



October 2, 2023

Re: Letter of Support “Connect the Coast”

The Sunshine Coast Trails Society is an umbrella organization which represents more than 25 membership based clubs and organizations operating on the Sunshine Coast of BC, all of whom have a strong focus on outdoor recreation. Our membership is diverse and includes everything from hiking and cycling clubs, to trail building groups and community associations, to search and rescue, and tourism organizations. Our vision supports the planning, developing and managing of a sustainable trail network which embraces the diversity of trail users and nurtures social, cultural, health, economic and environmental benefits for the lower Sunshine Coast.

We are writing to express our collective support for the Connect the Coast project being advanced by one of our member organizations, Transportation Choices Sunshine Coast Society, and its off-shoot, Connect the Coast Society. We understand that this project envisions the creation of a paved cycling and walking path parallel to Highway 101 which would allow cyclists, pedestrians and others to travel along the corridor safely, and which would encourage residents and visitors to shift their travel to cycling and walking.

Our membership consists primarily of Sunshine Coast residents who are highly motivated to travel by active means, but are limited in their ability to do so by a lack of safe infrastructure. The Sunshine Coast is home to many world-class outdoor recreational activities, and many of our members’ members were motivated to move here and choose to stay here because of the opportunity for endless outdoor adventure. Many visitors also come to the Sunshine Coast specifically to access our outdoor recreational activities, and we believe many more visitors would be drawn here if a safe cycle route were provided along the Coast.

Sunshine Coast Trails Society believes this project supports all aspects of our vision to nurture social, cultural, health, economic and environmental benefits for the lower Sunshine Coast, and we look forward to seeing the proposed path become a reality.

*Julie Davidson,*

Julie Davidson, Chair

Sunshine Coast Trails Society