

Subject: GVRD VOTE ON TRANSLINK PLANS

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To: Mayor Lisa Barrett <lbarrett@bimbc.ca>

CC: Andrew McCredie <newsroom@northshoreoutlook.com>, Jane Seyd <editor@nsnews.com>, Federation of North Vancouver Community Associations <fonvca@fonvca.org>

1 March 2004

Mayor Lisa Barrett
BOWEN ISLAND, B.C.

RE: GVRD VOTE ON TRANSLINK PLANS

Dear Mayor Barrett:

I understand from a colleague that you attended last Friday's GVRD meeting and discussion on TransLink's 3-year Plan/10-year Outlook. This, despite the fact that you are not on the GVRD Board. Why is that by the way? For the most part, other municipalities have their mayors as GVRD directors, do they not?

Do you happen to have an 'emailable' record of "who voted which way?" If so, it would be much appreciated if you could forward a copy to us. I do have a request in to TransLink for the information but, judging by the length of time they have taken to reply in the past, I am not holding my breath for an immediate response.

My reason in sending this request to you is that I understand Bowen Island's Clr. Boyd voted in favour of the TransLink proposals. If this is true, I find it particularly disturbing in view of the manner in which TransLink tried - and partially succeeded - to withhold financial information of a material nature from GVRD directors.

At our recent Council of Councils meeting, held in North Vancouver City, it was my distinct impression that his colleague, Clr. Lisa ??? made a very strong case as to why Bowen Island should not support the plan.

I also have been told that Chair Marvin Hunt directed attending delegates to 'vote the Region' and not to vote according to the preference of their own councils. That, to begin with, is appalling. During local election campaigns, GVRD and TransLink issues are rarely raised for discussion at All-Candidate meetings.

Members of councils are elected solely on the basis of whether or not they can do the job around the council table. Many Mayors are elected to full-time positions. It is not acceptable that, once elected, they then feel free to doff their council hat and vote to the benefit of some other geographic/demographic entity over the interests of their own community.

If Clr. Hunt's opinion is shared by many other GVRD directors, it is no wonder people believe GVRD/TransLink bodies to be 'unelected by and unaccountable to' the people who pay the bills.

It is my opinion that, when TransLink or GVRD directors make such multi-million dollar decisions, they are reaching a pseudo-legal agreement on behalf of the citizens who elected them. How can one do that in the absence of full disclosure of the financials?

In the event Clr. Boyd *did* vote in favour of the plan, despite an obvious lack of crucial financial information upon which to base his decision, then it would be much appreciated if you would convey to him our opinion that he has been irresponsible in the extreme.

In fact, we believe him to have contravened Bill 31, Section 2 of the Local Government Act - carried forward to form part of the new Community Charter - which requires locally-elected politicians to provide *Stewardship of Public Assets* and to *foster the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of their community[ies]*.

We intend to write in similar vein to Mayor Larry Campbell and to all other municipal representatives who voted in favour of the Plans.

In closing, how can Mayor Campbell suggest with a straight face that, if the RAV project goes over-budget, Vancouver will declare the project "dead?" Just when would he plan to do that? After \$456 million or thereabouts has already been handed over to Bombardier?

Thank you for your consideration of the points raised - please pardon the degree of frustration expressed.

Yours truly,

Liz James, Chair
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