



**Public Works
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 186, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2N2

NOV 07 2023

Bruce Morrison, Warden
Municipality of the County of Victoria
PO Box 370
495 Chebucto Street
Baddeck, NS B0E 1B0
bruce.morrison@victoriacounty.ca

Chief Norman Bernard
Wagmatcook First Nation
PO Box 30001
Wagmatcook, NS B0E 3N0
normanbernard321@gmail.com

Dear Warden Morrison and Chief Bernard:

Thank you for your correspondence to the Honourable Tim Houston, Premier, dated July 11, 2023, regarding a request to reduce the speed limit on Highway 105, West of Baddeck, Victoria County. As Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works (DPW), I have been asked to respond on the Premier's behalf.

Highway safety is a priority of the Government of Nova Scotia. Public feedback is important to us, and we take your concerns very seriously. I can advise that district staff and I are aware of Victoria County Council's and Wagmatcook First Nation's concerns to lower the speed limit to 60 kilometres an hour on Highway 105 west of Baddeck.

As you may be aware, DPW has completed a number of traffic studies at this location to date and has made good progress with upgrades and traffic safety improvements. These upgrades and improvements include installing right and left-hand turning lanes, the installation of restrictive parking signage, reducing the speed limit from 90 kilometres an hour to 80 kilometres an hour, and the installation of radar display signage on both approaches.

As traffic patterns have responded to these upgrades and improvements, DPW staff from the Traffic Engineering and Traffic Safety Division conducted a new speed study this summer to monitor any changes. The results have demonstrated that average travel speeds are still in excess of the 80 kilometres an hour and would typically not warrant any further speed reductions. However, the department has considered other factors specific to this location and have decided to lower the posted speed limit to 70 kilometres an hour. Further reduction to the posted speed limit below 70 kilometers an hour is not considered to be appropriate at this location.

Thank you both for taking the time to write concerning this matter. Should you have any additional questions please contact Steve MacDonald, Area Manager, by email at steve.macdonald@novascotia.ca or by phone at 902-295-2700.

Yours sincerely,



Kim D. Masland
Minister

c: Honourable Tim Houston, Premier
Honourable Trevor Boudreau, Minister responsible for L'nu Affairs
Honourable Keith Bain, MLA Victoria-The Lakes
Paul Colton, District Director, Eastern
Steve MacDonald, Area Manager, Inverness North/Victoria County
Leanne MacEachen, CAO, Victoria County