



IslandTransformations.Org

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December 28, 2011

Dear Premier of BC and Minister of Transportation - BC;

The objectives of IslandTransformations.Org include mitigation of public transportation problems within Vancouver Island and the CRD. Therefore, we are pleased to forward constructive suggestions, from time to time, for your consideration. Some of these have been our own studies but often they are endorsements of studies and programs introduced by others, such as those by Todd Litman of the respected Victoria Transport Institute.

Now, with your pending announcements of BC government intentions for 2012, we would like to bring to your attention the commendable transportation plans and programs of the State of Victoria, Australia, in the attached references. In doing so, we wish to highlight a perspective of their governance that may well interest you and your Cabinet colleagues: quote:

"Unlike the previous government, the NSW Liberals and Nationals are committed to doing proper planning so an expanded light rail network can meet the needs of passengers and the city now and well into the future, Ms Gladys Berejiklian, the Transport Minister, said" (to [the Sydney Morning Herald, 8 Dec 2011](#)).

Madam Premier, your government has neglected to recognize the value of Island public transportation needs and options for far too long. Since 1966, our Organization and others have attempted to bring that neglect to your attention with studies related to the regeneration of a rail system from Victoria to the northern communities of Vancouver Island and to re-introduce urban rail commuter options for Victoria, in particular, and for the CRD, in general.

The Liberal government's continued resistance to proposals made, during the past decade, have certainly produced a growing demand from the public for transit options that will reduce traffic congestion from Nanaimo, Sooke and Swartz Bay to Victoria as well as within Greater Victoria. Thus, the political advice of the State of Victoria Minister may be timely.

Our transportation objectives were made clear to all candidates for CRD municipalities, in the recent election, and we were very pleased with the positive response we had from a majority of those candidates. We are also happy to say that those elected include many strong proponents of improved public transit options, including use of the E&N infrastructure for commuter services. But, one objective has yet to be achieved and that is the creation of an Island Transportation Authority. Your government could rectify that!

Therefore, the attached references include the State of Victoria's *Transportation Policy* document which gives the *Terms of Reference* for that State's Transportation Authority. You should settle for nothing less because you stand to regain the support of all Vancouver Island citizens and, most assuredly, users of the Island's transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Irwin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Irwin Henderson, President

<http://www.islandtransformations.org>

c.c. Minister of Transportation, Hon. Blair Lekstrom, all Vancouver Island MLAs and MPs

Attachment [State of Victoria: Public Transportation Authority Terms of Reference](#)