



## North Pender Island Local Trust Committee

200-1627 Fort Street  
Victoria, BC V8R 1H8  
Telephone: **250.405.5151**

Email: [NorthPenderIslandLocalTrustCommittee@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:NorthPenderIslandLocalTrustCommittee@islandstrust.bc.ca)

Web: [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)

January 21, 2020

File No. 5595-30

The Honourable Claire Trevena  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
PO Box 9850 Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9T5

**Re: Supporting Cycling and Pedestrian Safety on Pender Island**

Dear Minister Trevena,

I am writing on behalf of the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) to ask the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to help support cyclist and pedestrian safety on North Pender Island. Currently, cycling and walking on the roads on North Pender Island is not safe. Road shoulders are small and non-existent in some areas. In a 2012 survey, the majority of 300 respondents identified that they would walk and cycle more if they felt safe on the road. No substantial road improvements have been made since then. Recently, North Pender Island residents have identified to LTC members that the lack of feeling safe on the road is the main reason they are hesitant to ride their bikes and e-bikes.

We believe that given the Province's responsibility for road safety, commitment to climate mitigation and promotion of the Islands Trust Area as a tourist destination, it has a responsibility to both residents and visitors to ensure that active transportation options are safe options for moving around on the islands in the Islands Trust Area. North Pender Island is featured prominently in Destination BC promotions which identifies North Pender Island as an ideal place to hike and bike. As such, improving safety for cyclists and pedestrians on North Pender should be a priority for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure as well as the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture.

North Pender has a clearly laid out cycling and pedestrian route in its Official Community Plan. The North Pender Island "Magic-Ferry Bicycle-Walking Route", connects the BC Ferry dock at Otter Bay with commercial areas and our largest populated area (Magic Lake). This trail parallels the Capital Regional District's proposed route for North Pender in their Gulf Island Regional Trails Plan. The vision identified in North Pender Island's OCP and the CRD's Gulf Island Regional Trails Plan would be to have a network of pedestrian and bicycle paths separate from vehicular traffic.

We understand that realizing this vision will require collaboration across levels of government. We will be encouraging the CRD to consider prioritizing North Pender's interests as they work to achieve their Gulf Island Regional Trails vision. The North Pender LTC wants the Province to uphold its responsibility to ensuring safety on provincial roads on our Island. Remediation work has been needed for years.

***Preserving Island communities, culture and environment***

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

Accommodating the development of a pedestrian and cycling path, adhering to the objectives of the British Columbia Active Transportation Design Guide, needs to be considered with all road improvements.

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 Ministry to develop these best practice frameworks related to the remediation and improvement of North Pender Island roads.

First and foremost, the North Pender Island LTC wants to ensure the health and safety of island residents. In addition, it is wanting to do its part to support British Columbia, the CRD and the Islands Trust's commitment to climate change mitigation. The North Pender Island 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 would like to know what your Ministry will be doing in 2020 to:

1. Address immediate safety concerns on the North Pender Island's roads, and.
2. Work collaboratively with other Ministries, the CRD and the North Pender Island LTC to make the vision of separated biking and pedestrian paths a reality.

Yours Sincerely,



Laura Patrick, Chair  
North Pender Island Local Trust Committee

cc: North Pender Island Local Trust Committee  
Adam Olson MLA  
Capital Regional District Board  
Dave Howe (Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area Director)  
Islands Trust Executive Committee  
Islands Trust Website  
WJOLELP (Tsartlip) First Nation  
S7ÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation  
WSIKEM (Tseycum) First Nation

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