

Subject: FW:**Date:** Fri, 5 Dec 2003 18:18:49 -0800**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Ernie Crist
> Sent: December 2, 2003 11:21 AM
> To: 'adangelo@nsnews.com'
> Subject:

> Dear Editor:

> North Van residents will pay hundreds of millions of dollars for a regional transportation plan but they will receive little in return. The North Shore will contribute between \$ 200 and \$ 300 million over the next ten years. In return we will get an additional Sea Bus worth \$ 10 million, an \$ 8 million bridge across the Seymour and a few buses. Other than that there is little in the close to \$ 4 billion dollar scheme.

> What is worse, District residents have been effectively shut out from having any say. While there has been an endless stream of Translink and GVRD representatives coming over the bridge selling snake oil, there was never an opportunity for our residents to spell out our demands. Translink Chair McCallum himself came to tell us what Translink will do while we were politely listening but Mayor Sharp, who is supposed to represent us on Translink, provided no opportunity for us to spell out what it is we want out of this costly deal and neither did Mayor Bell who is the GVRD Vice Chair. All my efforts to that effect were nixed. At the public meetings, people were allowed to ask questions and even politely vent their anger but that was it. As far as Translink and the GVRD are concerned democracy was served.

> A motion on my part to set minimum demands in return for District support of the plan was mercilessly manipulated. That has become a habit on District Council. I even called for a joint meeting between the three North Shore Councils to discuss a joint policy. That too fell victim to manipulation. Even the recommendations of our own District Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee were ignored. My motion, and that of the Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee who had worked hard to produce a report containing more than just clichés and platitudes, was delayed until the time frame to speak up expired. The result is that both Mayor Sharp on Translink and Mayor Bell he of the GVRD can now vote without any direction from District residents.

> My motion called on Mayor Sharp to demand an additional Sea Bus crossing by no later than 2008. It called on Mayor Bell, who serves as GVRD Vice Chair, to do likewise. But despite the urgency imposed by the Dec 10 Translink deadline, the motion was delayed and delayed again. The result is that both Mayor Sharp at Translink and Mayor Bell at the GVRD will be free to vote in favor of a transportation plan which, makes not even a mention of future North Shore traffic corridors so crucial for community planning. There is, in fact, no long term transportation plan for the North Shore.

> The only conclusion I can draw is that the scenario was orchestrated to do Translink's and the GVRD's bidding - make the North Shore pay but give little in return. Both Mayor Sharp and Mayor Bell, as a result, will certainly continue to enjoy popularity with the Translink and GVRD establishments but it will do little for people including seniors and young people many of whom depend on public transportation and the North Shore homeowners who will pay through the nose.

> God help us if ever one of the two bridges fails.

> Ernie Crist, Councillor,

> District of North Vancouver.

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