New Nouveau Brunswick

File No.: M/26/8

March 27, 2026

Tina Beers
Mayor, Five Rivers
82 Main Street
Rexton, NB E4W 5N4
tbeers@5-rivers.ca

Mayor Beers:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns regarding upcoming work on the Coal Branch River #1 Bridge. I can assure you that the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) recognizes the importance of this bridge to the regional road network.

The C472 – Coal Branch River #1 Bridge on Route 470 was built in 1919 and relocated to its current site in 1964. The existing bridge will be replaced with a new two-lane steel structure. The detailed design is now nearing completion, with tendering planned for spring / summer 2026 and construction completion expected in fall 2027.

In 2023, consultation with stakeholders, including the Beersville Fire Chief, confirmed awareness that a conventional bridge will require more than one construction season. To reduce response time impacts during the planned off-site detour, it was agreed that a fire truck will be stationed on the east side of the bridge during bridge construction and that Ambulance New Brunswick will be notified in advance to adjust service coverage as needed.

With respect to your concerns at the intersection of Route 116 and Route 134 in Five Rivers, both highways are listed as provincial-municipal highways at this location. The community of Five Rivers has administration and control over provincial-municipal highways within the community limits with respect to traffic operations activities.

Minister / Ministre
Transportation and Infrastructure / Transports et Infrastructure
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It is recommended that the community engages an engineering consulting firm with technical training in traffic engineering and licensed to practice in the province of New Brunswick, to undertake a technical evaluation of the intersection and provide any recommended changes. Any changes made would have to be in accordance with Provincial and National guidelines and standards.

Thank you for reaching out with your concerns.

Sincerely,

Hon. Chuck Chiasson
Minister

c.c. Hon. Pat Finnigan, Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries
Benoît Bourque, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Vincent Roussell, District Engineer, District 3 (Moncton)