

RAILWAY COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL

Wednesday, June 11, 2014 – 1:00 p.m.
Committee Room #2 at City Hall

NOTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	Co-Chair
Gary Caroline	City Resident
Bill Magri	City Resident

ABSENT:

Mayor Wayne Wright	Co-Chair
Singh Biln	Southern Railway representative
Emily Hamer	Canadian National representative
Richard Wagner	BNSF
Natalie Dickson	City Resident
Mike Lovecchio	Canadian Pacific representative
Scott Schiebler	Southern Railway representative (alternate for Singh Biln)

STAFF:

Chief Tim Armstrong	Director, New Westminister Fire and Rescue Services
Mark Allison	Senior Planner
Roger Emanuels	Manager, Design and Construction
Keith Whiteley	Project Manager
Alison Worsfold	Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of March 12, 2014

In the absence of quorum, the item was tabled to the September 10, 2014 Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Coordination of Operational Frequencies

In the absence of quorum, this item was tabled to the September 10, 2014 Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting.

4.2 BNSF Dangerous Goods notification protocols and contacts

In the absence of quorum, this item was tabled to the September 10, 2014 Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting.

4.3 Distribute contact information for panel members to the railway representatives

In the absence of quorum, this item was tabled to the September 10, 2014 Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Dangerous Goods Disclosure and Emergency Response

Councillor Puchmayr, Chair, advised that Federal Transportation Minister Lisa Raitt announced a new dangerous good disclosure protocol, which permits railway companies to keep hazardous goods undisclosed for a pro-longed period of time. Councillor Puchmayr suggested that the new protocol is a step back for New Westminister and the country as a whole, and is requesting that both the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Railway Committee and the Transportation Minister revisit the issue.

In response to questions from the Panel, Chief Tim Armstrong, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services, provided the following information:

- In order to act diligently in an emergency, First responder firefighters require immediate access to Emergency Response Assistance Plans (ERAPS) and other pertinent information;
- The City is working towards becoming established as a fully-equipped and trained HazMat community;
- A first response emergency exercise between Southern Railway and the City is being planned; and,
- It is the city's responsibility to address the cleanup in the event of a railway disaster.

Discussion ensued, and the Panel suggested that providing emergency response education to the community would increase awareness regarding the issue, and ultimately benefit the city as a whole. It was suggested that information regarding emergency response be included on the City's website and the local newspapers.

5.2 Grant Funding Sources for Rail Crossing Improvements

Mark Allison, Senior Planner, advised that Federal funding will become available in the summer through Transport Canada to accelerate railway crossing improvements.

5.3 Rail Bed Standards

In the absence of quorum, this item was tabled to the September 10, 2014 Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting.

5.4 Maintenance of New Westminster Infrastructure

In the absence of quorum, this item was tabled to the September 10, 2014 Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting.

5.5 Queensborough concerns Whistles at Salter Street and Derwent Way

Councillor Puchmayr, Chair, advised that residents have requested that whistle cessation at the Salter Street and Derwent Way railway crossing be Council's priority. Councillor Puchmayr noted that, between the railway companies and the City, there is approximately \$1.3 million in funding to be utilized towards whistle cessation. The City is also currently investigating the possibility of reducing railway crossings in Queensborough.

6.0 STANDING ITEMS

6.1 Whistle Cessation

a) Downtown Whistle Cessation Update

Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction, reported that the city is on track with whistle cessation at the downtown railway crossing, and that the consultant has prepared the design documents. Mr. Emanuels advised that the City is awaiting a response from CN with respect to signal upgrades at the crossing.

b) City-wide Whistle Cessation Program

Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction, advised that the City is in the process of establishing city-wide whistle cessation at the Sapperton, Braid Street, and Cumberland Street railway crossings. Mr. Emanuels noted that whistle cessation at the Braid Street crossing will depend on the future of the Bailey bridge. It was also noted that the Braid SkyTrain station stairs end at the Cumberland Street railway crossing corridor, which poses a pedestrian safety issue.

c) Queensborough Crossing Upgrades

Councillor Puchmayr, Chair, advised that whistle cessation at the following Queensborough crossings are projected to be completed by the end of 2014:

1. Mercer Street Crossing;
2. Riverside Drive crossing, which will have nighttime cessation; and,
3. Quayside Drive crossing, which will cost the City approximately \$350,000.

6.2 City Projects

a) 4th Street Pedestrian/Bicycle Overpass Update /Memorandum of Understanding

Keith Whiteley, Project Manager, advised that although the City encountered several setbacks with respect to construction on the Fourth Street pedestrian and bicycle overpass, piling work has recently been completed at the Front Street parkade in preparation for the overpass.

6.3 Railway Projects

In the absence of quorum, this item was tabled to the September 10, 2014 Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting.

7.0 OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

There were no items.

10.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday September 10, 2014 – 1:00 p.m. (Committee Room #2)

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 1:50 p.m.