

## **RAILWAY COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL**

**January 11, 2017 – 1:00 p.m.  
Committee Room 2, City Hall**

### **MINUTES**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr - Co-Chair  
Mike LoVecchio - Co-Chair, Canadian Pacific representative  
Councillor Bill Harper - City Council  
Gordon Hamilton - City Resident  
Bill Magri - City Resident

#### **VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Singh Biln - Southern Railway representative  
Bhupinder Dhillon - City Resident

#### **STAFF:**

Roger Emanuels - Manager, Design and Construction  
Lauren Blake - Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m.

Councillor Puchmayr assumed the Chair.

### **1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the agenda be amended by adding the following items:*

- *5.1 Front Street Rail Bridge Update;*
- *5.2 Train Idling at Begbie Street; and,*

*THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of the Panel present voted in favor of the motion.

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 Adoption of the September 7, 2016 Minutes**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the September 7, 2016 Railway Community Advisory Panel minutes be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of the Panel present voted in favour of the motion.

## **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

There were no items.

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There were no items.

## **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Front Street Rail Bridge Update**

Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction, reported that CN will be updating their portion of the Front Street Rail bridge, and that some of the work will require Front Street to be reduced to one-way traffic. It is anticipated that Front Street will be completely closed from February 3, 2017 until February 6, 2017.

In response to questions from the Panel, Mr. Emanuels advised that CN is responsible for communicating road closures to the public; however, the City will also advertise road closures. In addition, the City will liaise with the BC Trucking Association so that truck traffic can coordinate an alternative route.

### **5.2 Train Idling at Begbie Street**

Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction, advised that a CN train had recently idled at the Begbie Street for more than half an hour, noting that it is unclear as to what caused the train to excessively idle.

In response to Mr. Emanuels' request for information regarding how the City can provide residents with information on how to address situations like this, the Panel provided the following information:

- Southern Railway maintains a complaint line that can be reached at 604-521-1966;
- Residents may attempt to contact Southern Railway's Operator Supervisor line; however, the line is difficult to reach and Operate Supervisors are only advised of issues that occur on their line;
- Canadian Pacific operates a Community Connect line, with a toll free number that can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The toll free number is 1-800-766-7912;
- Staff could contact Burlington Railway for their public contact information; and,
- It was suggested that the City could advertise local railways' contact information on the City website.

In response to questions from the Panel, the Railway representatives advised that excessive idling is a rare occurrence. Trains are not permitted to idle for more than five minutes if there is traffic nearby.

The Panel requested that staff follow up with CN to identify the issue that caused the train to idle.

## **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

There were no items.

## **7.0 STANDING ITEMS**

### **7.1 Whistle Cessation**

Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction, provided the following update regarding the following projects:

#### **a) Downtown Whistle Cessation Update**

- The City is currently at third step of an eight step process to achieve whistle cessation in the downtown area;

- Notices advertising the City's intention for downtown whistle cessation were distributed to approximately 30 relevant organizations and associations on December 30, 2016;
- The downtown crossing requires some additional fencing in order to achieve whistle cessation. Staff is currently coordinating the required permits; and,
- The bylaw for whistle cessation for Southern Railways has been completed.

Mr. Emanuels reviewed the whistle cessation process:

- Step 1: The City expresses an interest of cessation, and notifies the railways;
- Step 2: The City consults with railways that operate in their jurisdiction to assess the feasibility of whistle cessation;
- Step 3: The City notifies relevant organizations and associations;
- Step 4: The City and railways assess crossings, and review improvements that required in order to achieve whistle cessation. The City and the railways sign an agreement with respect to the required improvements;
- Step 5: The City and railways inspect the completed upgrades to the railway crossings to ensure that the crossings meet the requirements;
- Step 5a: If the scope of upgrades required for whistle cessation was not agreed upon between the City and the railways, the upgrades can be contested with Transport Canada;
- Step 6: The City passes a resolution that whistles shall not be used in the area;
- Step 7: The railways notify Transport Canada that whistling will cease 30 days after resolution has been passed; and,
- Step 8: The City and railways share the responsibility for monitoring and addressing whistling.

The Panel noted that the City has had an excellent approach to whistle cessation and that other cities could benefit from a clinic or seminar based on New Westminster's experience.

#### **b) City-wide Whistle Cessation Program**

The Cumberland Street crossing requires upgrades to the pedestrian fencing, street lighting, a reduction of the foliage along the rail tracks for improved

sightlines, refreshing of signage, and refreshing of paint lines. Mr. Emanuels noted that many of the upgrades as outlined require dry weather.

### c) Queensborough Crossing Upgrades

- Jim Lowrie, Director of Engineering, has been working with Singh Biln, Southern Railway, to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for required improvements;
- When the MOU is agreed upon, Southern Railway will order the required equipment;
- It is anticipated that the Quayside Drive crossing will receive the required upgrades first;
- There is currently no whistling at the Port Royal crossing;
- Staff will work with Southern Railway on the complexities of the Ewen Avenue crossings, including alternative solutions to gates;
- The Twentieth Street crossing is included in the MOU; however, that crossing only utilizes daytime whistling; and,
- Staff is reviewing the anticipated upgrades all crossings will require by 2021.

## 7.2 City Projects

### a) Braid Street Greenway

The City is working with CP regarding signals for their crossing along the proposed Braid Street Greenway. Mr. Emanuels noted that the proposed upgrades to the Brunette Avenue Interchange could impact the Braid Street Greenway.

The Panel suggested that the Braid Street Greenway could be considered in conjunction with the proposed amendments to the entire Braid Street/Brunette Avenue corridor, including the Pattullo Bridge.

The Panel noted that the railways have not been consulted with respect to the Brunette Avenue Interchange.

### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council recommend to the Ministry of Transportation that the regional railways be included in consultation with respect to the Brunette Avenue Interchange.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of the Panel present voted in favour of the motion.

## **b) Q2Q Pedestrian Bicycle Bridge**

Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction, noted that plans for the Q2Q Pedestrian Bicycle Bridge have been cancelled.

### **7.3 Railway Projects**

There were no updates.

## **8.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

## **9.0 NEXT MEETING**

**April 12, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in Committee Room 2**

## **10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, The meeting concluded at 2:05 p.m.

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**Chuck Puchmayr**  
**Co-Chair**

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**Lauren Blake**  
**Committee Clerk**