

## Zero Emission Electric Vehicles Proposed Regulatory Change

### Overview

- A new regulation will define a low speed Zero Emission Electric Vehicle (ZEV) and establish the vehicle's operating conditions. These ZEVs will be able to operate on designated roads and in controlled areas with speed limits up to 50 km/h.

### Policy Background

- Transport Canada set standards in 2000 defining a Low Speed Vehicle (LSV)<sup>1</sup> as a vehicle powered by an electric motor, designed to travel on four wheels, which generates no emissions, and which must attain a speed of 32 km/h but not more than 40 km/h on a paved level surface.
- At that time, the province allowed vehicles that met federal standards to operate provided they complied with requirements for "slow moving vehicles", which included using flashing lights and warning signage.

### Proposed Regulation Change

- Low speed ZEVs will be defined in Division 24 of the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations. They will be removed from the Division 7 "Slow Moving Vehicle" category and permitted to travel on certain roadways with speed limits up to 50 km/h.
- The vehicle will be able to travel without restriction on any road that is 40 km/h or lower. They may also travel on roads with a speed limit of 50 km/h, with the approval of the local road authority or if the municipality enacts a bylaw and the route is designated for low speed ZEV use.
- Existing licensed vehicles that operated as "slow moving vehicles" as of the date of the announcement will be grandfathered and allowed to continue operating according to the "slow moving vehicle" provisions.

### Proposed Areas for Vehicle Operation

- Potential areas include university campuses, parks, airport terminals, ferry terminals, resort communities and other areas where ZEVs have limited opportunities to mix with other types of vehicles operating at higher speeds.
- ZEVs will also be allowed to operate on specified routes with a maximum speed of 50 km/h unless the route has designated lanes that are identified and marked specifically for slow vehicles, such as mixed-use bike lanes, or dedicated lanes adjacent to roadways.
- Areas of low speed ZEV operation will be clearly marked at points of entry.
- The Ministry will work with stakeholders to monitor vehicle operation and gather user feedback. Through 2009, the vehicle's operation will be assessed and a review will be completed.

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<sup>1</sup> Low Speed Zero Emission Electric Vehicles (ZEV) are also referred to as Low Speed Vehicles (LSV).