

The development of the Traffic Safety Act, from the Motor Vehicle Act, is a huge piece of work with far reaching impact. The extent of the stakeholder consultation on the TSA certainly speaks to that point. I have personally been involved in conversations off and on since at least 2012 on the TSA – though it was not given that title at that time.

The TSA provides a substantial legislative framework where solid regulations can be drafted so that nimble changes can be made in order to keep up with consumer preferences and technological developments. All with a view to keeping all road users safe.

Essentially, this Act takes something that was quite cumbersome by the virtue of its many amendments and ensures that government will be able to respond to the needs of the future.

My remarks will be brief, but I would like to speak to two parts of the Act in particular.

- Autonomous Vehicles

- We know that there are already vehicles with autonomous features on Nova Scotia highways. In the coming years, this will only increase as the technology becomes more accessible.
- The manner in which the TSA addresses the reality of autonomous vehicles on the roadway is a good start.
- The proposed legislative framework appears to provide a flexible approach for the future regulation of autonomous vehicles and we are optimistic that the future regulations to be made under the Act, in combination with future changes to other relevant legislation, will provide a comprehensive and responsive legal framework for the use and ownership of autonomous vehicles in the province.

- This type of updated legislation is needed to ensure that Canadians injured in collisions caused by automated vehicles receive timely compensation.
- We applaud the Nova Scotia government in leading the way by being the first jurisdiction in Canada to include autonomous vehicles in the provincial legislation.
- Distracted driving
 - We are all doing more and more with our hand held devices – however behind the wheel is not the time. It's no shock that using a handheld device increases distractions and the opportunity for collisions.
 - The TSA expanded to include all hand held devices, bringing clarity to what constitutes distracted driving. In other words, if you have a device in your hand, you are distracted, no matter if that is a smart phone, GPS or any other type of entertainment device.
 - No matter what you drive, whether it be a car or bicycle, there are many distractions to road users today. This update brings clarity and will work to ensure the roads are safer for all road users.

There has clearly been a tremendous amount of work done to get to this point. As a partner in road safety, IBC appreciated the opportunity to provide input early on in the process. There is also a tremendous amount of work left to do, and we look forward to being helpful in providing whatever information that we can to assist in the development of regulations that will bring the Traffic Safety Act to life.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this bill.