds of driving activity such as merging, or changing lanes, etc. Cell phone use includes talking, initiating calls by pressing the keyboard on their phones, texting messages, etc. I am convinced that we are having accidents every single day because of a momentary lapse of attention that is directly attributed to cell phone use while driving.

It's time we enacted legislation to curb this unsafe activity before more people are hurt or injured. Even worse, our government (and ultimately B.C. taxpayers who will have to pay the bill) could be held responsible for not putting laws in place to keep up with technology.

Anything you could do to accelerate the legislation will be appreciated.....

You have my continuing support for the work you do,

s.22

Ontario ban on hand-held devices starts in October Ontario's Bill 118 cracks down on communications and entertainment device use while driving. When driving a vehicle, safety needs to be your first responsibility. As such, more and more governments are enacting legislation and laws that prohibit the use of hand-held communication and entertainment devices while driving. Ontario is the newest province to join a force of more than 50 countries worldwide and a growing number of North American jurisdictions with similar legislation.

Ontario's Bill 118 aims to minimize the dangers of distracted drivers by banning the use of communications and entertainment devices while driving, including cell phones, blackberries and any other devices that can send or receive text or voice.

The new law comes into effect on October 26 – the province, however, will not enforce the law and issue tickets until February 1, 2010. This initial three-month period serves to educate and inform drivers.

After the three-month period, drivers who text, type, email, dial or chat using any hand-held device will face fines of up to \$500 upon conviction. Hands-free use will still be permitted and all drivers may still use hand-held devices to call 9-1-1.

Why is this move being made by the Ontario government? Well, studies show that a driver using a cell phone is four times more likely to be in a crash than a driver focused on the road. Laws prohibiting communication device use while driving are becoming increasingly common across Canada and the US, but more needs to be done today.

Remember, smart drivers just drive! In three seconds driving 60km/hr you travel fifty metres - that's the distance across half a football field. A momentary distraction can result in death or serious injury.

In the event that cell phone or communication device use is absolutely necessary, the following tips will help make the situation as safe as possible:

- o Pull over safely, if conditions allow
 - o Keep emergency calls as brief as possible
 - o Alert the caller that you are on the road
 - o End conversations immediately if driving conditions or situations become hazardous (inclement weather, roadway construction, high-speed or high-volume traffic)
- Remember, focus on the task at hand: driving; keep your hands on the wheel and eyes on the road – safe driving starts with you.

Shepard, Aaron TRAN:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2009 10:04 PM
To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: Cell phone driving law-thank you!
Attachments: celldrunk.pdf; ATT190467.htm

Dear Minister Bond: I just wanted to write to thank you, thank you, thank you very much for whatever part you may have had in instituting the new law on cell phones and driving. I live in the interior of BC and because of the soaring rate of accidents on highways due to cell phones and texting, I often avoid going to the major cities of our province. I simply do not feel safe with people running around with cell phones in their cars. Not only that, but many scientific studies have proven that people are actually in a state of diminished concentration and reactions that mimic intoxication by alcohol when talking on cell phones while driving.

In fact, I would urge you to make the law tougher. Rather than allowing hands-free sets in cars, I would outlaw these while driving too. In one of the links I've copied here for you, a Carnegie Mellon study found that even just listening while on a hands-free cell phone caused a serious compromise in driving ability. Part of this is due to the fact that the phone has to put out a higher power level in order to reach the headset, so the talker is being exposed to a higher level of electromagnetic radiation (EMR). Aside from the long-term health implications being demonstrated by independent scientific studies the world over by microwave spectrum signals, there is an impairment effect from this increased exposure to EMR while driving using a headset.

Once again, thank you so much for doing your job to help make our roads and highways safer.

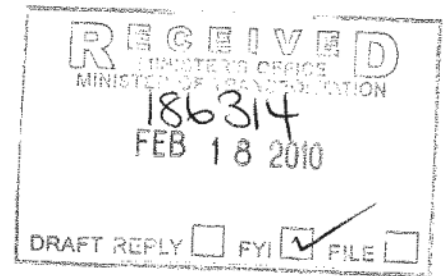
References:

http://www.cmu.edu/news/archive/2008/March/march5_drivingwhilelistening.shtml

<http://www.unews.utah.edu/p/?r=062206-1>

Sincerely,

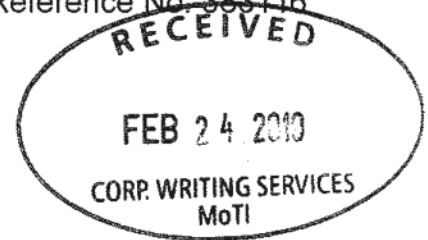
s.22



February 12, 2010

s.22

Reference No. 383116



Dear s.22

Your December 3, 2009 letter to the Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, requesting a cell phone ban in British Columbia has been referred to me. As Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, I welcome the opportunity to respond and apologize for the delay.

In the Fall of 2009, the Government of British Columbia introduced a Bill to prohibit the use of certain electronic devices, including hand-held cell phones, while driving. The Bill was passed into law on October 29, 2009, and came into effect on January 1, 2010. Therefore, it is currently the law in British Columbia that hand-held electronic devices cannot be used while driving. For more information on the law, I encourage you to visit the website: <http://drivecellsafe.com>. There you will find a discussion paper outlining the problem of distracted driving, as well as the legislation and regulations that specify which electronic devices are included under the law.

Thank you for your suggestions for an appropriate penalty. The new penalty for using an electronic device while driving is a \$167 ticket. In addition, if the driver is caught sending text messages or emails while driving, they will receive three penalty points on their driver's licence. Any driver in the Graduated Licensing Program (GLP) who uses a prescribed electronic device while driving will receive the \$167 ticket and three penalty points. Between January 1, 2010 and February 1, 2010, police issued warnings to drivers, but as of February 1st the tickets and penalty points can be given to drivers who break the new law.

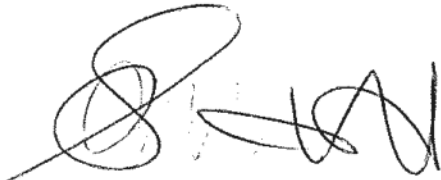
Drivers who accumulate penalty points on their licences may be subject to a review of their driving record under the Driver Improvement Program (DIP). Under the DIP, driving records are reviewed when drivers have accumulated a certain number of penalty points. The DIP identifies and intervenes with high-risk drivers and encourages them to improve their driving habits through various interventions ranging from early warning letters to prohibitions from driving. A prohibition from driving is the most severe intervention in the DIP. The threshold of penalty points that must be reached before a driving record is reviewed is lower for drivers in the GLP.

.../2

Research indicates that there is a crash risk associated with using hands-free electronic devices while driving. This is precisely why British Columbia prohibited GLP drivers, who have a significantly higher crash risk than fully licensed drivers, from using hands-free devices while driving. British Columbia is one of only a small number of provinces to do so. Furthermore, the legislation places certain restrictions on non-GLP drivers who choose to communicate on a hands-free cell phone. For example, drivers are not permitted to dial a phone number when making a call. Instead, they may only press a single button once to accept or initiate a call. Drivers will have to pre-program their phones to "speed dial" the numbers.

Thank you for taking the time to write about this important issue. The Ministry is committed to reviewing the effectiveness of the legislation and taking further action if necessary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Martin', with a large circular flourish at the beginning.

Steve Martin
Superintendent

pc: ✓ The Honourable Shirley Bond

December 3, 2009

The Honourable Shirley Bond
Minister of transportation and
Infrastructure
P.O.BOX 9055
Station Provincial Government
Victoria , B.C
V8W 9E2

RECEIVED	
MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL	
JAN 26 2010	
REFER TO MAIL REGISTRY	
OTHER 383116	
<input type="checkbox"/> DRAFT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> REPLY DIRECT
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MINISTER'S OFFICE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION
Refer to JAN 25 2010 Sol Gen.
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Dear Shirley Bond :

My name is s.22
s.22

We have been
learning about the Canadian Government and how it works , in Socials
Studies 10 . We all got a chance to write to you, about something that
concerns us . So , I'm writing to you about the troubles of using a cell
phone when driving .

Well first of all , I think cell phones should be banned when driving ,all
over the world . Why ? Well, because when you use a cell phone when
driving , it can cause car crashes and that can lead to sudden death or
disabilities. An example is the track story that had happened a year
ago. well , the story was a man was texting when he was driving a
truck , and he didn't notice that there was a red light in front . Two
seconds later, he had lifted his head and looked at the road . He had
noticed that he just crashed into two cars. No one was hurt but, if he
didn't look after the two seconds he would have killed the people in the
car .

In Ontario, there is a banned of using cell phone when driving. but, I
think the fines are high in cost .I know that people will stop using there
phones by paying \$60-\$500 every time ,but I think the rate shouldn't
be that high. There should be warnings the first year , and then just get
fined \$20 after .

Here in s.22 **when cell phones are banned , I think there should be a**
banned on using a hands free devices .I think those hand free device
should be banned because it still distracts the person from driving the
vehicle properly .It is the same thing as using a cell phone , you still

think about what the person is saying in your mind. I also think that when you get caught using a cell phone your licenses should be taken away .

In conclusion , I know when I start to drive a car next year , I will be using a cell phone when I'm driving .but you should stop people like me from doing that . I wish I didn't waste your time when you were reading this but thank you for reading this .

s.22