

DELEGATION REQUEST

Names of persons speaking: Denise Savoie, Colleen Connolly, Jim Smiley

Organization you are representing: FORT-VI- Friends of Rails to Trails- Vanc Isle

Primary purpose of the organization: To encourage the preservation and protection of the E&N Railway as a contiguous multi-use active transportation network

Number of members: 150

Mailing address:

712 Alvord Cres
Comox, BC V9M 3V4

Contact name: Denise Savoie

Subject matter: The E&N Right of Way between Victoria and Courtenay

Specific request of the regional district, if any (i.e. letter of support, funding):

We are asking for your support and co-operation to undertake a high level cost study to convert the E&N corridor to trail. Grants are now available for this kind of project and whether it was undertaken by you or by us, permission would be required from the ICF board to access the corridor for this purpose. Results of this study would clarify a path forward. The continuing decay of this asset benefits no one.

Requested meeting date: March 30th or April 12th

Audio-visual equipment needed: We assume this meeting will occur over zoom; so will require equipment for the projection of some slides.

TRAILS ARE GOOD BUSINESS!

Cycling tourism on rail-trails generates significant revenue. On Quebec's La Route Verte rail-trail system bike tourists spent \$200/day in 2014.



La Route Verte meets the needs of many users

That same year, the Myra Canyon section of BC's Kettle Valley trail welcomed 54,000 visitors. The magical natural beauty of the Vancouver Island Corridor will surely become a major tourist draw.



*Cyclists stop along
Rum Runner Trail in Nova Scotia*

Recent safe distancing practices impacted transportation and travel and continue to have people looking for alternatives. Cycling and Island adventure help fill that gap.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

We know that the cost of new rail service is prohibitive and that multi-use trails can be built for a fraction of the cost.

We know that the public is willing to support the corridor trail.

We know that the popularity of active transportation is growing.

And we know that public demand for safe, alternative routes is increasing.

The trend is clear. Trails are the future!

Support
THE VANCOUVER ISLAND TRAIL



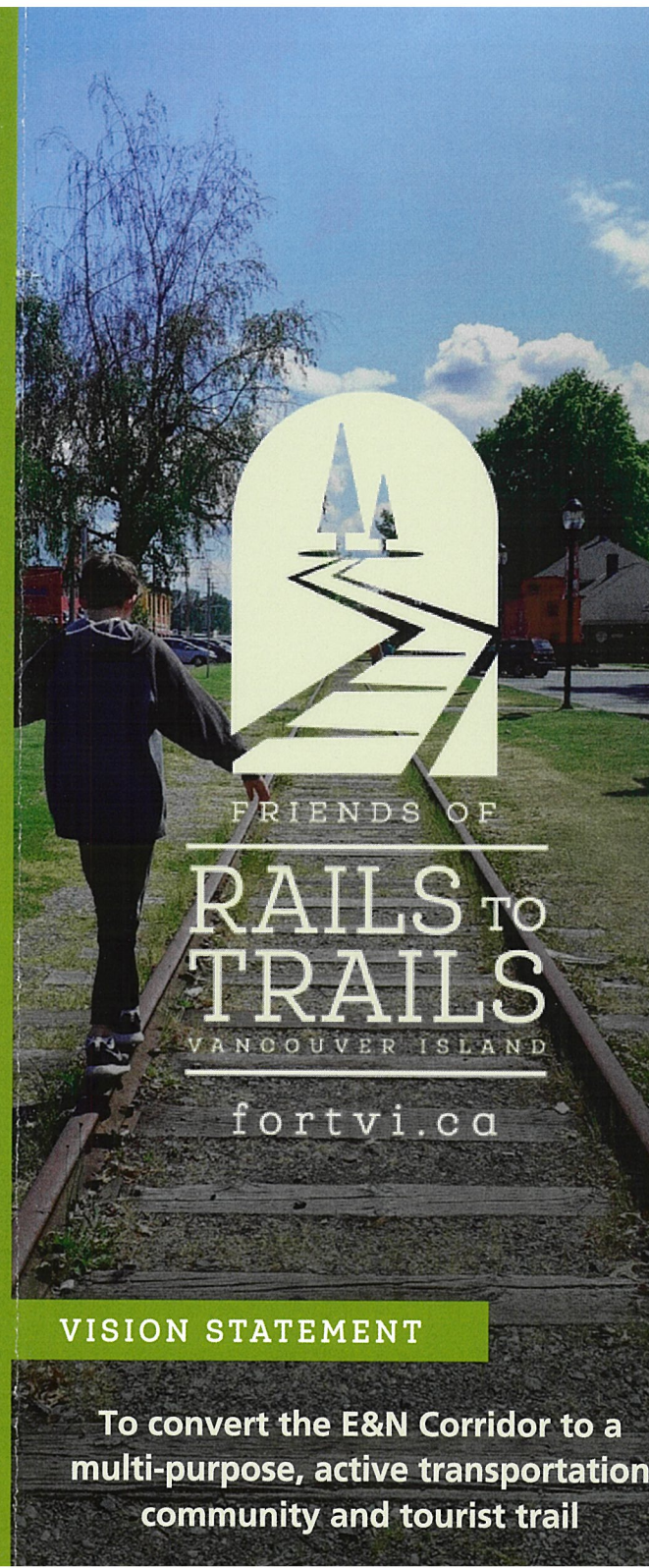
The ride into our electric future will be led by bikes. (Car and Driver, 2019)

FRIENDS OF RAILS TO TRAILS VANCOUVER ISLAND

Website: fortvi.ca

Facebook: [Rails to Trails Vancouver Island](https://www.facebook.com/RailsToTrailsVancouverIsland)

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VISION STATEMENT

To convert the E&N Corridor to a multi-purpose, active transportation community and tourist trail

LEGACY AND OPPORTUNITY

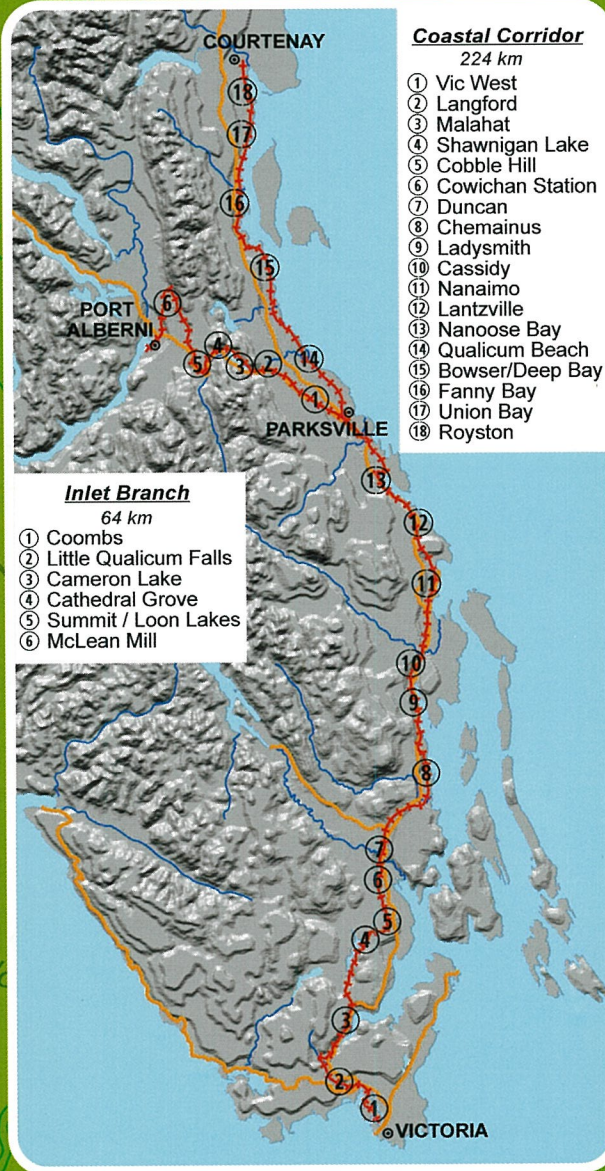
The E&N railway was closed ten years ago. Its legacy is a publicly owned corridor connecting Victoria, Courtenay and Port Alberni - ideal for a trail.



The railway, built to haul coal, was the lifeline for the communities that grew up along the corridor.



These communities are well spaced for cycling, but the roads now connecting them were designed for motorized transport and are both unsafe and inconvenient for active transportation.



VANCOUVER ISLAND CORRIDOR

TRAILS ARE POPULAR

Multi-use, active transportation trails provide a safe, healthy, enjoyable and economical alternative to driving. They promote recreation and allow access to work, schools, services and businesses. They reduce road traffic and save on parking space.



To be successful alternatives to roads, trails need to be in the public domain, convenient and, most importantly, continuous. Former rail corridors are ideal.



Trails built beside the rail-bed cannot be continuous because of bridges, trestles and embankments. They are also environmentally disruptive and cost many times more than removing the rails