

**From:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**To:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**Subject:** FW: SD68 Bus Route 16  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:02:18 AM

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**From:** Gord and April RINGMA <>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:57 AM

**To:** District Administration Centre Manager <DistrictAdministrationCentreManager@sd68.bc.ca>

**Cc:** Charlene Mckay <Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca>; Greg Keller <Greg.Keller@sd68.bc.ca>; Lisa Marie Barron <LisaMarie.Barron@sd68.bc.ca>; Jessica Stanley <Jessica.Stanley@sd68.bc.ca>; Chantel O'Neill <Chantel.Oneill@sd68.bc.ca>; Elaine Wilkinson <Elaine.Wilkinson@sd68.bc.ca>; Tania Brzovic <Tania.Brzovic@sd68.bc.ca>; Stephanie Higginson <Stephanie.Higginson@sd68.bc.ca>; Bill Robinson <Bill.Robinson@sd68.bc.ca>; Pete Sabo <psabo@sd68.bc.ca>; Tim Davie <tdavie@sd68.bc.ca>

**Subject:** SD68 Bus Route 16

**CAUTION:** External Message

Hello,

I am writing you in regards to proposal to eliminate the service of Bus route 16.

I have 2 children that currently ride the bus and as a family with 2 working parents we depend on this service to safely get our children to/from school since the closure of Rutherford school.

I was actively involved in the consolidation process once the decision was made to close Rutherford and am aware the bus was originally provided as a courtesy to a community that had lost so much and had great concerns about the safety and walkability to Frank J Ney. Providing the bus as a concession was greatly appreciated and huge relief for many parents.

My understanding is that even during COVID where ridership has likely dropped, Route 16 still had one of the highest ridership levels so why cancel the bus now? What has been done to address the initial concerns that led to providing a bus?

I've read through the agenda of the upcoming Business Committee meeting and refer to page 16 where reasoning is given for the proposed cancellation of service:

1. Sidewalks/Crosswalks – It's true that there are crosswalks along Hammond Bay. However if you have ever travelled along Hammond Bay in the morning you will know that it is an extremely busy road and with no stop signs and no traffic lights to slow traffic in the section children will be required to walk. It's nearly impossible to make left turn if you are travelling from Rutherford towards FJN which often leads to drivers making hasty decisions upon the smallest openings in traffic (through the forementioned crosswalks). Avoiding Hammond Bay and travelling through the backroads means a longer distance and often no sidewalks.
2. Reasonable walk distance of 2.9km – 2.9km may be the distance from school to school but the actual walking distance is further for many children, my house for example is actually

3.7km. According to google maps this is a 46 minute walk, I would estimate closer to 60 minutes for my children. Living on the West Coast it rains, a lot. I can't imagine a 45-60 minute walk with a full back pack in the rain leaves a child in a state where they are ready to learn upon arriving at school.

3. Street lights – My elementary aged children are not allowed out after dark so honestly having street lights does nothing for me to consider this a safer walk.
4. Regional transit – is regional transit really a viable suggestion for elementary aged children? I certainly would be uncomfortable sending my children unsupervised on a city bus.
5. No highway – It's true Hammond Bay is not a highway but there a reason why locals call it Hamond Bay Highway. I'm sure I don't have to remind anyone there has already been one fatality of an SD68 student on Hammond Bay Road.

I actually find it somewhat upsetting that the district would suggest this a safe and reasonable walk distance or that public transit would be a viable alternative for elementary aged children. I certainly don't consider either option safe for my children. I implore you to consider if it were your child, would you honestly consider either option viable or safe? Surely children's safety is worth the cost of a bus.

I hope that you will reconsider and not cancel the existing bus service.

Sincerely,  
April Ringma

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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