



November 29, 2023

Peter Luckham, Chair  
Islands Trust  
200 - 1627 Fort Street  
Victoria BC V8R 1H8

Reference: 320719

Dear Chair Luckham:

**Re: UBCM Meeting 2023**

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me in Vancouver during the 2023 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention.

I appreciated the opportunity to discuss your support for the development of an integrated transportation strategy for the Island Trust area.

Every year at UBCM I am reminded how fortunate British Columbia is to have local leaders who are dedicated, informed and passionate about the future of their communities. Our governments are most effective when we bring together our insights and resources, and my team and I were honoured to be part of this year's gathering to hear more about the ideas and priorities B.C.'s communities care about most.

The Province has developed an integrated planning approach to better align transportation and land-use planning in B.C., which will enhance current planning processes to help focus government policy and better coordinate with local governments and First Nations on economic development and land-use planning initiatives.

Ministry staff are committed to continuing to work closely with Islands Trust to address your priorities with respect to Gulf Islands maintenance activities, active transportation interests and concerns about ferry services. I have asked ministry staff to follow up with you to discuss arranging regular meetings with your office to discuss these matters. Please do not hesitate to contact District Manager Michael Pearson if you have any questions in the meantime. He can be reached at 250 713-2815 or [Michael.Pearson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Michael.Pearson@gov.bc.ca) and would be pleased to assist you.

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The ministry's B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program helps Indigenous and local governments develop and improve safe active transportation networks: [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/funding-engagement-permits/funding-grants/active-transportation-infrastructure-grants](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/funding-engagement-permits/funding-grants/active-transportation-infrastructure-grants). The program shares the cost of infrastructure projects, such as bicycle and pedestrian overpasses and separated multi-use paths, with local governments. In 2022, the budget for this program was increased by 67 per cent to \$60 million over the next three years.

The active transportation grants are a regular, annual funding program. Although the intake for this year closed on October 27, 2023, I would encourage Islands Trust to visit the ministry's website for more information, such as program eligibility and deadlines for future intake. If you have questions about the application process, please do not hesitate to contact Kate Berniaz, Director, Clean Transportation and Programs. She can be reached at 250 419-8544 and would be happy to assist you. You can also sign up to receive updates about the grants program on the ministry's website at [survey.th.gov.bc.ca/activetransportation](http://survey.th.gov.bc.ca/activetransportation).

Budget 2023 also includes an additional \$100 million in funding for infrastructure investments to expand active transportation options for British Columbians along ministry property: [bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2023/default.htm](http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2023/default.htm).

With the help of leaders like you, my ministry is building a resilient transportation network that will continue to keep people safe and connected in a changing world. Our goal is a sustainable multimodal network that advances our climate and housing goals and that delivers the efficient supply chains and economic opportunities needed to keep life affordable for B.C. families.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with me.

Sincerely,



Rob Fleming  
Minister

Copy to: Kathryn Krishna, Deputy Minister

Reg Bawa, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Policy, Programs and Partnerships Division

Trish Rorison, Executive Director  
Clean Transportation and Programs Branch

Kathryn Weicker, Executive Director  
Integrated Transportation Planning Branch

Kate Berniaz, Director  
Clean Transportation and Programs

Michael Pearson, District Manager  
Vancouver Island District