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August 25, 2014

Honourable Wayne Drysdale
Minister of Transportation
324 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Drysdale:

Attached is a letter that was sent to my office from the residents of Discovery Ridge. It outlines the discussions they are having with your department concerning the SW ring road to be built on the perimeter of their neighbourhood.

We are aware that there have been complaints in both Edmonton and Calgary neighbourhoods about the level of noise and lighting originating from the ring roads; moreover, many affected Albertans have questioned if standard guidelines respecting residents near these provincial highways are adequate.

The Discovery Ridge group is specifically concerned with whether those standard guidelines are appropriately applied to their situation given their claim that their section of TUC is narrower, and that the proposed roadway is closer to homes than in other instances.

The concerns of the Discovery Ridge group are in my opinion legitimate, and their issues with the ring road will persist if proper consideration is not given prior to construction. Completely redrafting designs during the construction phase or implementing expensive measures after the fact is not a favourable outcome for anyone. Please let me know what your ministry is doing to address the concerns of the residents of Discovery Ridge before the RFP is put out this fall so that we can get this done right the first time.

highwood@assembly.ab.ca

As always, I am happy to discuss this matter or any other issues with you regarding transportation. Please contact my Legislative Assistant, Barb Currie, at (780) 641-9290 if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Thank-you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle Smith
MLA, Highwood
Leader of the Official Opposition

Cc. Mayor Naheed Nenshi, City of Calgary
Alderman Richard Pootman, Ward 6, City of Calgary
George Collin, Discovery Ridge Group