

RAILWAY COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 – 1:00 p.m.
Committee Room #2 at City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	Co-Chair
Biln Singh	Southern Railway representative
Natalie Dickson	City Resident
Mike LoVecchio	Canadian Pacific representative
Derek Ollman	Southern Railway representative

ABSENT:

Mayor Wayne Wright	Co-Chair
Gary Caroline	City Resident
Emily Hamer	Canadian National representative
Bill Magri	City Resident

STAFF:

Jim Lowrie	Director, Engineering Services
Roger Emanuels	Manager, Design and Construction
Keith Whiteley	Civil and Parks Infrastructure Project Coordinator
Lauren Blake	Committee Clerk

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

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The item was considered later during the meeting, when quorum was achieved.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of December 11, 2013

The item was considered later during the meeting, when quorum was achieved.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Confirmation of RCAP Co-chair from Railways

The item was considered later during the meeting, when quorum was achieved.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 TSB announcement re: DOT-111 tank cars

Singh Biln, Southern Railway, spoke to the issue of DOT-111 tank cars, which are used to transport dangerous goods (DG), such as crude oil. Mr. Biln reported that most of these cars are owned by the shippers, rather than the railway, however, the railway may store these cars for a fee. The Railway Safety Board has specified safety measures and upgrades for the DOT-111 cars that will be costly.

It was reported that these cars operate at 10 miles per hour, or less.

Discussion ensued and the Panel noted the following information:

- There has been a growth with respect to crude oil transportation via railway over the past several years;
- It was suggested that there will continue to be issues to address with respect to crude oil transportation in the future;
- The length of time to upgrade these cars will vary;
- Many railway companies have indicated that they would rather eliminate or upgrade these cars sooner rather than later;
- These cars are non-pressurized, and can be used to export non-DG, such as liquid sugar;
- Under Common Carrier Obligations, the railway companies do not have the option to reject moving these cars, and the products within them;
- Some railways have implemented a tariff on companies that use these cars as an incentive to upgrade the cars; and,
- The federal regulators have not provided a timeline with respect to implementing upgrades for the cars.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Railway Community Advisory Panel request that the senior levels of government expedite the process in addressing concerns regarding the safety of the DOT-111 tank cars.

AND THAT Council forward the resolution to the FCM, UBCM, LMLGA.

CARRIED.

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

5.2 Emergency response initiation mock-up with local firefighters and SRY

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr, Co-Chair, reported on behalf of Tim Armstrong, New Westminster Fire Chief, that the City's hazmat team will be tested on their reaction to a mock chemical spill to ensure the proper protocol is followed. Councillor Puchmayr noted that all New Westminster firefighters will be certified in hazmat training.

Procedural note: Mike LoVecchio, Canadian Pacific Railway representative, arrived at 1:15 p.m. Lauren Blake, Committee Clerk, administered the oath of office, and quorum was achieved.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of December 11, 2013

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the December 11, 2013 Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Confirmation of RCAP Co-Chair from Railways

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr, Co-Chair, advised that the representative from Canadian Pacific Railway has served as Co-Chair in the past, and suggested that Mike LoVecchio, Canadian Pacific Railway, assume the role of Co-Chair.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Mike LoVecchio, Canadian Pacific Railway representative, be appointed as Co-Chair of the Railway Community Advisory Panel.

CARRIED.

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

5.0 NEW BUSINESS (continued)

5.3 Coordination of Operational Frequencies

This item was deferred to the June 11, 2014 Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting.

5.4 Future freight projects with SRY re: Larco project

Singh Biln, Southern Railway, reported that Southern Railway has not been contacted by the City regarding the Larco project, located at 660 Quayside Drive. Jim Lowrie, Director, Engineering Services, reported that Planning staff will be directed to discuss rail proximity guidelines and to follow-up with the Railways regarding the Larco project.

Barry Waitt, Planner, reported the following information regarding new development and the rail proximity guidelines:

- The rail proximity guidelines are not included in the design aspect of new developments, and any mitigation regarding railways is completed by the developer of the project;
- The City should be advised of developments located close to railways in order to ensure that structures are constructed according to standard; and,
- Noise mitigating elements can be written into building permits and covenants to provide all subsequent owners of the mitigation elements that must be included within the building.

Mr. Waitt noted that it can be challenging to ensure that noise mitigation elements are written into building permits and covenants. Discussion ensued and the Panel noted the following comments:

- It was suggested that it is usually second and subsequent generation owners that raise concerns regarding noise;
- It was suggested that the mitigation elements be included in the title of the unit due to the fact that the owner may be unaware of the mitigation elements otherwise; and,
- Rental buildings may require a different method of notifying tenants of noise mitigation elements.

5.5 BNSF Dangerous Goods notification protocols and contacts

This item was deferred to the June 11, 2014 Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting.

6.0 STANDING ITEMS

6.1 Whistle Cessation

a. Downtown Whistle Cessation Update

Roger Emanuels, Manager, Design and Construction, provided an update regarding downtown whistle cessation, and noted that a consultant has been hired to create designs for intersections. Speaking to the intersection located at Begbie Street, Mr. Emanuels reported that there are concerns regarding the Larco development, and the potential impact the new development may have on the intersection, noting that the design may revert to a smaller vehicle access, to provide access to the River Market.

Mr. Emanuels reported that the signal information regarding the intersections will be forwarded to the railway companies by April 2014 and that the City would like to receive their feedback and comments by May or June 2014.

Mr. Emanuels reported that the process for the Front Street crossing has included closing off the driveway and upgrading the signals. It was suggested that additional signage be provided to direct pedestrians to cross on Columbia Street, when possible.

b. Results of City-wide safety audit for whistle cessation

Roger Emanuels, Manager, Design and Construction, reported that the City-wide safety audit regarding whistle cessation has been completed. Mr. Emanuels provided a summary of the audit, and noted the following information:

- The crossings located at Spruce Street and Braid Street have presented challenges due to the stairway that is located in the right-of-way of the SkyTrain station;
- An additional elevator connecting the SkyTrain platform to the industrial area of Sapperton has been discussed;
- Complexities and shunting at the Braid Street crossing have presented challenges regarding whistle cessation;

- It was noted that there is a higher volume of trains at Braid Street, and that trains move faster near this location;
- There were improvements made to the Cumberland Street crossing in 2008, and while there is potential for whistle cessation at this location, there are still issues regarding parking, vegetation and sightlines that must be addressed; and,
- The City is currently working with TransLink at the Sapperton SkyTrain station regarding access due to the new Compass Card program, as the program will effect access to the station.

c. Whistling protocols and Quayside shunting whistle procedures

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr, Co-Chair, reported that different rail companies utilize different protocols regarding whistling during pick-up and unloading, and the City would like to have a single process of non-whistling implemented.

Discussion ensued and the railway company representatives reported the following information:

- Trains should only be whistling to warn trespassers;
- Whistling is the only way for a train to communicate with the outside environment;
- Crew members communicate with each other via radio or hand signals;
- Trains do not have to whistle while in the yard;
- All pedestrian trespassers at the yards are reported; and,
- The Canadian Operating Rules are posted on the Canadian Pacific Railway website.

d. Whistle Cessation MOU – New Westminster, SRY & Port Metro Vancouver

Singh Biln, Southern Railway, reported that a three way agreement between Southern Railway, Port Metro Vancouver and the City of New Westminster regarding whistle cessation has been reached, and that there are six high priority crossings to be addressed.

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr noted that it is important that the community is aware of the work being completed and receives correct information regarding whistle cessation. It was suggested that a complaint line regarding train whistles could be established.

It was noted that whistle cessation may still be required with respect to trespassers, and that whistle cessation should also be investigated from the perspective of the crew.

e. Train whistle in Queensborough (Derek Ollman re: Ms. Watson's letter)

Derek Ollman, Southern Railway, spoke to whistle cessation in Queensborough, and noted that currently, whistling is required in that location; however, Southern Railway is working with the City to mitigate noise as much as possible.

6.2 City Projects

a. FCM Rail Proximity Guidelines – Application to Waterfront Development

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr, Co-chair, briefed the Panel on the FCM Rail Proximity Guidelines, noting that many cities have been modifying the guidelines to suite the specific requirements of their city, as well as to encourage and support future development. Councillor Puchmayr noted that communication between the City, the Railways and Developers is important to identify developments that are being planned near railways to investigate mitigation methods that can be implemented.

Councillor Puchmayr advised that this will be the first UBCM Conference since the Lac-Mégantic railway accident that occurred on June 9, 2012, an event which brought a heightened awareness of the role of railways in local communities, a recommendation from the Panel should be brought forward to the UBCM Conference that will be held September 22 – 26, 2014.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the UBCM be contacted encouraged to conduct a plenary on railway proximity issues and have staff from the Railway Association of Canada to provide a presentation regarding the FCM Rail Proximity Guidelines.

CARRIED.

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

6.3 Railway Projects

Keith Whiteley, Civil and Parks Infrastructure Project Coordinator, provided an update regarding the Fourth Street overpass, noting that construction will commence on March 24, 2014, and that a minimum amount of flagging will be required for the project. Mr. Whiteley reported that the workplans will be distributed to the railway companies approximately two or three weeks in advance.

7.0 OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Distribute contact information for panel members to the railway representatives

This item was deferred to the June 11, 2014 Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No items.

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

9.1 Host Queensborough Community Meetings on Rail Issues

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr, Co-chair, reported that the last community meeting occurred at Quayside. Biln Singh, Southern Railway, will confirm the venue with Councillor Puchmayr.

Councillor Puchmayr provided two community members attending the meeting to provide comments to the Panel. Maureen Albanese noted that her biggest complaints regarding trains in the city are unnecessary whistling and idling.

Mr. Singh reported that most railways are aware that idling is prohibited, and provided Ms. Albanese with his contact information for additional information.

10.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday June 11, 2014 – 1:00 p.m. (Committee Room #2)

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Certified correct,

**COUNCILLOR CHUCK PUCHMAYR
CO-CHAIR**

**LAUREN BLAKE
COMMITTEE CLERK**