

Guy Gentner, MLA

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**Province of
British Columbia**
Legislative Assembly



Guy Gentner, MLA
(Delta North)

March 2, 2007

By Fax: 1.250.387.0087

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
Room 156, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Premier,

Subject: South Fraser Perimeter Road

I write to you today regarding my grave concern about the Gateway project and specifically the South Fraser Perimeter Road (SFPR). As the elected Provincial representative for Delta North I am compelled to implore you to reconsider your government's plan that will see a four (4) lane freeway carve up our community with devastating impacts on the environment, families and neighbourhoods. Nowhere will this project have such negative consequences as in North Delta.

The reality is this freeway will be yet another congested mess, crowded with large diesel trucks and commuter traffic. We all know that building blacktop is hardly a green endeavour – this is true of all highway projects. In fact, it is the exact opposite. Clearly the planned route will damage Burns Bog, will further endanger the mighty Fraser River and will result in even more greenhouse gases and other pollutants being spewed into our atmosphere and the very air we breathe.

The current route as designed will decimate the Sunbury & Annieville communities, expropriating over 75 homes and properties, evicting long term families, demolishing heritage homes and destroying valuable aboriginal archaeological sites. The community will be disfigured forever.

There are alternatives that will fundamentally mitigate the negative impact and adverse effects on our community. There already exists a long term plan to connect Highway 1 to Highway 99 with a proposed four-line connector expressway; as I understand from your Gateway officials this highway project is inevitable. In addition, you could make the SFPR a two (2) lane truck only route, construct Delta Municipal Council's snow shed design to shield the community from the noise pollution, perhaps a tunnel or realign the highway to protect Burns Bog. There is no shortage of better solutions to meet the challenges we face in this community or across the GVRD. We need a sustainable approach to our transportation needs that explores all options including substantive rapid-transit infrastructure south of the Fraser River.

Notwithstanding that MLA Roddick placed a petition before the legislature recently purporting to represent over 2000 concerned Delta residents regarding this very subject, her position is clear and contradictory. To quote the member for Delta South from Hansard on Tuesday, February 27th, ***“We need to start phase 1 [SFPR] now – immediately. Delta South is being throttled by traffic. Let’s get busy here and have phase 1 up and running by 2010. It can be done. It must be done.”***

Please know I profoundly disagree with MLA Roddick as do the clear majority of her constituents.

Mr. Premier I urge you to put the people first and rethink your government’s plan given the severe impact on this community and our environment.

Respectfully,



Guy Gentner
MLA Delta North
CC:

- Honourable Carol James, Leader of the Opposition
- David Chudnovsky, MLA for Vancouver Kingsway & Transportation Critic
- Honourable Kevin Falcon, Minister of Highways
- Val Roddick, MLA for Delta South
- Don Hunt, Sunbury Neighbourhood Association