

We need independent transportation authority

Re: “Transportation letter much ado about nothing,” letter, Oct. 24.

If anyone has followed the desperate gasps of the politically fractured Capital Regional District transportation committee, they will know that we have one serious roadblock. Let’s look at this in two ways.

First, there’s a simple solution to transportation planning so that we throw out the fix-this-first and go-it-alone approach that benefits some but not all of our communities:

1. Prioritize the community transportation network.
2. Draft a public-transit system plan so that Vancouver Island and not just the CRD communities are linked by an excellent public-transit network.
3. Engage the community from the beginning and ask car drivers what public-transit mode they would use — to get them out of their cars.
4. Do a cost analysis.

Second, this is symptomatic of a bigger problem — CRD governance. As we all know, the CRD is a juggernaut created more than 50 years ago. Times have changed.

Creating solutions within the existing structure will inevitably continue the failure of political leadership to focus on the region as a whole. We obviously need an independent transportation authority.

Without reforming the CRD and moving to an accountable, directly elected Metro Victoria model, the transportation and strategic planning for our region will never be successfully addressed, and the mess will continue.

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