

Gabriola Transportation Association

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TO: Chamber of Commerce, Mall Landlords and Tenants (including Village Foods, Pharmacy, and Credit Union), Post Office, Elementary School, Commons, Rollo Centre and GaLTT.

CC: Islands Trust, Regional District of Nanaimo, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, local RCMP, Fire Dept.

SUBJECT: Making Village Area More Pedestrian-friendly

The purposes of the Gabriola Transportation Association are: (a) to co-ordinate local and inter-regional transportation by land, sea and air on behalf of the residents of Gabriola; (b) to assist all Gabriola residents in dealing with governments and governmental agencies in respect of transportation issues, and related infrastructure including roads; and (c) to develop and promote transportation alternatives which reduce costs and environmental impacts. GTA is registered under the Society Act of B.C.

The Ad Hoc Gabriola Transportation Committee has proposed a Bicycle Route Plan to the Islands Trust. Attached is a portion of their report of that deals with the Village Area. The group recognized that there is a bigger issue involved there than just bikes lanes: there is a need to make the Village Area more pedestrian-friendly to all non-motorized transportation, including walking. The current Village could be described primarily as an auto-oriented row of strip malls.

There are many things that other communities have undertaken to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment, one where Islanders would be encouraged to park their car (if indeed a car is necessary) and then walk to the various shops between the Farmers' Market and Tin Can Alley.

Bike lanes, walkways, designated crosswalks and traffic calming measures are some of the things that could be considered. Lowering of the speed limit in the Village Area is another possibility.

GTA invites you to get involved in this effort. A general meeting will be called in early fall to get the ball rolling. In the meantime, please consider our current situation and



Jim Ramsay President, Gabriola Transportation Association

Attach.