



**Advisory Committee for Transit, Bicycles and
Pedestrians (ACTBiPed)**

**January 14, 2014 6:30p.m.
Council Chamber**

Minutes

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jonathan Cote	Chair
Andrew Feltham	Committee Member
Mary Wilson	Committee Member
Lukas Slotman	Committee Member
Patrick Johnstone	Committee Member
Virginia Ayers	Committee Member
Marion Orser	Committee Member
Bruce Warren	Committee Member
Keith Ross	Committee Member
Patrick Harris	Committee Member

NON VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Michael Ewen	School Board
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VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Devin Schellenberg	Committee Member
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STAFF:

Jerry Behl	Transportation Engineer
Eugene Wat	Manager Infrastructure Planning
Carilyn Cook	Committee Secretary
Fan Jin	Transportation Technologist
Mark Allison	Planning

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- 1.1 Tour de Disaster: Emergency Planning and the Cycling Community**
– Patrick Johnstone This item was moved to New Business, Item 5.4.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of November 20, 2013

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Advisory Committee for Transit, Bicycles and Pedestrians Meeting held on November 20, 2013 be received and adopted with the following amendment:

- *Under Adoption of Minutes of September 11, 2013, Item 5.5 comment should be attributed to Virginia Ayers (and not Marion Orser).*

CARRIED

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

Councillor Cote informed the Committee that the November 20, 2013 Recommendation (Intersection Safety Review – McBride Boulevard and East Columbia Street Crosswalk) would be going to Council along with reports from other committees regarding the same.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Larco Consultation – Mark Allison

The Committee was updated on the waterfront vision (“Larco” site) through a presentation by Mark Allison which included the following topics:

- Overview (why the City started this process)
- Key Planning Principles
- Proposed Concept Plan
- Proposed New Park
- Transit, Pedestrian and Bicycle Friendly
- Construction & Phasing
- Next Steps – Consultation

The Waterfront Vision Concept Plan can be viewed on the City’s public website at:

http://www.newwestcity.ca/business/planning_development/community_plans/neighbourhood_plans/articles/2872.php

Mark informed the Committee that the City is open to ideas and possible solutions with respect to the bike path areas of the parkway that are “tight” and may require extra attention.

A general discussion ensued and the following comments/questions were made:

- It's laudable to have less trucks on Front Street but Royal Avenue isn't a good option either. Staff informed the Committee that the City is working on a truck route study to determine where to move them. The City sees the livability of downtown crucial and is working through a process to remove trucks from Royal Avenue. However, TransLink makes the ultimate decision.
- In the future, the Committee will need more details on the pedestrian/bicycle access along the Begbie Street corridor. It would be nice to have bike lanes similar to those on Columbia Street.
- The intersection at the railway, Begbie Street, and the new development will definitely need more study. The City should keep the bike route east/west through there as part of a bypass. Maybe an option would be to get more of a right-of-way from the railway to get by the back of the market. Mark encouraged the Committee to go out to appreciate the changes of this particular part of the site and its challenges.
- This plan is way more user friendly for pedestrians and cyclists than the last plan.
- Is it possible for the City to require the developer to think about and plan for what would happen when the power goes out? How will people, both able-bodied and disabled, deal with this kind of issue? What is the emergency planning for high rises like this? Staff responded that there have been emergency incidents with the last two flood events, and there are a number of procedures in place for emergency situations.
- Councillor Cote encouraged everyone to continue to contribute to the public process of this plan.

Mark Allison left the meeting at 7:09 pm.

3.2 Master Transportation Plan Verbal Update – Jerry Behl

Jerry informed the Committee that since the November 20th meeting, a presentation with a report of Summary of Proposed Policies and Actions has been taken to Council. A similar presentation will be presented to the Master Transportation Plan Advisory Committee. It will go out to the general public sometime in early March. At the last meeting we spoke of the bike plan and transit policies; these items were tabled to another meeting.

A general discussion ensued and the following comments/questions were made:

- A question was raised whether a separate workshop was necessary or if the ACTBiPed Committee could allocate some time during a meeting to review the MTP component. Councillor Cote responded that if there are no significant changes, we will most likely do it during an ACTBiPed meeting; however, if

there are a lot of changes, we may do it the other way. Staff informed the group that it could be done in an open house format as opposed having a workshop.

- Councillor Cote asked if we could get a draft of the plan to this Committee for review. Jerry responded that a summary of policies and actions, still in the first draft, can be provided. Input from the Committee, especially on the maps, would be beneficial.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Pedestrian Safety Review of the 22nd Street SkyTrain Station – Mary Wilson

Mary informed the Committee of a number of issues that surround the 22nd Street SkyTrain Station and the bus loop. A lot of these issues are a matter of design and development and a station that needs to be more pedestrian friendly, safe, attractive, convenient, and comfortable. There is a concern that by the time input is taken from pedestrians, it will be too late with respect to what the developers want. Councillor Cote added that the current infrastructure is not adequate in a lot of respects. This initiative may be led by the City and not by developers. It would be interesting to hear feedback from this group regarding the infrastructure and land use.

Members also discussed:

- Seventh Avenue also has issues with respect to pedestrian safety. The whole area is very well used and the City has not done a very good job on developing it properly for traffic flow, etc. Feedback would be useful.
- We should speak with Connaught Heights Residents' Association to get their feedback, and perhaps look into the West End and Grimston Park and connecting with those two neighbourhoods.
- There is no passenger drop off at this Station. People cross in front of cars all the time and this should be considered in the station redesign.
- Councillor Cote suggested that the Committee could assist with this process by doing a walk and making observations as to what changes could be made.
- We need to have a 10 minute walking scale from the Station to really see the scope of what could be done regarding the land use, etc. Councillor Cote agreed and stated that it would be better for the City to be ahead of the game then have a piecemeal approach. For Brentwood they had pedestrian and biking plans well before they had the towers, the SkyTrain Millennium Line, etc.
- The 22nd Street and Sixth Avenue intersection needs better lighting. It's very difficult for Transit drivers to see pedestrians and cyclists. Buses coming up do not have a stop sign, and people who do have a stop sign do not always stop.

- We need everyone with their different perspectives to get together and share data and ideas. It was suggested that an event needs to be organized for the residents to give their input. Councillor Cote suggested that the Committee could potentially get in contact with the Connaught Heights Residents' Association for input and a list of items that need to be addressed. These items should be down on paper and then we can see who is responsible for each item.
- Staff updated the Committee about the proposed pedestrian and bicycle improvements near the Station as part of TransLink's BC Parkway improvement project, including lighting upgrades from the Burnaby border to the 22nd Street Station, as well as the installation of way finding signage. The City would consider removing unused pavement on Hamilton Street west of 23rd Street to channelize pedestrians for a better walking environment.

4.2 The Pedestrian Charter and New Westminster SkyTrain Station (Signal on Carnarvon Street at Bus Exchange, Conditions for Pedestrians Inside Bus Loop, etc.) – Mary Wilson

Mary informed the Committee of a number of concerns with the New Westminster SkyTrain Station, including the light on Carnarvon Street that people do not adhere to. Councillor Cote commented that this was a challenging project and that, yes, the City is aware of the issues surrounding this area. Staff responded that since the driveway adjacent to the bus exchange egress is serving only the commercial component of the complex (not residential), there is much less car traffic coming out of the driveway, and the tendency is for people to walk against the "Don't Walk" phase. Staff responded that Don Henderson is looking into this issue. If we changed the signal with default pedestrian "Walk" on all the time, there would be a delay for buses of approximately 25 seconds. Councillor Cote commented that there are no easy solutions to this problem, and we should get a report back from Don to see what solutions there could be for this issue.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 City's Sidewalk Snow Response Plan – Mary Wilson

Mary questioned if the City's snow removal plan can be improved as well as compliance. A reminder could be put in with each resident's electrical bill or delivered with the garbage pick-up calendar to let residents know what is required and what they need to do. If residents aren't compliant with clearing snow, we will continue to have pedestrians walking down the middle of the road instead. Councillor Cote acknowledged that the real point is that residents need to be reminded of their responsibility to clear sidewalks, and the City needs to explore avenues to remind the citizens of the snow removal bylaw.

Moved and seconded

WHEREAS snow events cause significant safety issues for pedestrians within the City

WHEREAS current levels of compliance are not sufficient to ensure pedestrian safety

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council explores avenues to remind citizens about snow removal obligations on sidewalks, included but not limited to:

- Seasonal annual notice in the electrical bills
- Utilizing City billboards during snow periods

All in favour

5.2 City Transit Assets – Andrew Feltham

Andrew stated that the Committee should have some access to a map of the City's transit assets such as bus lanes, frequent transit network, stops with benches, stops with shelters, etc., to create a more cohesive transit system. Staff responded that some data does exist but it's a matter of completing and updating the information. We can put it on the list for the MTP.

5.3 Laneway Access versus Street Front Driveway Access – Eugene Wat

Eugene presented a presentation on the rationale for promoting laneways in the City and why the City pursues the acquisition of laneway statutory right of way. The key objective is to promote traffic safety for all road users and enhance streetscape in the urban environment.

A general discussion ensued and the following comments/questions were made:

- Are some of the right of ways wider than others? Eugene responded that the general width is 6 metres while there are some variations.
- The comment was made that laneways are great secondary walking/biking routes and they provide great opportunities for multiple uses.

5.4 Tour de Disaster - Emergency Planning and the Cycling Community – Patrick Johnstone

Patrick informed the group that this event, the "Tour de Disaster," took place in Victoria in 2013, and was originally brought to the ACTBiPed by Virginia Ayers at the September 11, 2013 meeting. It was brought to the attention of Inspector Phil Eastwood, the Emergency Planner for the New Westminster Police Department, who agreed that it would be an appropriate event to coordinate around Emergency Preparedness Week, May 4 – 10, 2014. Patrick provided everyone with a handout, which included the following information about the event:

- NRPD will try to bring together a volunteer group from various agencies involved in emergency planning for the City. As the event could use other volunteers and participants to help organize before and the day of the event, they are also reaching out to ACTBiPed, HUB New West, as well as other cycling and advocacy groups within the City.
- The Tour de Disaster, as it was run in Victoria, consisted of a race/scavenger hunt type event (10 teams of 4 people each); teams covered six legs of a course over a

few hours, completing tasks at each location; tasks were related to emergency response type of activities such as gathering information, moving information, moving equipment, etc.; negotiating obstacles such as a boulder field and concrete barriers to simulate post-earthquake conditions; the teams were judged on time and various "bonus-point" type of activities including weight movement, completion of tasks, and safely carrying a raw egg through the course.

- The goals of the program include demonstrating the usefulness of bicycles in a disaster environment, raising awareness of emergency planning and emergency response needs in the community, calling attention to the emergency management of New Westminster though a fun event, and evaluating interest in establishing a multi-agency volunteer Cyclist Response Team.
- Patrick put the call-out to anyone who would like to help and organize this event, as it is a good demonstration of the relevance that bikes would have during an emergency situation.

At this point of the meeting, a general discussion ensued about various items and the following comments/questions were made:

- Mary informed the group that it's been a year since she announced the start of Jane's Walks. The walks have turned out to be way more successful than she anticipated, and she has recently been able to have New Westminster included in the book *Jane's Walk Annual (Issue #1, 2013)*.
- Bruce inquired about the costs of studies being done, i.e., the Master Transportation Plan, the lights on McBride Boulevard, etc., but specifically, the ones relevant to this Committee. Staff commented that some of these are still ongoing and we could get the information for a specific project. Councillor Cote commented that a lot of this is public information and it would be good for the Committee to recollect that it costs money when we ask to do things, and that the Master Transportation Plan would be a good starting point since they are coming back at the next meeting.
- Patrick Harris commented on the Christmas parade and how it disrupted transit. He questioned why the buses were located so far away. Staff commented that this should be directed to other City Staff and that the concerns would be passed along.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Action List

- It was noted that as the Action List was only received by the Committee at the start of the meeting, discussion would be deferred to the next Committee meeting. It was stated that in the future, the Committee could expect to receive the Action List in advance of the meeting to provide time for review.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8.0 NEXT MEETING

TBA

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Councillor Jonathan Côté
CHAIR

Carilyn Cook
COMMITTEE SECRETARY