

RAILWAY COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL

Wednesday, January 21, 2015 – 1:00 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall

NOTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	Co-Chair
Councillor Bill Harper	Council Member
Bahadar Dhillon	City Resident
Mike LoVecchio	Canadian Pacific representative
Natalie Dickson	City Resident

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bill Magri	City Resident
Emily Hamer	Canadian National representative
Singh Biln	Southern Railway representative
Richard Wagner	BNSF
Gary Caroline	City Resident

STAFF:

Jim Lowrie	Director, Engineering Services
Tim Armstrong	Director, New Westminister Fire and Rescue Services
Roger Emanuels	Manager, Design and Construction
Mark Allison	Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Sustainability
Keith Whiteley	Civil & Parks Infrastructure Project Coordinator
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 September 17, 2014

Due to the absence of quorum, the item was tabled to the April 8, 2015 Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Rail Safety during Southern Railway of BC (SRY) Dispute

Councillor Puchmayr, Co-Chair, advised that the City received concerns from the public with respect to safe railway operations during the SRY lockout. Upon investigation, which included information gathered from the BC Safety Authority, it was established that SRY is utilizing qualified management staff for railway operations during the labour dispute.

6.0 STANDING ITEMS

6.1 Whistle Cessation

Councillor Puchmayr, Co-Chair, reported that SRY infrastructure upgrades have been temporarily discontinued due to the current labour dispute.

a) Downtown Whistle Cessation Update

Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction, noted that the City received a \$390,000 estimate from the Canadian National (CN) Railway for downtown crossing signal improvements at the Begbie Street crossing. The City would be required to allocate \$300,000 towards the signal upgrades, putting the total cost of the improvements at \$690,000. Mr. Emanuels advised that the equipment required for the upgrades will be delivered after the City receives and fully executes the agreements.

b) City-wide Whistle Cessation Program

Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction, noted the following information:

- The City has been in discussions with Transportation Canada with respect to whistle cessation at the private crossings throughout the city, such as at 14th and 16th Street. It was established that the crossing at Kruger mill does not require a whistle, as it is located on private property;
- Whistle cessation at the Braid Street crossing will be investigated when the Braid Street bridge reopens and the new traffic pattern is established;
- Wesgroup Properties, the developers of the Brewery District in Sapperton, support whistle cessation at the Spruce Street Crossing, and have expressed interest in financially contributing to the project;
- As the staircase at the Sapperton SkyTrain station exits onto the railway corridor, a new set of stairs would be required to be constructed elsewhere. The City would also like to relocate the current elevator access point at the station; and,
- There has not been any whistle cessation progress at the Cumberland Street crossing; however, the project has been included in the 2015 work plan, and will commence in the future.

c) Queensborough Crossing Upgrades

Jim Lowrie, Director of Engineering Services, advised that, effective June 30, 2015, the City will be including liability insurance as an additional policy risk for the Queensborough crossing upgrades.

In response to questions from the Panel, Mr. Lowrie noted that large companies such as CN and CP would provide their own liability insurance, and that SRY does not provide self-insurance due to its size.

Councillor Puchmayr, Co-Chair, suggested that, moving forward, the City be provided with a disclosure of all agreements outlining pertinent details of the coverage to avoid any confusion.

6.2 City Projects

a) 4th Street Pedestrian/Bicycle Overpass Update/MOU

Keith Whiteley, Civil & Parks Infrastructure Project Coordinator, advised that the Fourth Street Pedestrian Overpass is now in place, and that the railway companies will no longer be affected by construction. Mr. Whiteley noted that the overpass will open in February 2015.

In response to questions from the Panel, Mark Allison, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Sustainability, advised that in the Request For Proposal for the Front Street Parkade demolition, it was established that the successful applicant would be required to liaise with the railway companies during deconstruction. Mr. Allison noted that the three month project will commence in the summer of 2015.

6.3 Railway Projects

There were no items to discuss.

7.0 OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items.

8.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

The following items were tabled to the April 8, 2015 Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting:

8.1 Railway Crossing Safety, Transportation Safety Board of Canada

8.2 Grade Crossing Standards, Transportation Canada

Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction, advised that the Grade Crossing Standards are the guidelines the City follows for whistle cessation. Mr. Emanuels noted that Transportation Canada has recently included an inspection requirement in the standards, which requires railway companies to conclude inspections more frequently.

Mr. Emanuels noted that he will invite a Transportation Canada representative to attend the April 8, 2015 Railway Community advisory Panel meeting.

Mike LoVecchio, Canadian Pacific representative, advised that the Ministry of Transportation is currently undertaking a statutory review of the Canada Transportation Act. Honourable David L. *Emerson*, who is heading the review, is currently accepting submissions, which will help guide the final recommendations submission to the Minister of Transportation. Mr. LoVecchio noted that CP is lobbying an amendment in the regulation that would permit railway companies to install voice and visual recorders inside all locomotive cabs.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

10.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

There were no items.

11.0 NEXT MEETING

April 8, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Committee Room #2

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 2:00 p.m.