

RAILWAY COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL

February 13, 2019 – 1:00 p.m.
Committee Room 2, City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Co-Chair
Mike LoVecchio	- Canadian Pacific (CP) Rail Representative
Emily Mak	- Southern Railway (SRY)
Rod McIvor	- Community Member
Aaron Skogland	- Community Member
Nathan Woods	- Community Member
Joslyn Young	- Co-Chair, Canadian National (CN) Rail Representative

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stephen Semenick	- BNSF Railway Representative
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STAFF:

Tim Armstrong	- Fire Chief (Left at 1:36 p.m.)
Roger Emanuels	- Manager, Design and Construction
Lisa Leblanc	- Manager, Transportation
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

Meeting called to order at 1:06 p.m.

1.0 PRESENTATIONS

1.1 Committee Orientation and Oaths of Office

Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, led a round of introductions and provided a PowerPoint orientation presentation, reviewing the following documents:

- Railway Community Advisory Panel (RCAP) Terms of Reference;
- Committee Rules of Conduct;
- City of New Westminster (CNW) Respectful Workplace Policy;
- CNW Social Media Policy; and,
- Freedom of Information Permission Forms.

Ms. Corbett administered the Oath of Office to all members of the RCAP present.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the agenda for the February 13, 2019 meeting be amended to include the following two items:

5.2 *Operation Grey Fox;*

5.3 *Update on Emergency Exercise on October 3, 2018 at SRY Railyards; and,*

THAT the agenda for the February 13, 2019 meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the September 5, 2018 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the September 5, 2018 meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

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

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Appointment of Co-Chair from Railways

Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, noted that the Committee Terms of Reference specify that the Co-Chair of the Committee rotates among the Railways with every two-year term.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Joslyn Young, CN Representative, be appointed as the Co-Chair of the Railway Community Advisory Panel.

CARRIED.

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

5.2 Operation Grey Fox

Tim Armstrong, Fire Chief, provided the Panel with information about Operation Grey Fox, which is a cross-border working group looking at the transportation of dangerous goods across boundaries, in conjunction with Fire Services on both sides of the border, Canada Border Services and US Customs. The working group is collaborating on movement of goods across the border and coordination of apparatus and staff in the event of an emergency, such as an earthquake.

Chief Armstrong noted that the group is in the planning stages of an exercise to take place in October, which is funded by Homeland Security and Whatcom County Emergency Management, and invited the railways to take part, if interested.

5.3 Update on Emergency Exercise on October 3, 2018 at SRY railyards

Tim Armstrong, Fire Chief, provided the Panel with information about an emergency exercise that took place at the SRY railyards in October 2018, simulating a chlorine tanker leak, noting that the exercise was very successful and was a good opportunity to work with partner agencies and the railway.

In response to questions from the Panel, Chief Armstrong provided the following information:

- The exercises are conducted periodically and the Fire Service uses specific software to provide credentials for people involved in the exercises;
- In terms of consultation with First Nations on emergency procedures in the region, the City's Emergency Advisory Committee (EAC) has a First Nations representative on the committee and the City has recently hired a consultant to advise on reconciliation with First Nation communities;
- The community was advised that the exercise was taking place through communication with residents via the media and Residents' Associations in the area, as well as on-site signage on the day of the exercise.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Railway Community Advisory Panel recommend that Council direct the reconciliation consultant to look at emergency operation coordination and communication with First Nation communities along emergency response routes.

CARRIED.

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

6.0 STANDING REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Whistle Cessation and Crossing Upgrade Update

Roger Emanuels, Manager, Design and Construction, summarized the February 13, 2019 staff report which detailed the status of each railway crossing in the City, noting that the contents of the report are also listed on the City's website.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Emanuels provided the following information:

- SRY and the City's Manager of Legal Services are fine tuning the wording of the Quayside Drive crossing agreement, with respect to liability;
- The delay of the Quayside Drive crossing approval is due to the BC Safety Authority, which is reviewing technical documentation;

- The BC Safety Authority is an independent agency, incorporated under the Safety Authority Act, which has authority over whistle cessation for provincial railways and would forward their recommendation to the provincial Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure for final approval;
- The Port Royal crossing documentation is also with the BC Safety Authority awaiting approval from their Professional Engineer;
- The 20th Street crossing will be discussed at a meeting in March between the Railways and Transport Canada in order to discuss the designation of the crossing (public vs Private), and what approvals would be needed for cessation;

In reference to the 20th Street crossing, Emily Mak, SRY Representative, noted that the crossing is currently operating under partial cessation whenever the Fraser River Pile Driving (FRPD) gate is closed, and if the gate is ever open after 22:00, SRY crews communicate this to Ms. Mak, so that it can be reported back for FRPD to investigate.

In regards to the Downtown crossings, the panel members discussed the scheduling of a “walkaround” between the railways and Bosa Developments in order to monitor the corridor for compliance while construction is proceeding.

In regards to the proposed Annacis Island Loop connection discussed in the staff report, the Panel made the following comments:

- With a new group of mayors in the region, there may be more traction for this project;
- The loop track would mean increased through-traffic movement and improved efficiency; and,
- A letter, and possible tour, from the City to Metro Vancouver to request that staff work together and identify the issues may be beneficial to demonstrate the benefits of the proposed loop track.

6.2 City Projects:

a) Brunette Fraser Greenway, Braid Street Section Update

Roger Emanuels, Manager, Design and Construction, provided an update on the Brunette Fraser Greenway noting the following information:

- Phase Two is underway, which includes construction of the watermain, which has been awarded and is on schedule; and,
- Construction of the multi-use pathway would commence in August, given that approval is received from BNSF, CP and CN.

b) Bosa Pier West Development

This item was discussed under Item 6.1, and the Panel further noted that it would be important to ensure that the construction would have no effect on cessation and that relevant permits are in place for construction of the Sixth Street overpass over the railway tracks.

6.3 Railway Projects:

a) Southern Rail (SRY) Update

Emily Mak, SRY Representative, provided an update on Operation Life Saver, which is a program designed by SRY to provide education and deliver rail safety talks at Queen Elizabeth Elementary School and schools in Surrey.

b) Canadian National (CN) Rail Update

Joslyn Young, CN Representative, provided the following update:

- CN's 100th Anniversary is in 2019, and they are hoping to bring the CN 100 village train, which is an immersive, museum-like experience, to the PNE; and,
- Capital infrastructure work would occur primarily in Burnaby and Vancouver in 2019.

c) Canadian Pacific (CP) Rail Update

Mike LoVecchio, CP Representative, provided the following update:

- CP has been working to upgrade and qualify staff in incident command training and is adopting ICS language, with the goal of establishing a unified command centre which guarantees coordinated information sharing between multiple agencies; and,
- A significant derailment occurred on a CP line on February 4, 2019 and numerous investigations are underway, both internally and externally.

d) BNSF Update

No update was provided.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Email from Karen Demers re Train horns (October 21, 2018)

7.2 Email from Kellie Nielsen and Staff response re Train horns (December 17, 2018)

Committee members noted the following in discussion:

- This incident was not reported to CP's incident line at the time or since, which indicates that it was likely a one-time occurrence.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the correspondence items be received for information.

CARRIED.

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

9.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the RCAP is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in Committee Room 2, at City Hall.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, The meeting concluded at 2:37 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Co-Chair

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Heather Corbett
Committee Clerk