

Excerpt

Ground Transportation Strategy

Victoria Airport Authority

Pat Bay Highway

Road links between the Airport and Victoria city centre have not kept pace with Airport improvements. Traffic leaving the Airport passes smoothly through the new roundabout at East Saanich Road and along Canora Road, until it reaches the stop sign at McTavish Road. This is an increasingly congested and dangerous intersection. Driving to the Airport from Victoria city centre is equally problematic. During peak hours, airport bound traffic backs up in the left turn lane on Pat Bay Highway at the McTavish Road intersection. This line of slow moving or stopped vehicles often extends into the left passing lane, which is already clogged with fast moving vehicles heading north to the Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal. The VAA continues to work with the Province to advance the priority for a new interchange at this location, and has resolved to offer \$3 million as its portion of the estimated \$13 million project.

The Pat Bay Highway not only serves communities on the Saanich Peninsula, but it is the area's main route to the Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal and the Airport, making it Vancouver Island's major ground connector to the mainland.

One day conventional passenger vehicles and buses will be unable to meet the increasing demands for environmental friendly transportation to the Airport. Recognizing this, VAA has reserved a future right-of-way on Airport property to accommodate light rail. At present, this right-of-way is just a line on paper, but it is a line that will help secure our future.

