



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR TRANSIT,
BICYCLES AND PEDESTRIANS (ACTBiPed)**

Wednesday, April 18, 2018, at 5:30 p.m.

Council Chamber & Chamber Meeting Room

**City Hall
MINUTES**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Patrick Johnstone	- Chair
Véronique Boulanger	- Committee Member
Charlie Hunter	- Committee Member
Reena Meijer Drees	- Committee Member
Nadine Nakagawa	- Committee Member
Robert Wong	- Committee Member
Roland Guasparini	- Committee Member
Finn Leahy (Arrived at 5:35 pm)	- Student Representative
Karon Trenaman	- ICBC Representative

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Belinda Scott (Arrived at 5:35 pm)	- SD 40 Representative
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MEMBER REGRETS:

Steven Beasley	- Committee Member
Brad Cavanagh	- Committee Member

STAFF:

Lisa Leblanc	- Manager, Transportation
Christine Edward	- Transportation Analyst, Engineering Services
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Secretary, Engineering Services
Sgt. Greg Smith	- New Westminster Police Department

GUESTS:

Elena Farmer	- Operations Manager, Lower Mainland District Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Mary Wilson	- Community Member
Vic Leach	- Community Member

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA & ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1.1 Additions to Agenda & Adoption of April 18, 2018

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the Advisory Committee for Transit, Bicycles and Pedestrians meeting held on April 18, 2018 be received and adopted with the addition of Item 5.2 – Walk 30, Item 5.3 – Construction Site Policy, and Item 5.4 – Intersection Crossing Times, from Reena Meijer Drees, Committee member.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of February 7, 2018

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Advisory Committee for Transit, Bicycles and Pedestrians meeting held on February 7, 2018 be received and adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Pedestrian/Bicycle Overpass Across Stewardson Way - Elena Farmer, MoTI

Elena Farmer, Operations Manager, Lower Mainland District, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, commenced with her presentation. She stated that currently there is no pedestrian access near Grimston Park, on the northside of Stewardson Way, and that high traffic volumes make pedestrian crossing unsafe and impractical. Elena advised that multiple studies have recommended that a pedestrian overpass is a preferred option at this site and that the project is part of a Federal cost-sharing program. It was noted that the scope of the project includes the design and construction of a new pedestrian and cycling bridge at Grimston Park, including the following features:

- The overpass will be three meters wide in order to safely accommodate both cyclists and pedestrians;
- The structure will span approximately 40 meters in length;

- In order to provide full accessibility, the bridge will include gradual ramp slopes; and,
- The bridge and ramps have been designed to minimize the overall footprint and impact to Grimston Park.

In closing, Elena advised members that the project is at 50% design completion, a First Nations consultation is currently underway, the MoTI project team is engaged with City staff, and a contaminated soil analysis is scheduled for the end of April.

The following discussion ensued:

- It is anticipated that construction on the project will commence sometime in the next year; however, things are still being worked out;
- A Committee member acknowledged and thanked the West End Residents' Association, in particular Mary Wilson, for the time and effort they have spent advocating for this project;
- Staff are working to optimize how the overpass will connect to cycling routes; and,
- A Committee member requested that the corners of the overpass be widened to make them more maneuverable by cyclists. Elena agreed to take the request to the project team for consideration;

Members were encouraged to email any other suggestions they might have to Lisa Leblanc, Transportation Manager, who will forward them on to Elena.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 118 Royal Avenue Rezoning Update – Stephen Blore (see Item 7.1)

Councillor Johnstone stated that, as explained in the above report (which was included in the agenda package), this site is an important place to connect Agnes Street, which is a future greenway, to 3rd Avenue crossing of Royal Avenue, as it could provide a low-grade downtown to uptown cycling connection. The Committee had asked staff to require that the developer provide multi-use pathway on-site. Subsequently, when a full 3m pathway was not possible due to impacts to the development, the Committee requested a one metre dedication be required, as a condition of rezoning, to enable future implementation of this cycling connection.

The following discussion ensued:

- Staff advised that the Committee has put their position forward to Council through the Land Use and Planning Committee;

- Staff informed the group that, as the City plans to dedicate space from the site for future use, one side of the property must be decided upon and to date, the school district has not been open to working on the west side aspect with us;
- Staff advised that they do their best to advocate for improvements such as this during the rezoning application review process, and they will attempt to bring issues such as this to the attention of the ACTBiPed Committee, but often the timing for development review does not enable issues to be brought forward at the right time. Attempts will continue to be made to draw the Committee's attention to development applications of interest to advancing the City's walking, transit and cycling priorities; and,
- Councillor Johnstone invited members to the public hearing being held on Monday, April 30th at 6:00 pm which will address the rezoning of 118 Royal Avenue.

4.2 Road Safety Law Reform Group of BC's Modernizing the BC Motor Vehicle Act Update re February 19th Report to Council – Staff

Lisa Leblanc, Transportation Manager, informed members that the Committee's report to Council resulted in a letter going to the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) expressing support for the changes to the BC Motor Vehicle Act (Act) proposed by the Road Safety Law Reform Group of BC, and proposing a motion to UBCM. As the Motor Vehicle Act was originally passed in 1957 and, since then, motor vehicles are up 1400% and cycling is up over 300% it is deemed necessary to upgrade certain aspects of it. It is expected that the Road Safety Law Reform Group's recommendations will be considered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) in September, and that may result in an official request being made for the Provincial Government to review the Act in light of the 24 recommendations made by the Road Safety Law Reform Group.

The following discussion ensued:

- A member expressed concern that if all the recommendations go under one blanket motion it may hinder progress on individual changes to the Act, specifically, those with respect to speed limits. Councillor Johnstone agreed to discuss this with the Committee member outside of the meeting to determine how to move the speed limit aspects of the recommendations forward.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 New Westminster Transit Priorities Document – Stephen Blore (see Item 7.2)

As Stephen Blore, Transportation Planner, was unable to attend the meeting, Christine Edward, Transportation Analyst, addressed the Committee with respect to the New Westminster Transportation Priorities Document. Christine advised that staff are working to identify key priorities as part of the larger transportation

plan in order to create a document for staff and Council to use as we move forward.

The following discussion ensued:

- A member stated that in general he supports the Columbia Station as a priority; however, it is still open to the two towers above it and noise is an issue. He would like to see TransLink work on quieting the noise at this location (as a priority) and possibly some other locations as well;
- A member stated that Columbia Station appears to be the least accessible station and is often very crowded with narrow platforms;
- Staff advised that TransLink has the Columbia SkyTrain Station in their work plan for the next 5 years or so and City staff are working on it with them and advocating for improvements at the Station;
- Staff are looking at accessible connectivity over the railway tracks to the River Market at the Quay and accessibility in general in this area;
- Staff clarified that Sapperton Green was not included in the priorities list as it is ongoing and already being addressed in the master planning process;
- Staff responded to a member's enquiry regarding bus shelters and informed members that the City's bus shelter program is done through Pattison Outdoor Advertising with staff working with them to determine where shelters will be installed each year (this is how most municipalities have shelters provided). Last year, four shelters were installed in New Westminster, which was the most ever in one year. It was noted that the City is looking at how bus shelter installations can be done differently.
- The Provincial Government is responsible for improvements to the Queensborough Bridge, and the City would be anticipate providing input on any changes proposed by the Province; there are currently not any plans that the City is aware of regarding the Queensborough Bridge; and,
- Staff reminded members that as a small city, cost sharing is very important as it is challenging to prioritize some of these items without it.

5.2 Walk 30 – Reena Meijer Drees

Reena Meijer Drees, Committee member, invited everyone to register for the second annual Walk 30 Burnaby-New West Challenge and informed the group that we are in competition with the City of Burnaby for the Walk 30 Cup. The challenge is for all registrants to walk for 30 minutes a day and log their time on the Walkers' Caucus website. She encouraged everyone to register for the five week challenge on the Walkers' Caucus website by Saturday, April 28th and to start logging their minutes.

5.3 Request for Action on Policy re Construction Sites – Reena Meijer Drees

Reena stated that the City's policy with respect to construction sites blocking sidewalks does not appear to be working. She advised that as there are three new

large developments coming up, the City should be proactive in dealing with this issue before construction starts.

The following discussion ensued:

- Staff acknowledged that this is an ongoing and challenging issue and, while the City does have policies in place and expectations of contractors, there are often differences between what has been approved and what appears in the field;
- Councillor Johnstone stated that the committee needs to review what we have in place, determine if it is working and, if it is not, establish what the next what the next step might be;
- Staff reminded members that any work on City streets requires a Street Occupancy Permit (SOP) accompanied by a Traffic Management Plan (TMP). Unfortunately, sometimes, contractors do not adhere to the approved TMP. In these cases, Parking Enforcement is requested to conduct regular visitations at non-compliant sites;
- Staff advised that during recent construction in Sapperton, the City had additional inspectors (over and above regular staffing), so we did not experience these types of issues;
- Committee members will be included in the review of a brochure which will accompany SOPs;
- Members were encouraged to use the SeeClickFix app to report violations; and,
- Staff agreed that feedback given to managers/developers directly from members during a Committee meeting may be given more thoughtful consideration than those just coming from staff.

Staff will come back to the Committee with a workshop to discuss and receive feedback on constructions sites and related policies.

5.4 Intersection Crossing Times – Reena Meijer Drees

Reena informed members that Vic Leach, community member, arranged for a number of volunteers to visit 65 intersections in the City and an additional four intersections in Richmond, Burnaby, and Vancouver. The volunteers did detailed audits of the crossings including the conditions of the sidewalks, what happens when you press the button, how long the countdown is, etc., which was compiled as raw data. Reena stated that the overarching conclusion is that there is no consistency within the City nor across the border in other cities. She advised that even within an intersection you can find different countdown times from one side of the street to the other. She informed the group that a letter was sent to the City requesting that eight heavily-used intersections along Sixth Street and Eighth Street be adjusted to make them a little bit longer and consistent with one another, keeping in mind that the crossings are used by a lot of seniors, many of which use mobility aids. Reena will forward all the information collected to Lisa Leblanc, Transportation Manager.

The following discussion ensued:

- Councillor Johnstone suggested that the information gathered could possibly be added to the City's Open Data platform as citizen collected data. He also suggested that the information be summarized by the Walkers' Caucus and presented to Council so that the information is made public; and,
- Reena informed members that next they would be exploring speeding, etc., in uptown, and suggested that perhaps certain roadways need to be narrowed and back in angle parking and bike lanes need to be implemented in order to slow drivers down.

6.0 NETWORK UPDATES

No items.

7.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

- 7.1 118 Royal Avenue Rezoning Update (see Item 4.1)**
- 7.2 New Westminster Transit Priorities to Document (see Item 5.1)**

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No items.

9.0 NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 16, 2018
Wednesday, June 20, 2018
Wednesday, September 19, 2018
Wednesday, November 21, 2018

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Certified correct,

Original Signed

PATRICK JOHNSTONE
CHAIR

Original Signed

CARILYN COOK
COMMITTEE SECRETARY