

LRT has worked here, and can again

BY ARNE LISETH, TIMES COLONIST SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

I keep reading letters claiming that LRT won't work in Greater Victoria because of lack of population and density. From the 1890s until the late 1940s, the LRT of the day, interurbans and streetcars, worked very well in the area. Only the lack of development and modernization caused by a massive depression and the Second World War, and the blindness of a car-happy world of the post-war era, sealed the old LRT's fate.

Smarter cities in Europe and North America did not attempt to re-invent the wheel, and are much further ahead today.

The main lesson to learn from failed LRTs is not to go for the mega-expensive version, but to develop gradually. Use the E&N to Langford with new rails, ties, and rolling stock. Though its route may not be optimal, it is there, and can provide a new beginning.

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