

Subject: Light-rail proponents not afraid of the truth

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

Date: Thu, 7 Dec 2006 02:39:44 +0000 (GMT)

To: Mayor Walton and Council <council@dnv.org>, Mayor & Council <council@westvan.org>, Mayor & Council <council@cnv.org>, "James Ridge, CAO" <james_ridge@dnv.org>

CC: Mayor and Council <clerks@corp.delta.bc.ca>, corrie@kost.ca, Brian Platts-FONVCA <bplatts@shaw.ca>, Carolanne Reynolds <editorwvm@westvan.org>

6 December 2006

The first of the following two references demonstrates that a rapid-transit system, in and of itself, is not the complete answer. In brief, it must be the right technology, it must be efficiently integrated with the remainder of the public transit system and, in the final analysis, it must be allowed to take priority over the convenience of the private vehicle.

By contrast - as mentioned in the UK Auditor-General's report, and as shown in the second reference - the French appear to have 'done it right'. The third piece of material, is that referred to in my earlier email, but which appears not to have attached. It is now included below.

1. <http://www.nao.org.uk/pn/03-04/0304518.htm>
2. <http://www.railway-technology.com/projects/grenoble>

Dear Liz,

Thank you for all the bracing news from BC.

I wonder how long your interesting weather will take to reach us. Here in Heidelberg, it has been the warmest, sunniest November on record. The trees have only last week lost their leaves. We look out on a long low hill covered with deciduous timber. It's been lovely.

Heidelberg is a great city to be in for the five months. Trams every ten minutes to the city centre, and 10 minutes to get there. We have a monthly pass, and hop and off like old regulars (not old-timers!)

Parts of the city are ancient with a historic castle set up on the ridge of hills. The church is not a huge congregation, but mainly young families. Christmas Market fills the squares just now, with sausage stalls and Gluewein. This morning, we have been to the Marriot Hotel to our fitness centre, where I have been doing weight-training and running. Eileen swam. Tomorrow is Christmas shopping.

**God bless and love to everyone,
Bruce**

NB: Crime rarely happens when you 'hop on and off'. It happens in stations and in the dark gathering places under guideways....

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