

June 2, 2021

File: 0400-20

Honourable Rob Fleming  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Via email: [Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Fleming:

**RE: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES**

I am pleased to inform you that on May 12, 2021 the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board approved a preliminary list of regional transportation priority areas through the following motions:

1. *That the categorized priority areas listed in Appendix A be confirmed as amended;*
2. *That the list of confirmed regional transportation priority areas be shared with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, all CRD municipalities, CRD electoral areas and agency partners; and*
3. *That staff be directed to develop implementation strategies for each of the approved transportation priority areas and report back to the Committee on the findings, including a consideration of cooperation mechanisms.*

The priority areas build on the work initiated by the Province through the 2020 South Island Transportation Strategy (SITS) and were developed in partnership with municipal, electoral area and agency partners. These priority areas aim to address challenges related to climate action, mode shift, congestion, safety and affordability, while supporting varying transportation needs throughout the CRD.

The priority areas approved by the Board are attached, along with the staff report and appendices that informed the Board's decision; CRD staff are currently working on implementation plans for each of the priorities, some of which will require Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to maintain a leading role.

To achieve the region's climate, transportation and livability targets, the CRD Board has clearly signalled the need to transform the status-quo approach to our transportation network. By confirming these priorities, the Board seeks to:

1. Build collaborative partnerships to create a sustainable, accessible and connected regional multi-modal transportation network for all users; and
2. Begin a dialogue on potential funding streams or implementation opportunities to advance our priorities.

Two transportation priorities received particularly strong levels of regional support: BC Transit's Rapid Bus initiative and improvements for active transportation and regional trails. Additionally in the interest of planning for the future, the Board called for advocacy for a Westshore passenger ferry feasibility study in the short-term along with protection of the E and N corridor for future transportation use. This includes upgrades and maintenance to the corridor over time. The priorities are reflective of the unique urban, suburban, rural and remote make up of the region and include a combination of large scale region wide initiatives and smaller scale safety initiatives such as improved access and parking at regional and provincial parks and Southern Gulf Islands connectivity.

If you have any questions about the details of this letter, please contact Kevin Lorette, General Manager Planning and Protective Services at [klorette@crd.bc.ca](mailto:klorette@crd.bc.ca). I look forward to working collaboratively with the Province towards our shared vision of improving climate change, affordability, safety, congestion and mode shift in the region by advancing these transportation priorities.

Sincerely,



Colin Plant  
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

Attachments: Regional Transportation Priority Areas  
Staff Report Identification of Regional Transportation Priorities with Appendices

cc: Municipal Corporate Officers  
Erinn Pinkerton, Chief Executive Officer, BC Transit  
Mark Collins, Chief Executive Officer, BC Ferries  
Larry Stevenson, Chief Executive Officer, Island Corridor Foundation  
Mike Hicks, Juan De Fuca Electoral Area Director, CRD  
Gary Holman, Salt Spring Island Electoria Area Director, CRD  
David Howe, Southern Gulf Islands Area Director, CRD  
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD  
Kevin Lorette, General Manager, Planning and Protective Services, CRD