

Road work should have brought E&N test

BY ANDREW SPRAY, TIMES COLONIST SEPTEMBER 24, 2010



A letter-writer suggests the controversial road work in View Royal would have been an excellent opportunity to test use of the E&N line for commuter runs to reduce traffic.

Photograph by: Bruce Stotesbury, Times Colonist, Times Colonist

It is unfortunate the View Royal road work was not seen as an opportunity to test the viability of using the E&N tracks for commuter runs between Langford and downtown Victoria.

Some additional railway equipment might have needed to be borrowed and possibly a passing siding added somewhere, but that cost could be weighed against the loss of productivity as people are late for work, the environmental cost of all the idling cars and the sheer frustration of the delays.

Suitable locations for parking in the West Shore and shuttles to Langford station could have been devised and timetable adjustments made with Via Rail.

It could have saved a lot of pain and could have settled the question as to whether such a commuter link should be part of Victoria's future. If it didn't work under the present conditions, it wouldn't likely work in the future.

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Victoria