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Victoria, BC V9A 3L5
August 3, 2023

Ryan Windsor,
Chair, Victoria Regional Transit Commission
520 Gorge Road East
Victoria, BC V8W 9T5

Nicolas Jimenez
President & Chief Executive Officer, BC Ferry Corporation
Suite 500-1321 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 0B7

Re: Victoria Bus Connection to Tsawwassen Route at Swartz Bay

Dear Sirs,

Congratulations to both of you on your recent appointments. I would like to suggest an area of opportunity you could start on at very little cost: coordination between VRTC and BC Ferries.

On Sunday July 16 I was on a #70 Swartz Bay double-decker that was delayed at its start by the bike racing near the Legislature. The driver did what he could, but pulled up to his stop at the ferry at exactly 11:50 AM. A good load of passengers clambered out, only to find that the windows were shut at the ticket booth because of their ten minute rule - all walk-ons are shut out ten minutes before the scheduled departure - and we had to cool our heels until the next boat, watching other passengers walk on through the closed doors.

This is a stark contrast with the vehicle booths, which don't cut off ticket sales and allow cars to race across the lot and squeak on.

This kind of experience just reinforces the perception that transit is for people who can't afford cars, and not to be relied on if time is important. Or is encouraging vehicle traffic a BC Ferries strategic goal ?

On my return trip the next weekend, the ferry was late but the #70 driver waited for ferry passengers and crammed the bus to capacity before leaving.

Could you at least speak with your respective managements to ask for some kind of coordination and flexibility? <https://nextride.victoria.bctransit.com/> gives accurate status of all Victoria buses, and it would be simple for Ferries marine traffic management to hold a ferry for a couple of minutes or just ask people to walk quickly to get on the boat when there is a load on the way.

Thank you,



Bruce Mackenzie Bruce.Mackenzie@shaw.ca