

E&N could improve traffic flow

BY BOB TROTTER, TIMES COLONIST OCTOBER 17, 2010

One highway lane carries 750 cars per hour, according to a retired highways man I know. That may mean 800 people per hour. One rail track of a pair can carry over 15,000 people per hour and costs about the same as a road lane.

The evidence from all over North America is this: Add more road space, more cars come out to fill it up immediately; build streetcar or light rail service and many, many drivers will leave their cars for the train.

The Toronto experience is that where the streetcars run, traffic moves; where only buses run, gridlock threatens. They now have \$12 billion worth of light rail projects being built.

We have the E&N available. Nobody's house is in the way. Add one passing siding on an existing foundation and the track, bad as it is, can give half-hour service.

Buy modern, low-floor diesel equipment, with 200-passenger capacity per vehicle. Run two two-car trains shuttling back and forth. Via allows 23 minutes for the 13 kilometres.

Spend the price of one McTavish Road interchange on the line from Langford to downtown Victoria and 15-minute service is possible with four or five stops on the way.

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