



December 24, 2020

Jane Toppozini
Gord Ball
Morgan Grant
Sandy Thompson
Commonage Road Improvement Committee
c/o Jane Toppozini
390 Falcon Point Way
Vernon BC V1H 1V5

Reference: 297521

Dear Jane Toppozini, Gord Ball, Morgan Grant, and Sandy Thompson:

Re: Commonage Road Maintenance

I am responding to your letter of December 3, 2020, addressed to Deputy Minister Kathryn Krishna, regarding maintenance along Commonage Road near Vernon.

I recognize the importance of Commonage Road to travellers and visitors in the area, and I appreciated the opportunity to review your concerns. The performance of our maintenance contractors is an essential part of the ministry's commitment to safety and mobility. You are correct: based on the patrols and monitoring records conducted by ministry staff during the snowstorms on November 10 and 11, 2020, our local maintenance contractor, ACCIONA Infrastructure Maintenance (AIM Roads) struggled to meet our required maintenance specifications.

In response, our local operations team instituted a comprehensive increased monitoring and audit plan for the Okanagan-Shuswap service area, which includes significantly increased monitoring and auditing of maintenance operations on Commonage Road. We have also ensured all contractor supervisors for the service area have been made thoroughly aware of the importance of careful monitoring of maintenance activities and response times along the route.

Following discussions with AIM Roads regarding their failure to meet our requirements during November's snowstorms, the contractor confirmed they have hired additional subcontractors to assign to specific locations throughout the Vernon area during storm events. This will ensure AIM Roads is able to focus their efforts on the maintenance of Class A and B highways like Commonage Road.

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AIM Roads also indicated they have hired MicroWeather, a real-time and historical hyperlocal weather data service, to enable them to better plan and deploy their resources based on specific microclimates. I am advised Predator Ridge was selected as one of the locations for this enhanced forecasting, which came into effect on December 15 and will provide weather alerts to supervisors and management so that they can respond proactively to conditions along Commonage Road and other routes in the area. Ministry staff closely monitored AIM Roads' performance during the recent snowstorm on December 15, 2020, and reported that the contractor was meeting its maintenance specifications.

You can be assured the ministry will continue to closely monitor AIM Roads and meet with their management throughout the winter season to ensure they are continuing to meet our strict standards. They will also ensure that corrective action is swiftly taken when necessary.

Please do not hesitate to contact the ministry's local District Manager, Erik Lachmuth, should you have any questions regarding this matter. He can be reached at 250 712-3664 or Erik.Lachmuth@gov.bc.ca and would be pleased to assist you.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Ed Miska,
Acting Associate Deputy Minister

Copy to: Harwinder Sandhu
MLA, Vernon-Monashee

Kathryn Krishna, Deputy Minister

Erik Lachmuth, District Manager
Okanagan Shuswap District

Blake Dixon, Area Manager, Roads
Okanagan Shuswap District

Danny Morris, Operations Manager
Vernon Area