

AN OPINION ON THE DAVIS BAY ROUTE 101 MODIFICATIONS, AUG 16, 2010

Route 101 Safety Society has consistently advocated for a Highway 201 option up along the powerline from Reed Rd in Gibsons to Sechelt. As simple as ABC. The cost in 2008 dollars of about \$33 million. Thus, the Davis Bay alterations appear to create some significant losses in a user friendly neighborhood with respect to shoreline access and recreational capacity. The resident fish and chip truck, Pier 17, the Mosaic market and allied conveniences do make for an attractive venue. And, many of us park along there to watch the sunsets. A 30 kmh speed limit from Chapman Creek to Bay Rd would solve all main traffic issues. Route 101 is not a HIGHWAY

Where was John Weston MP, where was Premier Campbell, and where was Hon. Kevin Falcon when Route 101 Safety Society circulated its package respecting Route 201 options. (See the map at Concept Plan for a new Sunshine Coast Parkway<<http://101society.org/about.htm>>). . . . Premier Campbell turned us down flatly, as did his minister Kevin Falcon. Our MLA Nicholas Symons has been mute on this issue as was John Weston – he with access to all the necessary dollars. What great stimulus for the Sunshine Coast this would have been. Instead we intend to shave off the waterfront and make a left turn lane at Davis Bay. We received two positive responses: one from BC Ferries (the president) and one from Ed Steeves as chair of the regional district – actually, Ed’s went straight to Kevin Falcon. The Coast Reporter wrote an editorial opinion suggesting we did not need Route 201. Did you know that those log trucks using Route 101 would haul their loads in half the time it takes today if the used Route 201? Just think of the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions alone.

People anticipate that we advocate for a 4 lane highway. We don’t. We foresee a twinned route along the powerline, but with improved alignment (minimal S bends), extended passing lanes, two traffic lights – one at Field Road and another at Roberts Creek Rd – top end –with a 90 kmh speed limit. The alignment will take the top side of Chapman Creek to minimize environmental disturbance.

Unfortunately, the biggest block to a Route 201 comes from the existing jigsaw puzzle making up the 8 communities here on the Sunshine Coast. Until we achieve one regional municipality speaking with one voice, from Langdale to Egmont, instead of 8 fragmented principalities, we will not get Route 201. Or, are there enough of us, Coast-wide, to make a difference today?

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