

## **Appendix A**

*to Open Letter to the City of Victoria dated June 29, 2010*

### **Background Information**

#### **The Case for Rail**

- Travel by car creates greenhouse gas which is harmful to our environment .
- Using cars to commute creates congestion and more pollution.
- Currently, there is only limited service for commuters by bus from the Westshore.
- Modern rail produces less pollution than standard buses.
- Electric rail produces no pollution if its power is from a green source.
- Rail is smoother, quieter, faster and safer than buses.
- People prefer traveling by rail.
- Only rail operates in all Island weather conditions.
- Rail runs on a dedicated rail bed. There is no congestion.
- A two-car commuter train can seat 150 people. More than on 3 1/2 buses.
- Rail cars can travel to downtown Victoria in 22 minutes. Faster than a bus-way.
- Rail provides the only dedicated commuter service to CFB Esquimalt.
- Commuter rail travel is direct to downtown. Only two brief stops from Langford.
- Rail can provide fast connections to downtown transit and other connections.
- Best connection for commuter rail and local transit is at a transit station, downtown, where commuter rail meets local transit and makes connections for ferries and planes.
- Commuter rail into Victoria's Downtown is a significant factor in maintaining Victoria's credibility as an important destination.