



Corcan-Meadowood Residents' Association

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June 4th, 2014

Attention: Renee Mounteney, District Manager

Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure.
3rd Floor – 2100 Labieux Road
Nanaimo, B.C. V9T 6E9

Reference: Written Protocol for Emergency Access to Highway 19 at Nahmint/Corcan Road

Dear Renee,

When we met with Minister Bond (was the Minister for Transportation at the time) she indicated to us that she would have the barricade at the gate at Nahmint Road removed and a protocol would be written to allow use of the gate at Nahmint Road. The barricade has been removed but as far as we know the protocol has not been written. Below is the history, current situation and our request.

Background:

There is an emergency access which is closed off with a locked gate from Nahmint Road to the northbound lane of Highway 19. This access can save as much as 15 minutes in response time in an emergency in the Meadowood area and 15 minutes return time to the hospital. Keys to this gate are believed to be held by both Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department and the Ambulance Service. It was understood during previous meetings with the Ministry that a written protocol was to be prepared by them authorizing use of this access and specifying procedures for opening and closing the gate during emergency situations.

Current Situation:

There have been two recent occasions when Corcan Road has been closed (hydro lines down and a vehicle accident) and vehicles could not move into or out of the area. The lack of a written protocol prevented the Fire Department and RCMP (highway traffic control) from opening the access gate onto Highway 19 for emergency services and to relieve traffic, which was at a standstill for several hours during the recent accident. Until recently there was an alternate route via a privately operated gravel road from the Meadowood area to the Alberni Highway at Whiskey Creek. However, this road has been closed permanently due to the condition of the bridge. Now, the only access road to the Meadowood Area is from Highway 19A via Baylis and Dorman onto Corcan Road which passes under Inland Highway 19.

Request:

The Corcan-Meadowood Residents Association requests the Ministry's earliest attention to the preparation of this written protocol for use of the emergency access to and from Highway 19 at Nahmint Road. We believe this will result in lives being saved by improved emergency response times.

If you would like further clarification on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Elaine Peligren
President

CC: Janelle Erwin, District Engineer, Vancouver Island District
Johnathan Tillie, District Operations Manager, Vancouver Island District