Highway 99 – Sea-to-Sky: between Squamish and Whistler

Highway 5 – Coquihalla between the Portia interchange and the former toll booth plaza

Highway 1 – west of Revelstoke, between the Perry River Bridge and Highway 23 South interchange
What is a Variable Speed Limit System?

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is piloting variable speed limit signs on three highways where weather patterns are prone to change quickly and make driving conditions challenging. These highways are Highway 99 (Sea-to-Sky between Squamish and Whistler), Highway 5 (Coquihalla between the Portia interchange and the former toll booth plaza), and Highway 1 (west of Revelstoke between the Perry River Bridge and the Highway 23 South interchange).

Variable Speed Limit systems use state of the art data collection to measure vehicle speed and weather conditions. This information is sent to the ministry’s Regional Transportation Management Centre in Coquitlam to calculate a speed limit based on the current conditions.

This speed limit is sent back to the highway and is displayed on bright overhead digital signs. You’ll know a reduced speed limit is in effect when the large amber light is flashing above the sign.

These speed limits are enforceable by the police and can result in speeding tickets for those who drive over the posted speed limits. It is important for drivers to keep an eye on the changeable signs and drive to conditions in order to avoid driving over the speed limits.

What to expect in a Variable Speed Limit Corridor

You’ve come across a Variable Speed Limit corridor and the weather out your window is changing for the worse. Here’s what you can expect to see and what you can do to safely travel the highway.

Each Variable Speed Limit corridor starts with large ENTERING signs which show the regular posted speed limit. An overhead digital message sign will notify you of any upcoming weather conditions or reduced speed limits. This is your first chance to prepare for what is ahead.

Speed limit signs above the highway are placed approximately every five kilometres. The speed limit on each of these signs is set for the upcoming conditions. This means that the speed limit may change multiple times as you travel down the highway. This keeps the speed limit current to the conditions, getting you to your destination safely.

Remember that the variable speed limit is still a maximum. It is VERY important that you, as a driver, travel at a speed which you feel is safe and within your level of comfort while not exceeding the posted speed limit.

Variable speed limits can change quickly, as often as every fifteen minutes. You may even see a variable speed limit sign change. In every case, the last speed limit you see is what you can count on for the current conditions ahead.

And finally, YOUR SPEED MATTERS! The Variable Speed Limit Corridor relies on safe drivers like you to judge the conditions and adjust your speed accordingly. This sets an example for other drivers around you. Take great pride in knowing your safe driving is helping everyone get to their destination.

Want to know more?

Check out www.tranbc.ca/variablespeedlimitsigns for more information on the Variable Speed Limit corridors. Please leave any comments you have here and we will respond to you as soon as we can.

www.DriveBC.ca is your source for current road conditions. Always check DriveBC before heading out, especially into BC’s mountain passes. Current variable speed limits will be visible on DriveBC so you’ll know before you go.