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December XX, 2024

File No: 8500-40 – TRAN 2024

Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Transportation and Transit
PO Box 9055 Prov Stn Govt
VICTORIA BC V8W 9E2

via email: TT.Minister@gov.bc.ca

and

Sherri Bell, Board Chair
BC Transit
PO Box 9861
520 Gorge Road East
VICTORIA BC V8W 9T5

Dear Minister Farnworth and Sherri Bell:

Re: Support for Better Island Transit Request to Improve Interregional Transit Service on South Vancouver Island

Following a presentation from Todd Litman, President of Better Island Transit on May 22, 2024 and his follow up letter of June 12, 2024 (attached), on June 26, 2024 the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board passed the following resolution:

24-324 *It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and BC Transit, jointly signed by the three Regional District Chairs, supporting Better Island Transit's request that BC Transit develop a plan to expand transit services between the Capital Regional District, Cowichan Valley Regional District and the Regional District of Nanaimo by 2025, including necessary infrastructure, fleet, and expansion hours; and that the Province provide sufficient funding to support a maximum fare of \$5.00 and at least hourly service between approximately 6:00 am and midnight on #66 and #70 routes.*

The Province is best positioned to develop a plan that includes the necessary infrastructure, fleet, expansion service hours and funding to improve the vital interregional transit service between Victoria and Nanaimo to support residents and visitors alike. A plan for more frequent and affordable bus service between these regions will not only increase road safety, reduce congestion and GHG emissions and it can help achieve the Provincial goal of Clean BC Roadmap to 2030 targets to increase walking, cycling and public transit mode share to 30% by 2030.

Thank you for your consideration of this important transportation matter.

Yours truly,



Kate Segall
Chair, Cowichan Valley Regional District

Vanessa Craig
Chair, Regional District of Nanaimo

Ryan Windsor
Chair, Victoria Regional Transit Commission

Attachment:
Letter from Better Island Transit, June 12, 2024

pc: Jim Wakeham, Sr. Manager, Facilities & Transit
Seth Wright, Sr. Government Relations Manager, BC Transit
Regional District of Nanaimo
Capital Regional District
Todd Litman, President Better Island Transit
Erinn Pinkerton, CEO BC Transit