

**Subject: Re: A Transportation story**

**Date:** January 14, 2011 9:02:03 PM PST

Dick,

I saw this in the paper today, I am so sorry for your friend and hope she is starting to mend. Your letter was one of the best written letters I have ever seen in a local paper - I hope you have sent it into every publication you can think of..

Linda

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**Subject: Great Article in the Goldstream Gazette**

**Date:** January 15, 2011 1:08:36 AM PST

Hi Dick:

I read your article and really appreciate your approach of asking for the quantification of the accident savings benefits of transit-based travel vs. road-based travel.

As you are aware, the Province has default values for:

- ~ Property Damage Only Accidents are valued at approximately **\$ 9,000**
- ~ Injury Accidents are valued at approximately **\$ 130,000**
- ~ Fatal Accidents are valued at approximately **\$ 6,000,000**

This is based on society's (economic principle) of "Willingness to Pay" to avoid such an event. It includes actual costs such (ambulance, hospital costs and so on) as well as future costs (e.g., loss of productivity of person injured or killed).

These figures are fairly standard across all Provinces and most US states.

Moreover, you will find this information in the **TransDEC** literature I provided you.

I believe our persistence will pay off.

Thanks

[ a friend ]

# LETTERS

**Goldstream News Gazette Vancouver Island South**

Published: **January 13, 2011 1:00 PM**

## *The true cost of transportation*

A Prairie farmer anguishes; his wife is now a lacerated and broken mess.

Miles from him, she is in Victoria General Hospital, having suffered a concussion, trauma, facial lacerations and a broken collarbone when driving from the West Shore to the airport.

Late on Jan. 4, she was on her way to the airport, relying on a GPS.

Conditions were dark and rainy. A wrong turn at a bad time and a truck smashed into the rented car — an essential to get to and from the West Shore.

Now, she's just another statistic in a long list of such events — not even newsworthy. Just another car pileup.

Who cares, really? Who feels the pain? The trauma? The anguish? Certainly, statistics — numbers on a page or computer screen — feel none of that.

We have to make decisions about our transport future based on more than just the numbers. We have to consider the human costs of accidents.

Rail transportation is the safest way to

travel, 20 times safer than cars, yet the provincial ministry pays no attention to this in its most recent reports which try to put off the need for light rapid transit and commuter rail — both here and on the Mainland.

Thankfully, our local political leaders are taking a different tack.

The CRD board unanimously agreed to funding a rail link on Victoria's new blue bridge, Saanich council unanimously endorsed rail as the mode of choice for the region's rapid transit system and Victoria Mayor Dean Fortin made the E&N commute a priority for this year.

Twenty-five years of promoting rail transit were in mind when standing by that emergency room bed, looking at the suffering young woman and feeling her pain.

If only the true cost of road versus rail could be seen in provincial decision-making for our region. If only she could have used rail transit for safe travel to the airport. If only.

*Dick Faulks*

View Royal