

Professional Driver Bulletin

Fraser Canyon Highway Safety Corridor

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The Fraser Canyon Highway Safety Corridor: BC and Canada's first designated highway safety corridor opens

What is a Highway Safety Corridor? A stretch of highway that experiences a higher than average number of motor vehicle crashes, injuries or fatalities. These roads, because of their extreme topography and weather situations, require higher levels of driver attentiveness and experience.

As a result, these types of roads will have specific signs and educational programs which are meant to:

- warn drivers of the risks when driving on these highways
- inform drivers about increased efforts to enforce traffic laws and vehicle inspections
- inform drivers and road users about improved engineering of the road infrastructure
- remind road users about related traffic issues, like sharing the road with trucks

What changes have been made? While in the corridor, all motor vehicle drivers are subject to increased enforcement from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) branch of the Ministry of Transportation. Road improvements, new signage, and shoulder rumble strips have been implemented throughout strategic portions of the highway.

How do I know I am in the Corridor? As you enter and exit this area, you will see highway safety signs indicating the start and finish of the Corridor, and warning drivers of the risks involved and the efforts to increase traffic laws and vehicle inspections.

What other measures are underway? A public awareness program, "Drive Smart – Share the Road" will inform non-commercial vehicle drivers on strategies to share the road with trucks with brochures distributed at key tourist locations within the Canyon. Other types of education and communication will be implemented in the future.

To report aggressive driving please contact Canyon Watch at 1-888-801-8884. To share your ideas or suggestions on improving highway safety, send a fax to the TruckSafe Feedback Line at 604-214-5499.

For more information about highway safety corridors contact the BC Trucking Association. The TruckSafe website at www.trucksafebc.org will be available Fall 2006.



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Background on the Fraser Canyon Highway Safety Corridor

The Fraser Canyon is the gateway to the east and north of B.C., spanning 192 kilometres of the most scenic highway in Canada. The Canyon, which was an integral part of the historic Gold Rush Trail, follows the mighty Fraser River through Hell's Gate and beyond. This mountainous highway requires an alert, cautious driver, familiar with the requirements of driving in adverse conditions including steep hills, tight curves, and all types of weather and road conditions.

In 1997, the Fraser Canyon Traffic Safety Committee was formed to act as an advisory group on safe transportation, and to get input from communities and agencies that work and reside along this highway. This group believed that one of the most significant causes of serious and fatal collisions was aggressive driving.

A project team was formed to research methods of addressing the needs in the Canyon. As a result of the findings, the Fraser Canyon Watch program was established in 2000.

Early in 2004, the Committee recognized that the collision rate was increasing. The Fraser Canyon Truck Crash Review Committee (FCTCRC) was formed to review the available statistics and to conduct further research in order to develop a plan for reducing the number of incidents.

FCTCRC partners have taken the following measures:

- ICBC provided funding for shoulder rumble strips and other road improvements, including roadside delineation, roadside barricades, and overhead rollover signs and commissioned studies for engineering improvements at specific collision sites.
- The RCMP's Fraser Valley Traffic Services Department and Southern Interior Traffic Services in Ashcroft increased enforcement, focusing on speed and aggressive driving in critical areas with collision history.
- The Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Branch of the Ministry of Transportation scheduled more vehicle safety checks.
- The Ministry of Transportation relocated and altered speed advisory signs, and performed the roadwork funded through ICBC.
- WorkSafeBC, RCMP, ICBC and BCTA members coordinated the development of a Canyon Hazards survey for truck drivers, a Sharing the Road with Trucks – Drive Smart brochure and Fraser Canyon Highway Safety Corridor Commercial Vehicle Driver Bulletins.



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