

November 8, 2023

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

By Email: [minister.transportation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:minister.transportation@gov.bc.ca)

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.

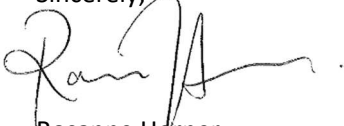
With **CEBA loan repayments due on January 18, 2024**, to qualify for the forgivable portion, it is **imperative that small businesses are equipped with every opportunity for success this calendar year**. The Food and Beverage industry has been one of the hardest hit during COVID and continues to be 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