

## Feds give \$1 million for rail trail

by [Amy Dove - Victoria News](#)

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The E&N Rail Trail is \$1 million closer to being fully funded.

The federal money will go toward the construction of four bridges and installing a lighted intersection crossing, said Gary Lunn, minister of State for Sport and Saanich-Gulf Islands MP.

The project, which will run a pedestrian and cyclist path along the E&N rail line from Victoria to Langford, is far from fully funded, however.

The federal government shouldn't be too surprised when the Capital Regional District asks for more money in the near future, said Geoff Young, CRD board chair and a Victoria councillor.

"We have to admit it is not quite enough to complete this project," Young said. "Certainly we are still several million short of where we need to be to complete the entire trail."

To be built in phases, the project will cost an estimated \$22.7 million. So far, \$13.5 million has been secured from federal gas tax, grants and CRD contributions. Phase 1 construction will span 2009-10, with a 14.3-kilometre route from Esquimalt Road to Jacklin Road.

"This trail will assist in helping drivers out of their cars," Young said.

"It is going to help get people traveling by bicycle. It's going to help us achieve those greenhouse gas emission targets."

A lack of funding isn't stopping the CRD from moving forward on what work it can do, Young said.

As people start to use pieces of the trail they will put pressure on the CRD to secure the rest of the money, he said.

The \$1 million in federal funding announced March 26 came from the Recreational Infrastructure Canada program.