

JAN 20 2009

Her Worship
Mayor Lois Jackson
The Corporation of Delta
4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent
Delta BC V4K 3E2

Reference: 169728

Dear Mayor Jackson:

Re: Gateway Program

TYPE: CORK RESPONSE
DEPT: CP&D
FILE: 5220-25/SFPR
COMMENT: cc Eng

My colleague, the Honourable Barry Penner, has asked me to respond on his behalf to your letter of July 24, 2008, regarding my ministry's South Fraser Perimeter Road Heritage Assessment Report. I understand the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office has also responded directly to Councillor Huntington, the author of the letter you attached from the Delta Heritage Advisory Committee (DHAC).

Gateway Program staff have been working with DHAC and local heritage consultants for over a year to develop the South Fraser Perimeter Road Heritage Assessment (Final Draft, June 2008).

The SFPR is committed to these recommendations:

- precondition surveys of heritage properties prior to start of road construction;
- landscaping and noise mitigation measures (the exact type and extent to be confirmed following additional design work); and
- development of a commemorative plaque.

You can be sure that any other concerns, including the ones you raise, will be considered alongside other recommendations as part of the ongoing public consultation process.

In terms of financial assistance, suggested by DHAC, it is my understanding that all recommended financial assistance is documented in the heritage assessment report for my ministry's consideration. In addition, the South Fraser Perimeter Road (SFPR) project has already committed significant funding to Delta Museum and Archive's request to cost share in the development of the "River of Memories" display. This request arose through the heritage working group process, and we were pleased to participate.

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I am confident the combined efforts of my ministry's project team, the Delta Heritage Advisory Committee and our respective heritage consultants will lead to plans which will add to the significant benefits that the SFPR project will provide Delta.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Falcon', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kevin Falcon
Minister

Copy to: Honourable Barry Penner
Minister of Environment

Honourable Ida Chong
Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

Delta Heritage Advisory Committee

Geoff Freer
Executive Director, Gateway Program



THE CORPORATION OF DELTA

From the office of:

The Mayor,
Lois E. Jackson

July 24, 2008

The Honourable Barry Penner
Minister of Environment
PO Box 9047, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

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Dear Minister:

Re: South Fraser Perimeter Road Heritage Assessment Report

As you are aware, Heritage preservation in Delta is an extremely important issue to our community; the proposed orientation of the new South Fraser Perimeter Road will greatly impact many of our heritage features. We have recently been forwarded an updated copy of the South Fraser Perimeter Road Heritage Assessment (Draft) report and have grave concerns regarding its content. We have enclosed the report to this letter for your reference.

Delta's Heritage Advisory Commission (HAC) was extremely disappointed to learn that Gateway had no intention of submitting this report to either the Environmental Assessment Office or to the Responsible Authorities. Rather, the document is intended to be used for consideration of the impacts caused during design and construction of the highway. Further, the document continues to contain errors and omissions that have considerable impact to Delta.

Our main concerns are as follows:

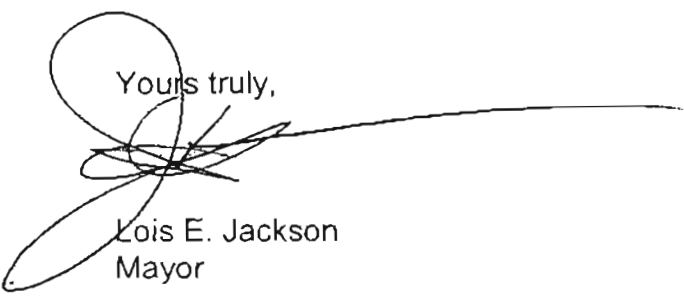
- Heritage impacts continue to be minimized, the report notes only two properties identified as "high impact." The individual property assessments do not recognize the impact to the Heritage context of the area.
- The report uses only the Heritage Register to define impacted properties, in spite of numerous comments that, unlike most municipalities, Delta requires permission from owners in order to add homes to the Register. All Heritage sites within Delta's Official Inventory have been recognized by Council as historically significant. The report, however, actually states that they have not been recognized by Council.

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- Gateway refuses to recognize the cultural connection between Annieville/Sunbury and Gunderson Slough, in spite of continued insistence by our HAC and well-respected heritage consultant, Donald Luxton. Gunderson Slough has been treated as a stand alone cultural landscape, in an obvious effort to separate its historic nature from the remainder of North Delta. The HAC is concerned that this further enables the potential infill of the Slough and gives Gateway carte blanche to ignore its historic context.
- Access to Gunderson Slough from North Delta continues to be denied, separating the legitimate owners from their historic pattern of use. The report does not contain the photographs provided by HAC, nor does it recognize the existing foot trails and stairways that extend from the fisherman's homes directly to the boat moorages on the Slough. These paths are irrefutable illustrations of a single historic and existing cultural landscape.
- The report mentions potential signage as mitigation, but mentions no land acquisition for signage and parking.
- There is no discussion of the historic, documented Rights of Ways that some members of the fishing community have over the BNR railway tracks.
- The report does not respond to repeated requests that financial assistance be provided to the Delta Museum and Archives in order that the Archivist can collect and preserve the oral histories and artifacts.

On behalf of Council and Delta's Heritage Advisory Commission, I respectfully request that these issues be incorporated into and addressed in the South Fraser Perimeter Road Heritage Assessment report. We appreciate your time and consideration on this matter and look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



Lois E. Jackson
Mayor

Enclosure

cc: Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development
Gateway Program
Delta Council
Delta Heritage Advisory Committee
George V. Harvie, Chief Administrative Officer
Kip Gaudry, Director of Planning and Community Development