



MAY 16 2019

Colin Plant, Chair
Capital Regional District Board
625 Fisgard Street
PO Box 1000
Victoria BC V8W 2S6

Reference: 284574
Your File: 0400-20

Dear Chair Plant,

Re: Potential Alternate Emergency Detour Route

Premier John Horgan has asked me to respond on his behalf to your letter regarding the ministry's exploration of potential emergency detour routes to the Malahat Highway. I am also responding to your earlier letter regarding the South Island Transportation Plan. I am sorry it has taken me so long to reply.

Sooke Hills Park has considerable environmental and recreational value, and I recognize the Board's concerns. It is important to stress that, at this point, the ministry is simply exploring what options may be available to help move people when incidents close the Malahat. Any highway infrastructure that might result within Capital Regional District (CRD) lands or parks would be used only as a temporary, closely supervised and controlled detour route and would not be a permanent road that is open to the public. I am optimistic that we can find a balance between environmental concerns and the need to get people home to their families and other important destinations.

I appreciate the Board's willingness to assist the ministry with the South Island Transportation Plan, and I understand that ministry staff met with the CRD Transportation Committee to discuss the strategy on April 24. The ministry recognizes that people want more options to get to their destinations safely and efficiently. The strategy will therefore explore concepts related to transit, rail, marine or ferry travel, and active transportation, in addition to potential improvements to existing roads. The plan that results from this work will help guide future investments in transportation projects to ensure we build a multi modal transportation system that addresses congestion and supports a greener future.

Complementing this work, the assessment of the Island Rail Corridor that the ministry is undertaking will also identify, at a high-level, the infrastructure requirements and cost of upgrades needed to allow for the safe operation of commuter rail from Langford to Victoria. This work should start soon and take about six months.

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The ministry and the CRD have a long history of collaboration, and I look forward to continuing this positive relationship as these initiatives move forward.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Trevena
Minister

Copy to: Premier John Horgan

Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
MLA, Victoria-Swan Lake

Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
MLA, Mid Island-Pacific Rim

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
MLA, Vancouver-Fairview

Honourable Carole James
Minister of Finance
Deputy Premier
MLA, Victoria-Beacon Hill

Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture
MLA, Saanich South

Mitzi Dean
MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

Sheila Malcolmson
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Ronna-Rae Leonard
MLA, Courtenay-Comox

Adam Olsen
MLA, Saanich North and the Islands

Doug Routley
MLA, Nanaimo-North Cowichan

Andrew Weaver
MLA, Oak Bay-Gordon Head