



OCT 10 2019

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

Reference: 288260
Your File: 11-5595-30

Dear Chair Luckham, *Peter*

Re: Active Transportation

Thank you for your letter requesting the inclusion of active transportation infrastructure as part of planned upcoming road work on Gabriola Island.

The ministry is committed to investing in infrastructure that promotes safe transportation alternatives and reduces traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions while supporting healthier living.

The resurfacing work you mention that was recently completed on Gabriola Island involved a road preservation procedure known as sealcoating. Sealcoating is the application of a protective coating to an existing asphalt base to protect against oils and the weather. I recognize you would have liked the ministry to incorporate active transportation infrastructure while our crews and equipment were on the island for this project. However, the sealcoating equipment we barged over cannot widen or pave roads, so crews were unable to construct wider shoulders or additional lanes for cycling.

Like you, I believe Gabriola Island would benefit from expanded active transportation networks. The Province's well-established cycling infrastructure grant program helps local governments, towns, cities, and First Nations create and maintain cycling networks. The grant program is a partnered program that shares the cost of municipal cycling infrastructure projects, such as separated bike paths and bicycle/pedestrian overpasses, with local governments. Since 2014, the ministry has invested approx. \$30 million in cycling grants and infrastructure projects across the province.

As you know, the ministry recently launched a new provincial active transportation strategy—Move. Commute. Connect.—which is designed to encourage active transportation use and build on the success of the cycling grant program and work with communities to create policies and plans that support complete active transportation networks around the province. The strategy was developed following an extensive public consultation process and aims to double the percentage of trips taken with active transportation by 2030.

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The ministry's Director of Strategic Initiatives, Jesse Skulmoski, would be pleased to discuss opportunities to develop safe active transportation on Gabriola with you and can be reached directly by telephone at 778 974-5274 or by email at Jesse.Skulmoski@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Claire Trevena', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Claire Trevena
Minister

Copy to: Jesse Skulmoski, Director
 Strategic Initiatives