



GET MOVING BC

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May 19, 2007

Dear Jody Shimkus:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the five discussion papers you have prepared regarding the South Fraser Perimeter Road.

The directors of Get Moving BC, a community organization supporting transportation and transit improvements in the Lower Mainland, were extremely impressed with the detail and scope of your agency's assessments. You left no stone unturned as you considered the impact of this vital road improvement.

Get Moving BC has asked me to pass along the following comments:

BURNS BOG—Anyone who has visited Burns Bog understands how unique and important it is, both to Delta locally, and the Lower Mainland regionally. We were pleased to see that the largest of your five discussion papers examined Burns Bog. It is clear that your office and the Ministry of Transportation are doing everything it can to ensure that the Bog is protected.

AGRICULTURE—It is regrettable that some agricultural land will be affected by the SFPR. Get Moving BC puts a high value on protecting farmland, as it is important both to BC's food supply and economic well-being. We are confident the mitigation measures proposed by the provincial government will minimize the impact as much as possible.

NOISE—The nature of the landscape where the SFPR lends itself well to measures like noise reduction measures. Because these concerns are generally very localized, we recommend that affected citizens be given the opportunity during the design process to present their concerns and make constructive suggestions.

AIR QUALITY—We believe that air quality is improved when vehicles are able to move, instead of idle in congestion. Congestion costs the provincial economy hundreds of millions of dollars very year, but its effect on the environment is far worse than that. By having trucks moving, not idling, Get Moving BC believes we will offset the pollution that may come from improved port capacity. Furthermore, Get Moving BC believes in *thinking globally and acting locally*. By improving the efficiency of our road network, we can entice more Asian shipping companies to unload in British Columbia, not in the United States. This reduces the travel time for these heavy-polluting sea

vessels by as much as two days, greatly benefiting air quality. Furthermore, vehicles are becoming far more fuel efficient every year, and various electric car models are under development.

SOCIO-COMMUNITY—The SFPR is not some new idea; it was contemplated in the Livable Region Strategic Plan, which expected it to be built in 2006. While a handful of residents will be impacted more than others, there is a far greater public good being accomplished. Most importantly to GMBC, reduced travel times gets parents home faster. This means more quality time with their spouses and families, in the community where they live. Having parents spend more time with their children is a good thing. Studies shows that close families have less crime issues, live a healthier lifestyle, receive better grades, and are a positive contribution to their neighbourhoods.

The South Fraser Perimeter Road is vital to the economic health of British Columbia. We believe the measures proposed by the provincial government to minimize its impact are suitable.

Respectfully,

Jordan Bateman
Spokesperson
Get Moving BC

cc: Directors, Get Moving BC