

From: [Gates, Brittany](#) [TRAN:EX](#)
To: [Courtneall, Andrea](#) [TRAN:EX](#)
Cc: [Pilkington, Kim](#) [TRAN:EX](#); [Plamondon, Lea](#) [TRAN:EX](#); [Kubisheski, Carlee](#) [TRAN:EX](#); [Gedney, Vanessa R](#) [TRAN:EX](#); [Neate, Sara](#) [TRAN:EX](#); [Hitchman, Laurel](#) [TRAN:EX](#)
Subject: FOR ACTION: 302876/8634 | MRF MEETING | MLA Simons follow-up | Date: End of May (TBC)
Date: April 29, 2021 11:26:00 AM
Attachments: [FW Follow-up meeting with MLA Simons.msg](#)

Good morning, please prepare materials for the following MRF meeting:

CLIFF/eApp #	302876 8634
Meeting W/:	MLA Simons
Topic/Purpose:	Follow-up meeting Re: Transit connections on the Sunshine Coast
Participants:	Kaye Krishna, Deborah Bowman *TBC - Erinn Pinkerton (BCT)
Date:	TBC (End of May)
Time:	TBC
Materials:	MBN
Due to FADM:	May 19
Due to DMO:	May 21

NOTE:

- Material is required to the DMO **4 business days** before a MRF briefing/meeting
- Material is required to the DMO **2 business days** before a DM briefing/meeting
 - If material timelines are not met you risk the briefing being cancelled and/or being rescheduled
- Please send **all** requests to Carlee, Lea, Vanessa and Brittany

Thank you,
Brittany Gates
Documents Coordinator
Office of the Deputy Minister
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
250-387-3198 | 778-974-5471
Brittany.Gates@gov.bc.ca

From: [Kubisheski, Carlee TRAN:EX](#)
To: [Grant, Lisa TRAN:EX](#)
Cc: [Gates, Brittany TRAN:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Follow-up meeting with MLA Simons
Date: April 26, 2021 4:37:02 PM
Attachments: [210421 - Ltr to Minister Fleming Re SC Transportation Issues.pdf](#)

Hi Lisa,

Did you have a day/time in mind?

Thank you,

Carlee Kubisheski | Senior Executive Assistant
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

From: Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX <Lea.Plamondon@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 26, 2021 4:34 PM
To: Krishna, Kaye TRAN:EX <Kaye.Krishna@gov.bc.ca>; Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX <Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Kubisheski, Carlee TRAN:EX <Carlee.Kubisheski@gov.bc.ca>; Gedney, Vanessa R TRAN:EX <Vanessa.Gedney@gov.bc.ca>; Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX <Kim.Pilkington@gov.bc.ca>; Courtnall, Andrea TRAN:EX <Andrea.Courtnall@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Follow-up meeting with MLA Simons

Hi Kaye and Deborah – fyi

Carlee – can you please work with the MO to set up the meeting.

Thank you
Lea

From: Champion, Ella D TRAN:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 26, 2021 4:25 PM
To: Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX <Lea.Plamondon@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Grant, Lisa TRAN:EX <Lisa.Grant@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Follow-up meeting with MLA Simons

Hi Lea,

We received the attached from MLA Simons in follow-up from our last meeting with him about transit connections on the Sunshine Coast. MRF would like to treat this as a request for a follow-up meeting, and requested that Kaye and Deb Bowman be looped in. He thought maybe we could include Erin Pinkerton on the meeting given the subject. Let me know if there's any other info you need—we don't have a specific timeframe for scheduling, but I plan to let MLA Simons' office know we'll be in touch about scheduling.

Best,
Ella

Ella Champion (she/her)
Executive Assistant
Office of the Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

April 21, 2021

Hon. Rob Fleming
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Room 124, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister,

Re: Transportation on the Sunshine Coast

Thanks for meeting with me about the ongoing bus transportation issues on the Sunshine Coast, and please pass along my appreciation to your staff. I was pleased to hear that a local bus transportation service received provincial funding. This will go a long way to help many British Columbians overcome transportation challenges in their communities.

The lack of public interurban bus transportation between Vancouver and Sechelt, and between Vancouver and Powell River, continues to compel me to try to find a solution. There are parts of the constituency that are very well-served by BC Transit where it is operated primarily to serve the area with urban characteristics. On regular days this means the Gibsons-Sechelt routes and the routes within the City of Powell River are served adequately; however, a void exists between Sechelt and Earls Cove, the terminus of the ferry to the Upper Sunshine Coast, and Saltery Bay, where the ferry lands, to the City of Powell River.

There has been regular inter-urban bus transportation since the road was poked through in 1962, but because of the loss of freight traffic and the unpredictability of both the ferries schedule and availability, service has dwindled like a decrescendo for the past seven years. It has left people here with precarious transportation options.

- A resident had to hitchhike – she had no other option to get to Vancouver. She stated that it was an uncomfortable experience that she never wants to do again.
- After being airlifted to Vancouver for emergency surgery and spending a few days in recovery, a man was discharged with no way home.
- One young man who wanted to attend Simon Fraser University realized he would not be able to return home regularly, so he chose not to leave.
- A couple told me they would give up their car if there was bus service to Vancouver.
- A woman arrived at Earls Cove only to find there was no bus service – a taxi cost her over \$200.
- There are numerous stories about families who are unable to connect, of childcare arrangements becoming impossible, and of feelings of isolation.

I would like to talk to you about options that might exist to undertake a comprehensive needs assessment/feasibility study that could help inform the private sector and local government about what options might exist for a regular, predictable and reliable mode of transportation between the Lower and Upper mainlands. Perhaps we could see an arrangement similar to those made to ensure BC Bus North continued to operate – there may be a few options.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Simons'.

Nicholas Simons, MLA
Powell River-Sunshine Coast

From: [Gates, Brittany](#) TRAN:EX
To: [Grant, Lisa](#) TRAN:EX; [Privett, Kaleigh](#) TRAN:EX
Cc: [Casselman, Laura](#) TRAN:EX; [Champion, Ella D](#) TRAN:EX; [Harrison, Veronica](#) TRAN:EX; [Plamondon, Lea](#) TRAN:EX; [Kubisheski, Carlee](#) TRAN:EX; [Gedney, Vanessa R](#) TRAN:EX; [Courtall, Andrea](#) TRAN:EX; [Pilkington, Kim](#) TRAN:EX
Subject: MRF MEETING | MLA Simons Follow-Up - Transit Connections - Sunshine Coast | May 25
Date: May 19, 2021 4:17:00 PM
Attachments: [2021-05-19_302876_MRF.MBN_Sunshine.Coast.Transportation.Connections.pdf](#)

Good afternoon, the attached materials have been uploaded to the MRF [WebDAV](#) for the following:

BRIEFING:	Sunshine Coast Transportation Connections
MATERIALS:	302876 - Meeting Briefing Note
DATE:	May 25
TIME:	1:00 – 1:30
LOCATION:	MS Teams
STAFF PARTICIPANTS:	Kaye Krishna, Deborah Bowman

Thank you,

Brittany Gates
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[MS Teams](#)



MEETING BRIEFING NOTE

DATE: May 18, 2021
PREPARED FOR: Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
ISSUE: Sunshine Coast Transportation Connections
MEETING: Nicholas Simons, MLA for Powell River-Sunshine Coast on May 25, 2021

PROPOSED KEY MESSAGES:

1. *Bus Service*

- I recognize the importance of reliable bus service connections between the upper and lower parts of the Sunshine Coast and with Metro Vancouver for residents' essential travel and tourism.
- Government is providing an operating grant to Sunshine Coast Connector, a private intercity bus operator, to support continued service between Powell River and Langdale ferry. The company and BC Transit will be coordinating service schedules to facilitate travel between Powell River and Langdale.
- BC Transit is working with Sunshine Coast local governments, the Tla'amin Nation and other stakeholders to identify their priorities for regional transit service improvements.

2. *BC Ferries Service – Langdale - Horseshoe Bay*

- BC Ferries has been engaging the Ferry Advisory Committee, local and regional governments, and the community to look at what options would be available in the short-term to address ferry users' concerns.
s.13; s.16
- BC Ferries operates independent of government and provides services under a service contract between the Province and the company. The contract sets out the minimum levels of service that must be provided on each route and BC Ferries is responsible for its operations including replacing aging assets and investing in new vessels.
- While we encourage BC Ferries to continue to work with the community to explore short-term solutions, the ministry is committed to working with BC Ferries to discuss longer-term improvements for the sunshine coast. This will include discussions about any plans for investments in its fleet of vessels to ensure communities are receiving the services they need.

PAST INTERACTIONS:

- Minister Fleming met with MLA Simons on March 5 to discuss Powell River-Vancouver bus service, and the impact on ferry service of the potential sale of the New Brighton Dock on Gambier Island. At the meeting Minister Simons indicated that there were new developments that may address the Gambier Island issue, so that item was not discussed.



BACKGROUND:

1. Bus Service

The Sunshine Coast Connector, a private intercity bus service, operates 3-days per week service between Powell River and Langdale ferry terminal. In spring 2019, the Passenger Transportation Board approved the company's application to suspend service between October and April due to low ridership.

In March, government announced a \$29,484 grant to Sunshine Coast Connector to help it continue service, which will restart on May 28. Although the Passenger Transportation Board granted permission for seasonal service, as a condition of the provincial grant Sunshine Coast Connector will operate year-round for the next year. One-way fare between Powell River and Langdale is \$60. Starting in late June, Sunshine Coast Connector plans to increase service from 3 to 5 days a week.

2. BC Ferries Service – Langdale - Horseshoe Bay

Recent media attention on a trial BC Ferries was planning to introduce this summer on the Langdale – Horseshoe Bay route is raising the level of public dialogue on ferry services in the sunshine coast. MLA Simons has indicated he would like to discuss how to answer constituents that say 'well BC Ferries' biggest shareholder is the provincial government.' We are also wondering where things are with a second ferry for that route. The speaking bullets above may be useful for MLA Simons when speaking to constituents.

DISCUSSION:

1. Bus Service

Sunshine Coast Connector provides the only through bus service between Powell River and Langdale ferry terminal. There is no existing BC Transit service on the 38-kilometre section of Highway 101 between Earl's Cove ferry terminal and Halfmoon Bay. In June, BC Transit, in partnership with qathet Regional District will introduce permanent scheduled trips between Powell River and Saltery Bay ferry terminal. Sunshine Coast Connector and BC Transit will coordinate their schedules so passengers can transfer between the two services at Earl's Cove.

BC Transit is working with the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) and other stakeholders, including the Tla'amin First Nation, to update the Sunshine Coast Transit Future Plan which will identify local governments' priorities for transit improvements including regional connections. In November 2021, BC Transit will start working with local governments to develop an updated future service plan for the Powell River Transit System.

2. BC Ferries Service – Langdale - Horseshoe Bay

The sunshine coast community has long been advocating for the route to be served by two vessels year-round. The route is currently served by two vessels during the peak summer period and sometimes during the shoulder season, but otherwise is a single vessel service.

s.13; s.16

