

RAILWAY COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL

Friday, May 1, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	Co-Chair
Councillor Bill Harper	Co-Chair
Singh Biln	Southern Railway representative
Emily Hamer	Canadian National representative
Mike LoVecchio	Canadian Pacific representative
Bahadar Dhillon	City Resident
Michael Savage	City Resident
Bryan Vogler	City Resident

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bill Magri	City Resident
Richard Wagner	BNSF

STAFF:

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 p.m.

1.0 INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 Committee Orientation & Oaths

Alison Worsfold, Committee Clerk, reviewed the rules of conduct, social media policy, and permission form with Panel members.

Panel members are to contact Ms. Worsfold regarding attendance at each meeting.

If a member is unable to fulfill their duties, they are requested to notify the Legislative Services department so that the position can be refilled.

Ms. Worsfold administered the Oath of Office to Panel members.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 10.3 Letter of April 27, 2015 from Bryan Vogler Re: Robotic Cars and Railway Lines**
- 10.4 E-mail of April 26, 2015 from Dorothy Holme Re: Transfer of Coal through New Westminster**

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of September 17, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the September 17, 2014 Railway Community Advisory Panel be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.2 Notes of January 21, 2015

The notes of the January 21, 2015 Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting were circulated for information.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) Braid Street Railway Crossing / Transportation Canada Safety Concerns

Roger Emanuels, Manager, Design and Construction, advised that the City received a letter from Transportation Canada on March 24, 2015 expressing concerns regarding the possible increase of traffic volume at the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) crossing at Braid Street. In response, the City hired a consultant to monitor traffic patterns along the corridor, who concluded that traffic volumes at the location are approximately 47% lower than they were when the single lane Bailey bridge was in operation. Transportation Canada has indicated that the City and CP satisfactorily addressed the safety concerns at the location. Moving forward, Transportation Canada will routinely engage in spot inspections to monitor railway operations along the corridor.

Discussion ensued, and the Panel noted the following comments:

- It was suggested that the railway crossing is a concern and requires to be monitored due to its poor design;
- The railway crossing has been a topic of discussion with the Gateway Transportation Collaborative Forum, which has suggested that a grade separation be implemented at the location; and,
- It was suggested that traffic volumes at the crossing could resurface when the double lane Bailey bridge is constructed.

6.2 Canadian National Railway (CN) Derailment (Easter Weekend)

Emily Hamer, Canadian National (CN), advised that there were two CN train derailments in New Westminster in April 2015. One derailment was due to a mechanical issue, and the other derailment was due to a flat tire. Ms. Hamer suggested that neither of the occurrences involved dangerous goods or posed a safety risk to the community.

In response to questions from the Panel, Ms. Hamer noted that CN thoroughly investigated both situations as per required by the federal government.

7.0 STANDING ITEMS

7.1 Whistle Cessation

a) Downtown Whistle Cessation Update

Roger Emanuels, Manager, Design and Construction, advised that the equipment to update the Front Street and Begbie Street railway crossing has been ordered, and should arrive in August 2015. Mr. Emanuels noted that the equipment will be installed in September 2015, and that signal work at the location may be completed by the end of October 2015.

b) City-wide Whistle Cessation Program

Roger Emanuels, Manager, Design and Construction, noted that there was a safety audit completed at the Cumberland Street railway crossing.

Mr. Emanuels advised that it will be difficult to achieve cessation at the Spruce Street crossing, as the SkyTrain stairs exit onto the railway corridor.

c) Queensborough Crossing Upgrades

Roger Emanuels, Manager, Design and Construction, advised that the City continues to work with Southern Railway (SRY) to address cessation at the Quayside Drive and 20th Street crossings. Mr. Emanuels noted that work has been delayed due to the current labour dispute; however, a concept has been designed for the 20th Street railway crossing and a surveyor is currently collecting data to establish a base plan for the Quayside Drive railway crossing. Mr. Emanuels also noted that the City has agreed to include residents in discussions regarding signal design of the Quayside Drive railway crossing.

Mr. Emanuels noted the following additional information:

- Construction renderings have been completed for the Ewen Avenue railway crossing;
- Cessation at the pedestrian crossing at Port Royal is complete; and,
- Survey work is currently being completed at the Salter Street railway crossing.

Discussion ensued, and the following comments were noted:

- It is SRY's goal to achieve cessation at all SRY railway crossings located throughout New Westminster by the end of 2015;
- The Brewery District has expressed interest in achieving cessation at the Spruce Street railway crossing in Sapperton;
- The City utilizes the Federation of Canadian Municipalities guidelines for new developments in proximity to railway operations;
- Developers are informed of nearby railway operations if they intend to develop land that is located in close proximity to the operations;
- Under federal regulation, trains are required to whistle at all public railway crossings; however, each private railway crossing maintains its own standard; and,
- When a railway company receives a whistle complaint, the company is required to investigate the incident via the train's black box. If it is discovered that the conductor deviated from the rules, disciplinary action is taken.

7.2 City Projects

a) Downtown Parkade Demolition

Roger Emanuels, Manager, Design and Construction, advised that the demolition of the western portion of the Front Street parkade may commence in October 2015 and will take approximately three months to complete. The rehabilitation of the eastern portion of the parkade will take approximately five months to complete. Mr. Emanuels noted that, as train operations occur under the parkade, the City will be working with the railway companies to ensure safety measures are taken at all times throughout the process.

7.3 Railway Projects

Roger Emanuels, Manager, Design and Construction, advised that the City is currently working with the Canadian Pacific Railway to implement signalization at the Braid Street railway crossing.

8.0 OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items.

9.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

There were no items.

10.0 CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 E-mail of March 16, 2015 from Enzo Guerriero Re: Rail Noise

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr, Co-Chair, summarized the e-mails of March 16, 2015 and July 23, 2014 from Enzo Guerriero regarding rail noise.

Discussion ensued, and the Panel noted the following comments:

- Southern Railway applies grease to all railway tracks on a weekly basis, and will be implementing a lubrication system in the near future;
- It was suggested that the City and Canadian National (CN) investigate the possibility of providing plantings along railway beds; and,
- It was suggested that the CN be required to trim the trees outlined in the correspondence to ensure railway safety.

10.2 E-mail of July 23, 2014 from Enzo Guerriero Re: Rail Noise

The item was discussed with item 10.1.

10.3 Letter of April 27, 2015 from Bryan Vogler Re: Robotic Cars and Railway Lines

Bryan Vogler, City Resident, summarized the letter of April 27, 2015 regarding robotic cars and railway lines.

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr, Co-Chair, suggested that Mr. Vogler forward the letter to Tesla Motors, as it is outside of the jurisdiction and mandate of the Panel.

10.4 E-mail of April 26, 2015 from Dorothy Holme Re: Transfer of Coal through New Westminster

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr, Co-Chair, summarized the e-mail of April 26, 2015 from Dorothy Holme regarding the transfer of coal through New Westminster.

In response to the letter, Councillor Puchmayr advised that the referenced corridor would not be utilized by Burlington Northern Railway if the company were to relocate to Surrey. The company would be required to utilize the Canadian Pacific line to cross at the Pattullo Bridge in the event that a slide is blocking their main line.

Discussion ensued, and the Panel noted the following comments:

- Railway companies are required by law to pull DOT-111 tanker cars, as well as coal, which is not considered a dangerous good;
- Railway companies are required to provide the City with information and routine updates regarding dangerous goods movement throughout the city; and,
- Dangerous goods are required to be monitored frequently, and are not permitted to remain in the same location for over 24 hours.

Councillor Puchmayr advised that work is ongoing with respect to establishing an effective emergency preparedness plan for New Westminster, and that the Plan remains a priority for Council.

11.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

There were no items.

12.0 NEXT MEETING

September 9, 2015 – 1:00 p.m. (Committee Room #2)

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, The meeting concluded at 10:10 a.m.

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Co-Chair

Alison Worsfold
Committee Clerk