

October 11, 2024

File: 0220-20

British Columbia Active Transportation
Infrastructure Grants Program
PO Box 9850, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V9W 9T5

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: PHASE 2 OF THE SCHOONER WAY TRAIL – PENDER ISLAND

This is to provide my unreserved support for the Schooner Way Trail, a project meeting critical needs for a community encompassing a third of the Electoral Area I represent and a project which will become the backbone of the island's active transportation corridor. While the project will be of benefit to all, one primary user group will be school children, and will transform their commute from a car-based drop off and pickup necessitated by narrow rural roads to a walkable outdoor experience. A similar transformation will take place over its length for walkers and the ever-increasing cyclists on the island.

My support for this project is more than just a letter of encouragement but a commitment for over a year's allocation of Community Works Funds for the Electoral Area. Our islands aspire to be leaders in climate resilience but face the challenges of low population density and a legacy agreement which dictated narrow rural roads as part of our land use framework. The Schooner Way Trail leverages the highest density neighbourhood with significant community amenities connecting Pender's school, health centre, businesses, and housing complex.

The other element which makes this project particularly worthy is the groundswell of support from the community, which has raised over \$100,000 towards its construction and who continue their fund-raising efforts. This is a community vested in its well-being, who recognize the benefits that active transportation delivers across the economic, health, societal and environmental spectrum, and a community worthy of receiving assistance in developing this project.

Best regards,



Paul Brent
Capital Regional District
Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area Director