

RAILWAY COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL

**April 12, 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 (CP) Rail Representative
Singh Biln	- Southern Railway (SR) Representative
Rod McIvor	- City Resident
Keith Norton	- Southern Railway Representative
Joslyn Young	- Canadian National (CN) Rail Representative

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bhupinder Dhillon	- City Resident
Gordon Hamilton	- City Resident
Bill Magri	- City Resident

STAFF:

Mark Allison	- Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Sustainability
Roger Emanuels	- Manager, Design and Construction
Lisa Leblanc	- Manager, Transportation
Jim Lowrie	- Director of Engineering
Joann Tosh	- Legislative Services
Carrie Peacock	- Recording Secretary, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

Agenda Order Varied

The order of the Agenda was varied at the meeting. Items are presented in these minutes in the order in which they were considered.

ANNUAL HOUSEKEEPING

Committee Orientation and Oath of Office

JoAnn Tosh, Legislative Services, displayed an overhead presentation titled “Committee Orientation”, and reviewed Rules of Conduct, the Respectful Workplace and Human Rights Policy, and the Social Media Policy, before administering the Oath of Office to Panelists.

Co-Chair Chuck Puchmayr called the meeting to order at 1:23 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1.1 Adoption of the April 12, 2017 Agenda

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the agenda for the April 12, 2017 Meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the January 11, 2017 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the January 11, 2017 Meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Cumberland Street Crossing Upgrade Update

Roger Emanuels, Manager, Design and Construction, reviewed an overhead presentation regarding the Cumberland and East Columbia Street Crossing, and offered the following comments:

- A safety audit of the crossing indicated the need for improved fencing, lighting and sightlines; road markings and signage also required updating;
- The Cumberland Street Crossing connects with Sapperton Park;
- Metro Vancouver (MV) is constructing a new pump station east of the crossing, and a green space through two adjacent sites; and
- Discussions are needed with MV on the duration of its work, hours of work and frequency of truck traffic.

Mr. Emanuels reviewed proposed next steps, including:

- Defining the rights-of-way and adjacent property impacts;
- Developing a plan showing improvements proposed for sign-off by railways;
- Reviewing the construction timeline (and possible impacts) with MV; and
- Undertaking upgrades that can be achieved in conjunction with MV, while addressing requirements identified in the safety audit.

During discussion, Panellists offered comments regarding communications with MV, and options for managing the vegetation adjacent to the rail line.

In response to questions raised, Mr. Emanuels confirmed that:

- Discussions were ensuing with MV on the City's proposed improvements;
- Some of the grades across Columbia Street are challenging for citizens with mobility issues;
- City staff could remove vegetation outside the fenced area (beyond the right-of-way), which typically becomes an issue in the spring.

Joslyn Young, CN Rail, agreed to consult with the appropriate person in her office regarding the feasibility of CN Rail's equipment removing the vegetation adjacent to the rail line.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No items were presented.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

No items were presented.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

No items were presented.

7.0 STANDING ITEMS

7.1 Whistle Cessation

a) Downtown Whistle Cessation Update

Mr. Emanuels reported that Council's motion requesting whistle cessation at specific crossings was sent to the applicable railway officials. It was further noted that:

- The January 11, 2017 RCAP meeting reviewed the eight-step process for eliminating whistles at crossings;
- The City is waiting for railway companies to confirm that Transport Canada and others have been notified of whistle cessation arrangements;
- When the railway companies agree to a date to implement whistle cessation, signs are posted at the crossings (shortly prior to the cessation).

Singh Biln, SR, agreed to look into the status of repairs needed to some recently vandalized fencing, near the public market.

b) City-Wide Whistle Cessation Program

Mr. Emanuels provided updates on the City-Wide Whistle Cessation Program, noting that:

- There has been no progress to date on the Spruce Street crossing;
- The City is not moving towards cessation at Braid Street; a new set of gates has been installed at the CP Rail crossing;
- Discussions have ensued with Transport Canada regarding some complex safety issues (i.e. uncontrolled driveways, backups, etc.); and
- The Brunette Interchange Reconfiguration could reduce pressures on Braid Street, and hasten cessation at that location.

d) Quayside Crossing

The Panel discussed the Quayside Crossing, noting that the City continued to work towards improvements.

In response to questions raised, it was reported that:

- Transport Canada has not expressed concerns regarding the rail crossing at 20th Street; instructions are needed before crews will cease whistle blowing;
- A gate has been installed, which Fraser River Pile and Dredge can lock;
- Approval of the project is expected after a memorandum of understanding is finalized with the City.

c) Queensborough Crossing

The Panel discussed the Queensborough Crossing, noting that project designers indicated there might not be enough room for the signals in the location requested. Street signs and “no left turn” signs could be sufficient.

Mr. Biln agreed to advise Richard Foth, Senior Manager of Engineering Services, Southern Railway, of issues related to rail crossings for which responses are pending.

e) Brunette Interchange Project

The Panel discussed the Brunette Interchange Project, noting that Council was requested to communicate with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to ensure railways were involved in discussions related to the Brunette Interchange.

Jim Lowrie, Director of Engineering, added that the final solution for the interchange might be a hybrid of multiple options considered.

7.2 City Projects

a) Braid Street Greenway

Lisa Leblanc, Manager, Transportation, reviewed an overhead presentation titled “Brunette Fraser Greenway” and offered the following comments:

- The intent is to design a greenway to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists on the section of Braid Street between Canfor Avenue and Brunette Avenue;
- Pedestrians and cyclists continue to use Braid Street despite its poor conditions;
- Renderings of Braid Street indicate better parking delineations, and curb and gutter improvements,
- Transport Canada’s feedback regarding the rail crossing suggested mitigating the risk of eastbound pedestrians and cyclists getting trapped between the gates, and ensuring adequate sightlines are maintained;
- The vehicle stall parking on the City’s right-of-way, formalizes the existing parking scheme (parallel parking would provide significantly fewer spots);
- Existing vehicle operations will be maintained including a left-turn bay, eastbound onto the Canfor operations site.

b) Riverfront Greenway Connection

Mark Allison, Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Sustainability, noted that the greenway from Science World will connect through the Central Valley Greenway, through Burnaby and back to Science World. With the “Experience the Fraser” network, greenway connections will be established to Hope. During a review of an overhead presentation titled “Brunette Fraser Regional Greenway Map”, he offered the following comments:

- There is a gap in the greenway network, adjacent to the north end of the Pattullo Bridge;
- The City communicated with TransLink regarding a waterfront connection that would be compatible with the river crossings;
- After considering five alignment designs, a floating dock (away from the railway) was the preferred option;
- A right-of-way could be acquired to accommodate a portion of the route through a privately-owned water lot;
- Some of the six-metre wide floating sections of the dock would be lengthy; conduits within the sections would enable lighting; the floating sections could be constructed by a company in Delta and barged in;
- There is a similarly designed route in Portland (the Eastbank Esplanade¹);
- Approvals would be needed from multiple federal and provincial agencies;
- Further design details could proceed after additional studies and discussions with First Nations and others; the project could be pursued in phases, although it may be six years before progress occurs.

7.3 Railway Projects

a) Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation (RCHF)

Singh Biln, Southern Railway (SR), confirmed that SR continued to donate \$2,000/month to the RCHF, after every accident-free month achieved at SR. Donations to the RCHF from SR, has exceeded \$200,000.

He added that “Blue Water Railway Services” was established to provide terminal switching services, and could potentially become the only terminal switching provider in the area. So far, over 300 trains have been rerouted from Langley and Cloverdale to Sumas, which enabled increased capacity.

Mr. Biln reported that track work on Annacis Island would alleviate some issues in the Queensborough area. A second loop on Annacis Island was previously attempted without success. It will be pursued again after discussion with MV, the City of New Westminster and the Corporation of Delta.

b) Rail Safety Week

Joslyn Young, CN Rail, confirmed that April 24-28, 2017 was designated as Rail Safety Week. It was noted that CN Rail’s “My Safety Pledge”² was accessible online.

¹ For information on the Eastbank Esplanade, visit:

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/finder/index.cfm?&propertyid=105&action=viewpark>

² View CN’s safety pledge at: <http://www.mysafetypledge.com>

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the City of New Westminster Council be requested to proclaim April 24-28, 2017 as Rail Safety Week.

CARRIED.

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

c) Guidelines for New Development in Proximity to Railway Operations

The Panel acknowledged the “Guidelines for New Development in Proximity to Railway Operations”³, prepared for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Railway Association of Canada (RAC).

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the “Guidelines for New Development in Proximity to Railway Operations”, prepared for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Railway Association of Canada (RAC), be referred to City of New Westminster Council and staff for consideration, and potential endorsement.

CARRIED.

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

Co-Chair Election

Mike LoVecchio was nominated as the Co-Chair for the Railway Community Advisory Panel, and accepted the nomination. After three calls for further nominations, and there being none, Mr. LoVecchio was acclaimed to the role.

d) CP Rail Car Emergency Exercise

Co-Chair LoVecchio reported regarding a recent exercise hosted by CP Rail, noting that:

- Over 120 firefighters from across MV participated in the exercise, which federal and political leaders and officials observed;
- Emergency response equipment was brought in for the exercise, including command trailers, and a foam firefighting trailer; and
- The exercise focussed on the transfer of propane from a rail car to a truck.

It was further noted that in the event of an emergency, railway companies, contractors, and others will cooperatively respond to assist each other. He added that a rail car owned by Transcaer, provides training across Canada on responding to incidents involving dangerous goods.

³ View the “Guidelines for New Development in Proximity to Railway Operations” at: http://www.proximityissues.ca/asset/image/reference/guidelines/2013_05_29_Guidelines_NewDevelopment_E.pdf

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No items were presented.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the RCAP is scheduled for September 13, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in Committee Room 2.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, The meeting concluded at approximately 2:50 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Co-Chair

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Carrie Peacock
Recording Secretary