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File: 08-3070-10

via email: Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
PO Box 9055 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC, V8W-9E2

Dear Minister Fleming,

Re: 1) Ferry Terminal Road Congestion; 2) Salish Sea Trail Network and; 3) South Island Transportation Strategy

On behalf of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (SS LTC), I am writing to request a meeting between yourself, our local trust committee, and other interested parties to discuss three important issues of concern to Salt Spring Island residents.

The first matter of concern is traffic congestion at the Fulford and Vesuvius Bay ferry terminals. As the population, servicing needs, and tourism popularity of Salt Spring Island has grown, so too has road congestion associated with these ferry terminals. For some time now travel demand has outstripped the capacity of BC Ferries' vehicle holding lots, resulting in cars holding on public roadways. With public roadways congested, cars and public transit are blocked from accessing the terminals to drop off or pick up passengers. Many cars are forced to drive in the wrong lane, increasing the risk of head-on collisions, and causing further congestion impacts. Parking in the vicinity of ferry terminals is insufficient resulting in cars parked haphazardly throughout nearby neighbourhoods. These problems impact not only driver and pedestrian safety, but also the quality of life of area residents. While SS LTC understands that resolution to these issues lies in part with the vessel selection and terminal redevelopment plans of BC Ferries, they are also intimately linked to community planning. The SS LTC and interested parties value the opportunity to explore some interim solutions with you.

The second matter concerns work toward completion of the Salt Spring Island segment of the Salish Sea Trail Network. As you may know, significant community effort is being devoted to investigating, advocating, and planning for the development of safe, accessible, active transportation infrastructure to connect the Fulford and Vesuvius Bay ferry terminals. While local enthusiasm for this project is high, the reality is that its eventual completion will likely require a significant financial and staff commitment from your ministry. SS LTC and interested parties would appreciate the chance to discuss how firm ministry support for this important project can be secured.

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The third topic is the South Island Transportation Strategy. Salt Spring and the other Southern Gulf Islands were not included within the study area. The SS LTC is asking that this strategy be updated with an expanded study area. For example, Salt Spring Island played a vital role in connecting the Duncan area to southern Vancouver Island during the November 2021 atmospheric river events and resulting road wash outs. At its February 15, 2022 meeting the SS LTC resolved to advocate to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) for inclusion in the South Island strategy.

Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee is requesting this meeting under Part C of the [1992 Letter of Agreement between MOTI and Islands Trust](#) which states in part that "Special meetings may be called by either the Islands Trust or the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, as specific issues arise."

Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee understands that there are considerable demands on you and your staff. However, these are urgent issues for Salt Spring Island, and with the busy summer season ahead of us, a meeting as soon as possible would be appreciated.

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee looks forward to working with MOTI, BC Ferries, the Capital Regional District, and all interested and affected parties to resolve the foregoing issues in ways that benefit the local community and the residents of British Columbia generally, as is the object of the Islands Trust.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Luckham
Chair, Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee

cc: The Honourable Nathan Cullen, MLA, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Adam Olsen, MLA, Saanich North and the Islands
Gary Holman, CRD Area Director, Salt Spring Island
Mark Collins, CEO, British Columbia Ferry Services Inc.
Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee
Islands Trust Executive Committee
Islands Trust website