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Minister says 'no' to relocating ferry routes

The BC Lodging and Campground Association recently met with BC Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon to request 'that the ministry take a serious look at the economics of relocating the Tsawwassen to Duke Point and Horseshoe Bay to Departure Bay ferry routes to one single route between YVR (the Vancouver airport) and the east side of Gabriola Island. The Association claimed that this would save enormous dollars and time for the BC Ferry Corporation and traveller alike.'

The Minister denied the request in correspondence dated February 18, 2006:

'...any development that increases the number of people travelling through Gabriola Island could have a significant impact on the Island's ecology and affect the quality of life

for residents.

I understand those concerns, and I would like assure you that my ministry is not discussing building a new ferry terminal on the Island, although the ministry has examined such a project in the past. In fact, before construction of the Duke Point ferry terminal, we studied the possibility of building a ferry terminal on Gabriola Island with a road and bridge link across Mudge Island. However, there was very little local or regional support for a project of this magnitude, and the social and environmental concerns were significant. Little has changed since that time, and my ministry has no plans to pursue the idea further.' ✍

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