



Making a difference...together

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File: 0220-20

Infrastructure Canada  
Communications  
180 Kent Street, Suite 1100  
Ottawa, ON K1P 0B6

To Whom it May Concern:

**RE: RURAL TRANSIT SOLUTIONS FUND APPLICATION**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) supports the Galiano Island Community Transportation Society's (GICTS) application for Infrastructure Canada's Rural Transit Solutions Fund to provide funding for the: purchase of zero-emission vehicles to provide community transportation service on Galiano Island, BC.

Galiano Island, part of the CRD's Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area, currently has no public transit service. With 39% of residents aged 65 and older, a median after-tax income of \$30,200, and a geography that separates north island residents from the ferry terminal by 25km, there is an acute need for public transit in the community.

In 2022, the CRD developed the Southern Gulf Islands Transportation Integration Plan to support creating a transportation service for the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area (comprising Galiano, Pender, Saturna, and Mayne Islands). Supported by Watt Consulting, the plan was grounded in an in-depth community engagement and stakeholder consultation program, which included engagement with First Nations. The Transportation Integration Plan culminated in a referendum question for new service establishment on the ballot of the General Local Election in October of 2022, which asked voters to support tax funding for transportation in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area. While the referendum narrowly failed across the whole Electoral Area (by 3 votes), it had strong community support on Galiano Island, with the majority voting for the proposed transportation solutions.

The Transportation Integration Plan recommended service delivery through existing grassroots organizations. The service proposed by GICTS will offer a right-sized public transit solution for Galiano Island, provided by an organization with a proven track-record for meeting community needs.

We anticipate that the proposed project will operate on Galiano Island and will provide the following benefits:

- Support of the CRD Board's focus on Climate Action & Environment through carbon-zero transportation alternatives to single occupancy vehicles, and a reduction in car dependency.
- More affordable travel options for low-income residents.

- Service for all islanders, especially seniors and youth, to travel safely and independently.
- Transportation for residents using mobility aids.
- Reliability through year-round service, supported by paid drivers.
- Support of community goals of livability and access to services.
- Reducing congestion on SGI roads and BC Ferries.
- Support for local businesses and the regional economy, and facilitating the movement of workers.

The CRD is committed to providing support for this project. We are committing the following contributions to the project proposed by GICTS:

- Pending funding, installing a Level 2 dual port charger (valued at \$8,000 - \$15,000 per charger) on Galiano Island as part of the Capital Region Public Electric Vehicle Charging Network by March of 2027.
- Supporting considering operational funding through service establishment as a contribution service, subject to voter approval.
- Providing \$5000 of in-kind coordination support over a 24-month period.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Colin Plant  
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board  
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD