

By Email: minister.transportation@gov.bc.ca

November 8, 2023

The Honourable Rob Fleming Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure PO Box 9055, Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister,

## Re: Urgent need to postpone Hwy 17A overpass repairs until Jan 2, 2024

The Delta Chamber of Commerce is **urgently requesting postponement of repairs to the Hwy 17A overpass**, part of the Highway 17A/Highway 99 interchange, **until January 2, 2024**. While the Delta Chamber recognizes the prioritization and expediency dedicated to this repair, the **scheduled timing will cause significant**, **negative impacts** on businesses in Ladner, Tilbury and the surrounding region.

Specifically, the timing of November 17<sup>th</sup> for a proposed eight weeks, will **hinder the following industries financially,** at a minimum:

- Food and Beverage through the cancellation or relocation of holiday gatherings and bookings
- **Retail (Direct and Wholesale)** both large and small scale, as detours redirect consumers to alternate retail destinations outside of Delta;
- **Healthcare and Paramedical service providers:** where individuals are utilizing their remaining 2023 extended benefits; and
- **Manufacturing and Distribution** through transportation delays and increased transit times, at year end delivery deadlines and while recovery from supply chain disruptions.

With CEBA loan repayments due on January 18, 2024, to qualify for the forgivable portion, it is imperative that small businesses are equipped with every opportunity for success this calendar year. The Food and Beverage industry has been one of the hardest hit during COVID and continues to be in a state of recovery. While the permanent overpass fix will benefit the majority in the long run, delaying this repair by 46 days to save businesses is an acceptable compromise for those impacted.

While I acknowledge that MOTI has undertaken consultation with the City of Delta, Delta's emergency responders, Delta Farmer's Institute, HUB, Translink and other Ministry projects in the area, you will note **the omission of the business community** in this consultation.

The Delta Chamber of Commerce requests that the repair of the Highway 17A overpass be delayed until January 2, 2024. This measure will also allow time to develop a coordinated communication strategy and prepare alternative Translink routes to service this area.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to receiving a reply from your office.

Sincerely,

Rosanne Horner

Chair of the Board of Directors
Delta Chamber of Commerce



cc:

The Hon. Carla Qualtrough - Minister of Sport & Physical Activity, and MP for Delta

The Hon. Ravi Kahlon - Minister of Housing, and MLA for Delta-North

Ian Paton - MLA for Delta-South

His Worship George V. Harvie - Board Chair for Metro Vancouver, and Mayor of the City of Delta

Delta City Council - City of Delta

Donny Van Dyck - City Manager for the City of Delta

Mike Brotherstone - Director, Corporate Service for the City of Delta

Steven Lan - General Manager, Engineering for the City of Delta

Fiona Famulak - CEO, BC Chamber of Commerce

Valerie Miller - President, Ladner Business Association

Elizabeth Clark - Interim Manager, Tourism Delta

Maziar Kazemi - Operation Manager, Metro Vancouver with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Veronica Harrison - Senior Ministerial Advisor with Ministry of Transportation

Board of Directors - Delta Chamber of Commerce

Jill McKnight - Executive Director - Delta Chamber of Commerce