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Fellow Islanders,

I am writing this letter because of an e-mail being circulated concerning the Park & Ride facility being proposed on the Raymond Cape Road. I am certainly not trying to prevent anyone from developing an opinion on this project or anything else for that matter but I want to make sure all opinions are developed based on facts.

I will try to provide a little history but please forgive my dates because most of this information is on the Island so I am going by memory and the older I get the harder it is to keep track of time.

Approximately 10 years ago the Town attempted to purchase the vacant lot on the right hand side of the Cape Road where the house now stands with the white picket fence in the front. It was determined that we could not purchase this property for municipal use because it was part of the Wittemore Cove subdivision and the deed covenants allowed residential construction only. A few years later, the Willis family decided to sell the 25 acres abutting that property which was directly across the Cape Road from the ferry access road. Frye Island put a deposit on the property contingent upon the Town's property owners approval to purchase the property. A public hearing was held to discuss the purchase. The consensus was that the property should be purchased even though there was no specific plan for its use at the time, but the realization was that the limited space at the mainland ferry landing could someday become inadequate. In May of 2005, a special town meeting was held to approve the expenditure required to purchase the "Willis Property". The minutes of that meeting are available on our website.

That same summer we formed what became known as the Transportation Committee. That Committee was charged with reviewing all of the transportation/ traffic issues facing the Island and developing both near term and long term strategies to minimize the impact of the traffic on the Island infrastructure. At the time the Comprehensive Plan was developed in 2002, there were approximately 400 homes on the Island. Ten years later there are approximately 500 homes and by Maine Superior Court decree, we can have as many as 750. The Committee spent many hours trying to determine the existing traffic situation and attempted to identify what the future demographics might look like as the number of homes on the Island grows to 750. The Transportation Committee developed a fairly comprehensive report which was presented at a Selectman / Executive Committee meeting and is posted on our web site. If you want to read the entire report along with additional information about the traffic plans go to the [fryeisland.com](http://fryeisland.com) website under "Find Information" – "Topic Index" – "Transportation Planning Information".

One of the issues that became apparent was the potential for an accident occurring when the vehicle queue for the ferry extends onto the Cape Road. Has there been a serious accident as a result of this occurrence...NO. However, I am told there have been some minor fender benders though I haven't witnessed any myself. Is there a potential for a serious accident...you bet your life there is. Anytime a vehicle is stopped in the travel lane of a busy road the potential for an accident exists. Now, I am not going to accuse anyone of speeding on the Cape Road, but I do know that when there is only a minute or two until the ferry leaves the mainland we have all pushed the limits to get there. Does the queue extend onto the Cape Road often...No. We try to operate both ferries whenever we anticipate a lot of traffic but there is a maximum number of vehicles that we can transport at any one time and there are times, especially during holiday weekends, when there is just more traffic than the ferries can handle. That is when the queue extends onto the Cape Road. There are also other scenarios that could cause an extended Queue, Medical / Fire emergencies, ferry out of service etc.

If you travel around the Island on any weekend, you are more likely than not to see two or more vehicles in many driveways. This is especially true on holiday weekends. These vehicles not only pose a problem for the ferry, they also create potential safety issues on the Island. On hot sunny summer weekends we have many golf carts, bikers, and pedestrians sharing the roads with these automobiles. If we can

eliminate the need for some of these vehicles to be on the Island it would be beneficial to the Island infrastructure and it would create a much safer place for all of us.

That gets us to the Park & Ride..... Land Services Inc., out of Raymond, was hired to work with the Transportation Committee to develop a conceptual plan for a park and ride facility. The plan went through many reviews and iterations. The Executive Committee was very mindful of the need to provide for the safety of all Islanders, their families and friends while doing it at a cost the Town could afford. It was determined that a "Ring Road", wide enough to provide parking for 50ish vehicles plus a queuing lane that could be expanded in the future, if necessary, was a reasonable start. The members of the Executive Committee wanted to determine the costs of this project but accurate costs could not be developed until the requirements that the Town of Raymond / the Raymond Planning Board and the Department of Environmental Engineering (DEP) would impose were known. Therefore, the Executive Committee prepared a warrant article for the October, 2011 Town Meeting to appropriate \$30,000 from the Long Term Transportation Reserve so final engineering plans could be developed for submittal to the Raymond Planning Board and the DEP. The warrant article passed the Board of Island Trustee with 127 out of 144 votes in favor and it passed the Town with 48 out of 52 votes in favor. An overwhelming endorsement for completing the final design plans.

This is where we are in the process. The plans were originally submitted to Raymond and the DEP in July for review. There was also a site walk with the Raymond Planning Board and some of the local residents. At the public hearing the Raymond Planning Board requested that we have a traffic engineering study done, which we did. The results of that study were submitted and we are awaiting the next public hearing with the Raymond Planning Board. This is scheduled for Wednesday February 13<sup>th</sup>.

At this point we do not know what the final design will look like and therefore we do not know what the construction costs will be. What we do know is there is a considerable amount of opposition from residents on the Cape Road and also from some Islanders. We also know that no construction will begin without presenting the final design plans to the property owners at a public hearing(s) nor will any monies be spent without getting approval from the Town & the Board of Island Trustees. However, to imply as some have, that the Town Officials have been ramming this project through in the dark of night without Islanders knowledge is not true. From the time the Transportation Committee developed its final report until now all of the information has been posted on the Town website for everyone to review. And to think that these same Town Officials would spend the money to construct a facility without Town / BIT approval is absurd. I guess if any one feels they have been left in the dark I would suggest they attend more of the meetings. They are all open to the public and the results of these meetings are posted on our website.

You may or may not be in favor of a Park & Ride facility. But I would suggest you give the Town Officials the time to gather all of the information including the final design plans and the construction costs before condemning the process. I am sure there will be much more debate on this issue once that information is available and is presented to the property owners.

I really don't know if a Park & Ride facility will ever be built, but I do know that at some point in the future there is the potential for 50% more homes on the Island which will create the opportunity for 50% more traffic on the ferries and on the Island. So eventually something will have to be done. It would be a shame to wait until then to act and I think our Town Officials would be shirking their duties to do so.

I hope you are all having a great winter and we will see you on the Island soon.

Wayne