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August 28, 2019

File No.: 11-5595-30

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

The Honourable Claire Trevena
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
PO Box 9055
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W9E2

Re: Request for Upgrades to Gabriola Island Roads to Include Active Transportation Lanes

Dear Minister Trevena:

I am writing on behalf of Islands Trust Executive Committee with an urgent request. We ask that current planned upgrades to roads on Gabriola Island be reconsidered to include active transportation lanes and that the [Gabriola Island Official Community Plan](#) be consulted as per the 1992 [Letter of Agreement](#) between the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, and the Islands Trust.

As you may be aware, upgrades are planned for 13 kilometres of roads on Gabriola Island. However, as Ministry staff have designated the upgrades as ‘maintenance’ and not as ‘improvements’, these upgrades will not include adding active transportation infrastructure (e.g. bicycle lanes and inclusive pathways).

The 1992 Letter of Agreement is founded on the principle of safety, environmental protection, and sustainability. The 1996 addendum supports the addition of a “long term network to accommodate cyclists” and designates bicycle routes for Gabriola Island in Table 1. In addition, the Gabriola Island Official Community Plan references that “bicycle and pedestrian paths” designated as being part of the bicycle route agreed upon in the Letter of Agreement and addendum be included in planned developments accordingly (Section 7.1 g and h, and Figure 5).

The Islands Trust supports the objectives of the British Columbia Active Transportation Design Guide to improve the quality of life, health, safety and economic benefits associated with investing in active transportation. There are considerable costs and resources associated with upgrading the designated 13 kilometres of road on Gabriola Island since crews and equipment will need to be ferried over. This upgrade is an opportunity to meet the objectives of the Active Transportation Design Guide, the Letter of Agreement, and the Official Community Plan if active transportation infrastructure is included.

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Preserving **Island** communities, culture and environment

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

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In March 2019 the Islands Trust Council declared a climate emergency, joining local governments around the world in recognizing the urgent need to respond to the threats and costs posed by climate change. By adding active transportation infrastructure when undertaking road upgrades, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will help Islands Trust to meet its preserve and protect mandate, and climate change objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by providing safe, efficient, and alternative forms of transportation.

It is my understanding that staff from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and Islands Trust plan to meet in the autumn; however, I hope that consideration to include active transportation infrastructure for the planned upgrade on Gabriola Island can occur immediately.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Luckham

Chair, Islands Trust Council

pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

Cc: Doug Routley, Nanaimo North Cowichan MLA
Vanessa Craig, EAD Nanaimo RD
Cowichan Tribes
Halalt First Nation
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Lyackson First Nation
Penelakut Tribe
SEMYOME (Semiahmoo) First Nation
shíshálh First Nation
Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) First Nation
Snuneymuxw First Nation
Te'mexw Treaty Association
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Islands Trust Executive Committee
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