

Allison/Borgeson Lake Ratepayers Association  
C/o Susan Dixon, President,  
1120 Burgess Way  
Kamloops BC  
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Attn: Mr. Gerry Wells  
Area Manager, Roads  
Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure  
c/o PO Box 9049 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC

May 7, 2013

Dear Sir:

**RE: Proposed change of Highway 5A through Allison Lake Provincial Park**

As president of the Allison/Borgeson Ratepayers Association, we appreciate that you toured the Allison Lake Provincial Park and saw first hand the change we suggest in the route of Highway 5A. Basically this change involves rerouting the highway from the current 'S' route to a shorter safer route that would follow a straight line along the outer eastern edge of the park. In this letter I will outline the reasons our community has for requesting the straightening and rebuilding of this road.

First and foremost we are concerned about the **safety of motorists and citizens** using this section of highway. Below I have listed our major concerns:

1. The 'S' turn shape of this stretch of highway results in vehicles going off the road when they attempt to make the turn(s). The three corners are sharp and speed must be greatly reduced to navigate the turns safely. We personally have seen numerous loaded commercial trucks overturned at the south end of this stretch over the years.
2. The park has two entrance/exits to the beach and campsite areas of the park. These exits are located on a blind corner in the center of the 'S' turn. This is not safe for motorists or park users and makes crossing from the campsite to the beach a scary and unsafe experience, particularly for children, senior citizens or disabled persons. We know of young families who will not camp at the park for this reason.
3. In winter driving conditions the three sharp corners require drivers to slow substantially to make the turns. If it has just snowed and the road has not been sanded they are treacherous turns.

While safety of the travelling public and campers is of real concern to us recently we have become even more aware of the safety aspect because of our future plans for the park. As part of our community plan, aspects of which are summarized in **Electoral Area 'H' Official Community Plan Bylaw 2497, 2012** we are working with the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen to have Allison Lake Provincial Park become a regional park (we also have a letter from BC Parks supporting our initiative). Our ratepayers association plans to locate a fire-hall and a community centre in this regional park in the campsite area. Due to these plans our association has become even more aware of the dangers of the current highway location. Our concerns include:

1. Safety concerns arising when a fire-truck has to enter or leave the area given the blind nature of the entrance.

2. With the highway where it is currently citizens and parents are concerned that it would not be a safe venue for them or their children to attend events at our centre due to the highway running through it; especially those events where we would want to access both the community centre and the beach.

Although we can't stress enough the safety issues of this proposal the rerouting of the road would also benefit in the following ways:

1. Costs of road maintenance would be decreased over time. The change we are proposing would be shorter than the current highway and because it would be straight would require less sanding in the winter.
2. Due to the fact the new road would be shorter and straighter motorists and commercial vehicles would use less gas.
3. Time to travel through this stretch would be reduced as a vehicle would not have to slow as is currently the case to navigate the corners.
4. The regional park would be able to provide an improved experience therefore increasing the amount of income that could be generated from park users and consequently increasing regional government coffers.
5. The one private landowner (located on south end of the park) would increase the value of his property.

Over the years having Highway 5A built straight through the eastern edge of the park would be of significant benefit to motorists, citizens, commercial interests, government maintenance contractors, ICBC and taxpayers. We appreciate any efforts that your department can undertake to make this happen.

If you wish any further information or have any suggestions that can help us make this change possible please contact me.

Yours very truly

Susan Dixon  
President  
Allison/Borgeson Lake Ratepayers Association  
cc. Harry Lalli, Brad Hope, Shannon Linning