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March 17, 2017

File No.: 3070-30 (CVRD)

Via email: ismith@comoxvalleyrd.ca

Attention: Ian Smith, General Manager of Community Services

Board of Directors
Comox Valley Regional District
600 Comox Road
Courtenay, BC V9N 3P6

Re: Request to include the BC Ferries Denman West Terminal to Denman Village Route in the Denman Cross-Island Trail Plan

Dear Board of Directors,

The Denman Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) is writing to formally request that the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) consider including the pedestrian route extending from the BC Ferries Denman West Terminal to the Denman village area in the Denman Cross-Island Trail Plan.

The LTC recently received a letter from Dr. Peter Walford, who operates a dental clinic on Denman Island, outlining significant safety concerns for pedestrians travelling between the ferry terminal and the village area. A copy of this letter, originally sent to the Ferry Advisory Committee, is attached.

Upon consideration of this matter at our March 7, 2017 meeting, trustees agreed with these concerns. We believe that the proximity of pedestrians and motorists in the confined area of the hill from the ferry landing to the village presents a hazardous situation in the manner outlined by Dr. Walford.

We understand that the Comox Valley Regional District is facilitating the development of the Cross-Island Trail to Gravelly Bay but that the current proposal does not include the pedestrian route extending from the BC Ferries Denman West Terminal to the Denman village area. We recognize that there may be technical challenges with trail development in this area, but note that this is a well-used and vital pedestrian route on the island. Given the serious concern for pedestrian and vehicle safety in this area, we urge the Regional District to consider including this route in the Cross-Island Trail Plan.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Susan Morrison, Chair
Denman Island Local Trust Committee

cc: Laura Busheikin, Denman Island Trustee, lbusheikin@islandstrust.bc.ca
David Critchley, Denman Island Trustee, dcritchley@islandstrust.bc.ca
Marnie Eggen, Island Planner, denmanplanner@islandstrust.bc.ca

*Preserving **Island** communities, culture and environment*

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis

From: Dr. Peter Walford
Sent: Sunday, November 06, 2016 3:03 PM
To: Tony Law ;
Subject: Ferries Advisory Committee -submission

Attention Ferry Advisory Committee;

I would like to enter a concern into your next meeting.

At the Denman West Terminal my staff are facing unsafe pedestrian conditions in the early morning. They walk onto the 7:40 am sailing, cross the channel, and walk up the hill to my dental clinic for a day's work, 8 days a month.

There is no designated safe pedestrian walkway on either side of the hill. On a typical morning, there is a great deal of vehicle and pedestrian traffic, including:

- Secondary school students walking down the hill
- Secondary students being dropped off at the ferry by their parents
- The school bus dropping off students
- Commuters from Denman arriving at the terminal
- Commuters from Denman waiting for the sailing, sometimes with headlights on, heater/defroster on, and an exhaust plume to obscure vision.
- offloading ferry traffic going up the hill
- arriving ferry traffic from Hornby Island stopping at the designated staging areas with flashers blinking
- Reflected images of all these light sources from wet pavement
- rain-impaired visibility on all vehicle windshields

While the cable ferry is being repaired, there is a novel traffic circulation program in effect where discharging vehicles from the ferry crosses the traffic flow of vehicles dropping off pedestrians.

In these dark mornings, with very little imagination, one can picture a very confusing visual traffic situation of uphill headlights, downhill taillights from 15 cars from Hornby with their flashers on, other vehicles arriving and steering around them, and numbers of pedestrians walking and being dropped off. I would say it is a perfect storm of bad conditions and it is only a matter of time before a serious injury occurs. Where BCF will stand legally after being notified of these dangerous conditions, I can only conjecture. I don't want to see that particular headline.

I request that you go to work to quickly improve this situation. A permanent pedestrian roadway up the hill needs to be established. It cannot be considered acceptable that pedestrians climb the poorly lit hill with a slope to fall off of one side, and a cliffside to be crushed against on the other. Pedestrians have no safe side to occupy as they thread through this morass of risk. I have had several patients bring my attention to their alarm as they were taking this same sailing off Denman and in saw pedestrians, including my staff, at the last minute. Who, if anyone, has given approval to this nonsensical traffic pattern?

I would appreciate your prompt feedback and followup on this.

Regards

Dr Peter Walford