

From: Steven Earle [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 7:54 PM
To: northinfo <northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: TPS discussion at January 22nd LTC

The following statement is *a propos* to the Trust Policy Statement discussion that I believe is on the agenda for the next Gabriola Island LTC meeting on the 22nd. I assume that I do not have to register to speak.

Thank you.

Steven Earle

No bridges, no tunnels

From the very start (1975) the Islands Trust Policy Statement (TPS) has included the words "*It is Trust Council's policy that no island in the Trust Area should be connected to Vancouver Island, the mainland or another island by a bridge or tunnel.*" The words "*notwithstanding the existing bridge between North and South Pender Islands*" were added in 1993.

The Gabriola Transportation Society is concerned that this statement is missing from the First Reading Draft of the TPS. The outstanding natural beauty and rural character of the Trust islands make them unique in the world. To a large degree, those aspects are a result of their isolation from the more urban parts of Vancouver Island and the mainland. Bridges or tunnels to the Trust islands would turn them into suburbs.

We urge Trust Council to include a strong statement about no bridges and no tunnels, as exists in previous iterations of the Trust Policy Statement.

Steven Earle on behalf of Gabriola Transportation Society
January 2026