



June 19, 2024

Colin Plant, Chair  
Capital Regional District Board  
625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000  
Victoria BC V8W 2S6

Reference: 325253

Dear Chair Plant:

**Re: Personal Mobility Devices**

Thank you for your letter of April 2, 2024, requesting an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) to allow electric wheelchairs, mobility scooters and personal mobility devices to operate in designated bike lanes and/or routes. I have shared your comments with staff involved in this work.

The ministry recognizes new types of personal mobility devices are becoming more popular in British Columbia, and we want to ensure appropriate rules exist to allow safe operation of these devices. As you know, the MVA currently defines people who use electric wheelchairs and mobility scooters as pedestrians. This allows users of these devices to operate them on sidewalks and multi-use paths wherever available. It also ensures safety by mitigating potential conflicts with cyclists and people riding e-bikes and electric kick scooters, who typically travel at higher speeds on devices that weigh less. The width and design of cycle lanes are an important consideration to ensure safety of all road users permitted to use them.

While the ministry oversees active transportation infrastructure on provincial highways in B.C., local governments are responsible for decisions regarding the design of active transportation infrastructure within their communities. This includes developing infrastructure capable of safely accommodating a broader range of transportation users, including operators of electric wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

You may be interested to know that we are exploring potential opportunities to develop and test new people-focused mobility policies that support safety and sustainability of the transportation network. If you have any questions about this work, Senior Legislative Director Bradley Gerhart would be happy to speak with you. He can be reached at 778 698-5195 or [Bradley.Gerhart@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bradley.Gerhart@gov.bc.ca).

[Bill 23's updates to the MVA](#) will enhance safety for all road users while supporting the safe use of a much wider range of new, clean and emerging personal mobility devices and other transportation technologies on roads in the province.

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This legislation also establishes a new vulnerable road user framework that requires motor vehicle drivers to take proper precautions when sharing roads with active transportation road users, including the requirement to provide a one-metre minimum safe passing distance. Bill 23 will help us protect the safety of everyone who uses or interacts with users of personal mobility devices on roads, sidewalks and other public spaces.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Fleming". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "F".

Rob Fleming  
Minister