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Date: January 23, 2018
File: 0400-50-CAP-18727

Capital Regional District
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC, V8W 2S6

Attention: Steve Price, Board Chair

Re: Regional Transportation Service, Draft Bylaw 4093

While Colwood Council whole heartedly agrees that transportation is a growing problem in our communities and that residents are frustrated by the congestion, we do not agree that the CRD is the solution to these problems. In fact we believe that the establishment of this service is a false panacea that will further frustrate our residents and create additional delays in implementing real pre-identified infrastructure solutions that will ease congestion problems.

The CRD's eagerness to create a vague ill-defined service for the purpose of political gain is very short sighted. The focus should be on meaningful discussion on solutions rather than simply creating another service with further taxing authority. I'd like to remind the Board that the following studies already exist and are still relevant today:

- Victoria Region Transit Future Plan (2011)
- Westshore Local Area Transit Plan (2015)
- CRD Regional Transportation Plan (2014)
- Victoria Region Bus Lane Project (2013)
- Victoria Region Transit Priority Corridor Plan (2013)
- Victoria Regional Rapid Transit Report (2011)
- McKenzie Interchange Project (2016)
- E&N Rail Reports and Studies
- Commuter Rail Analysis (2010)

There are many infrastructure projects identified in all of these reports that incrementally address traffic congestion problems, and yet the CRD cherry picked a governance model as a priority to be created to add yet another stack of studies that continues to state the same thing as all of the rest. It is time for the jurisdictions with legal control of their roads and their budgets to work on tangible solutions.

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What is the purpose of creating a CRD service that legislatively has no authority over roads to create yet another study? While roads are NOT the only solution they are core to the current gridlock and those roads will remain the primary transportation corridors for the foreseeable future.

Specific to the letter and accompanying fact sheet:

- Despite CRD overtures, this bylaw does authorize the CRD to tax and spend an additional \$2.5 million. If the CRD was genuine in its effort to create a cost-neutral service then the accompanying repeals or amendments to the establishing bylaws or the services that are to allegedly fund this new service would accompany this bylaw. They do not. Adoption of this bylaw authorizes the CRD to increase taxes by \$2.5 million.
- Colwood disagrees with the statement that implies that the region has no voice without the establishment of a CRD Service. The Victoria Regional Transit Commission and the BC Transit Commission has been very effective at seeking senior government funding and carrying out transit related infrastructure works within municipalities, and is currently in the design stages of a project in Colwood and View Royal. Further, as demonstrated by a meeting that I organized on November 6, 2017 with the mayors of the municipalities adjacent to the Trans Canada Hwy (TCH) along with the Minister of Transportation and her senior staff, we have an effective voice in seeking provincial funding to address the bottlenecks established by the TCH.

Colwood Council was particularly disturbed by what was implied by the Staff Report on the Board agenda dated January 10, 2018. The suggestion that the Board should seek approval to establish the bylaw via an alternate approval process (counter petition) is the ultimate disrespect of democratically, locally elected Councils tasked with governing their communities. As a reminder to my colleagues at the Board table, regional districts first and foremost are local government service providers. They are to establish and provide their services in direct response to the expressed needs, desires, and instructions of the municipalities and electoral areas that comprise the region. In Regions such as ours that are almost entirely made up of municipalities with locally elected Councils no services should be contemplated without explicit consent from those municipalities. Further, no other strategies should be considered or put into effect when an elected body informs its service provider that it is not interested in a proposed service being offered by the regional district.

Finally, I would like to address statements made at the Board table on January 10, 2018. It was stated repeatedly by proponents of this proposed service that the Minister of Transportation, Minister Trevena, was somehow pressuring and encouraging board members to get on with establishing this service. I would like to remind my colleagues that were in attendance at the meeting with Minister Trevena on November 6, 2017, her questioning us why we continue to pursue a regional transportation service. She felt it was unnecessary and likely not conducive to good decision making to have an issue of such a technical nature is run by elected officials. The Ministry as since confirmed with me that they have not encouraged the establishment of a CRD Regional Transportation Service.

The City of Colwood will not support a CRD transportation service. We strongly recommend, in the interest of providing good service to the Region's municipalities, that the CRD respect the authority of

municipal Councils. Further, the Board must move toward a regional service provider model that puts the time and effort into negotiating unanimous support for new important services rather than always simply counting votes, which continues to exacerbate the discord within the Region.

Regards,



Carol Hamilton

Mayor

Copied to:

- Premier John Horgan
- Hon. Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Hon. Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Mitzi Dean, MLA
- Mayor and Council, District of Sooke
- Mayor and Council, District of Metchosin
- Mayor and Council, District of Highlands
- Mayor and Council, City of Langford
- Mayor and Council, Town of View Royal
- Mayor and Council, Town of Esquimalt
- Mayor and Council, District of Saanich
- Mayor and Council, City of Victoria
- Mayor and Council, District of Oak Bay
- Mayor and Council, District of Central Saanich
- Mayor and Council, Town of Sidney
- Mayor and Council, District of North Saanich
- Director Mike Hicks, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area

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