



North Pender Island Local Trust Committee

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File No. 5595-30

Capital Regional District Board
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, British Columbia
Canada, V8W 1R7

Dear Capital Regional District Board of Directors:

Re: Pender Island Cycling and Pedestrian Infrastructure

I am writing on behalf of the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) to encourage the CRD to expedite implementation of the Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan. We also ask that the CRD focus attention on ensuring that the North Pender section of that plan moves forward expeditiously.

The LTC's interests in safe pedestrian and cycling paths are regional interests. It is the LTC's perception that the CRD Board's tendency has been to focus on urban areas. Meanwhile, the Southern Gulf Islands are a regionally appreciated and promoted destination. The CRD's "Experience the Gulf Islands" website promotes everything the islands have to offer including hiking and biking on the Pender Islands (North and South). We are encouraged to see that the "Experience the Gulf Islands Concept Plan" identifies building "sustainable low-carbon, inter-island transportation connections and linkages that limit or lower on-island car traffic" as a key focus. However, we have yet to see action taken on North Pender to support this goal.

The LTC feels that accelerating implementation of the Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan is necessary given the need for drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the increasing lack of safety for pedestrians and cyclists on the Pender islands' roads, and the existing and increasing opportunities for funding from senior government for multi-modal infrastructure (e.g. the Province's Active Transportation Infrastructure Funding). Given the jurisdictional nature of the Islands Trust, the ability for North Pender to address challenges and take advantage of opportunities is very dependent on the initiatives of the CRD and the Province.

As a local trust committee, we have, and continue to, take steps to support safe walking and cycling on our Island. We have also written to the Province to ask that they take immediate action to remediate dangerous sections of our roads with focus on accommodating the development of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure with all road improvements. North Pender has a clearly laid out cycling and pedestrian route in its Official Community Plan. The "Magic-Ferry Bicycle-Walking Route" connects the BC Ferry dock at Otter Bay with commercial areas and our largest populated area (Magic Lake). This is consistent with the Capital Regional District's proposed route for North Pender as identified in the Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan.

Preserving Island communities, culture and environment

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

We would like to ask the CRD to update the LTC on steps taken to develop safe cycling and pedestrian infrastructure on North Pender. Has the CRD considered establishing a transportation service for the Southern Gulf Islands? To what extent would cycling and pedestrian infrastructure be a focus? Has the Parks and Recreation Commission focused on the acquisition of land to support the development of the cycling and pedestrian paths for North Pender Island proposed in the Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan? Has the CRD identified funding to implement the Plan? How can the LTC support the CRD to accelerate the development of our collective vision of separated pedestrian and cycling paths on North Pender Island?

The Islands Trust, through its Reconciliation Declaration and the Local Trust Committees Standing Resolution on First Nations Engagement, has committed to the implementation of UNDRIP and the TRC Calls to Action. This commitment means that we adopt best practices to preserve and protect archaeological, cultural heritage, and archaeological potential, which would include meaningful engagement with First Nations. We would be happy to work with the CRD to develop these best practice frameworks related to the development of pedestrian and cycling paths.

First and foremost, the LTC wants to ensure the health and safety of island residents. In addition, it wants to support British Columbia, the CRD and the Islands Trust's commitment to climate change mitigation. The LTC believes that safer cycling and pedestrian infrastructure will encourage more residents and visitors to choose walking and cycling over car use thereby improving health outcomes and helping to reduce North Pender Island's greenhouse gas emissions. We cannot do this alone.

We look forward to hearing what actions supporting the development of cycling and pedestrian infrastructure we can expect from the CRD in 2020.

Sincerely,



Laura Patrick, Chair
North Pender Island Local Trust Committee

cc: North Pender Island Local Trust Committee
Minister Claire Trevena (MOTI)
Adam Olsen MLA
Dave Howe (Electoral Area Director)
Islands Trust Executive Committee
Islands Trust website
WJOLELP (Tsartlip) First Nation
S7ÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation
W5IKEM (Tseycum) First Nation