

RAILWAY COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL

Wednesday, September 25, 2013 – 1:00 p.m.
EOC Room No. 1 at City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Wright	Co-Chair
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	Co-Chair
Natalie Dickson	City Resident
Bill Magri	City Resident
Rick Poznikoff	Canadian Pacific representative
Scott Schiebler	Southern Railway representative (alternate for Singh Biln)

GUESTS:

Derek Ollman	Southern Railway representative
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ABSENT:

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

STAFF:

Jim Lowrie	Director, Engineering Services
Mark Allison	Senior Planner
Tim Armstrong	Director, New Westminister Fire and Rescue Services
Roger Emanuels	Manager, Design and Construction
Keith Coueffin	Manager, Licensing & Integrated Services
Alison Worsfold	Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Co-Chair, Councillor Puchmayr, invited Panel members to introduce themselves and provide an overview of their backgrounds, respective responsibilities and areas of expertise.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the agenda be amended by adding the following items:

- 8.1 – Rail safety information (CN and TransCAER)
- 8.2 – Memorandum of Council Resolution dated September 23, 2013 Re: Membership to RCAP
- 8.3 – SRY letter addressed to Mayor Wright dated July 25, 2013 Re: Movement of dangerous goods

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of June 12, 2013

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the June 12, 2013 minutes be amended by:

- Updating Section 5 b) iii) to read “2 movements” instead of “22 movements.”
- Changing Section 5 a) ii) from “Audits are complete and have been delivered to Southern Rail for response” to “Audits are complete and have been delivered to Southern Rail for response, which have in turn been sent back to the City for assessment.”

AND THAT the minutes be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Railway Safety Initiatives

Scott Schiebler, Southern Railway representative in Sighn Biln's absence, provided an update regarding SRY Railway Safety:

- According to the law, railway companies are required to re-train and certify in inspecting and managing the movement of Dangerous Good's (DG's) every 36 months;
- SRY re-trains and certifies its employees every 24 months;
- It is mandatory that employees complete a DG exam with a score of 90% or higher in order to achieve or maintain certification;
- SRY has a Dangerous Goods Safety Program that has been shared with local municipalities, including New Westminster;
- Certified car inspectors examine cars before and after they transport DG's;
- Employees ensure that they have proper documentation before accepting dangerous goods car on the railways;
- SRY invests millions of dollars annually in track improvements and maintenance;
- SRY ensures that DG's are transported at a low speed of 10mph, in order to minimize the number of switching movements required to handle DG's;
- In the event of an emergency involving DG's, SRY has a protocol for notifying local emergency responders;
- All DG carts are stored in a secure facility with 24/7 video monitoring;
- Quantum Murray, SRY's contracted emergency responder are available 24/7 in the event of an emergency; and
- SRY has conducted emergency response exercises with local responders, in accordance with the Railway Association of Canada Dangerous Goods team.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 FCM Railway Proximity Guidelines (Councillor Puchmayr)

Councillor Puchmayr, reported that new guidelines for development in proximity to railway operations were launched as part of the FCM Annual Conference in May 2013, through a partnership between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Railway Association of Canada (RAC). Councillor Puchmayr noted that safety is the number one concern with the new guidelines, along with reducing the number of conflicts between railways and nearby properties, and that they are designed to ensure clarity for prospective property owners who may be affected by railway operations. Councillor Puchmayr advised that he has been in contact with planning staff in regards to incorporating the new guidelines into the Draft Queensborough Community Plan prior to its adoption.

In subsequent discussion, the following comments were noted:

- The guidelines are not rules, however, they should be complied to as much as possible;
- The guidelines are also used to advise developers building near railways, and to ensure that prospective buyers and investors are aware of rail issues;
- The City should explore options of how to reach a more livable area in the proximity of its railways; and,
- More information on the proximity guidelines can be found online at: www.proximityissues.ca.

The Panel requested that staff review Federation of Canadian Municipalities/Railways Association of Canada Railway Proximity Guidelines and report to Council on how these implementations would be applied to land use and development in the future.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT staff review Federation of Canadian Municipalities/Railways Association of Canada Railway Proximity Guidelines and report to Council on how these implementations would be applied to land use and development in the future.

CARRIED.

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

5.2 RCM Railway Disputes resolution subcommittee meeting report (Councillor Puchmayr and Rick Poznikoff)

No report.

5.3 Emergency Preparedness (New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services)

Fire Chief Tim Armstrong provided an update regarding New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services Emergency Preparedness. Chief Armstrong noted the following:

- In light of the Lac Mégantic disaster, rail safety in populated areas throughout the city have become a major public concern;
- Local Fire and Rescue services have started investigating railway safety more thoroughly and frequently;
- SRY has outlined a number of measures that it has in place to prevent and react to such issues in the City;
- The goal is to dispel fear through enhancing public knowledge by offering city-wide training sessions;
- New Westminster recently held a successful emergency preparedness meeting of which all five local railways attended;
- The Fire and Rescue Services are working closely with Council and the community in order to ensure cooperation with the railway companies; and
- There is currently a plan being drafted to examine different methods of evacuation and mustering responses to rail emergencies.

Chief Armstrong concluded that he is currently working on a report that will be brought forward to council in the near future.

5.4 Coquitlam – New Westminster Alternative Dispute Resolution Process – Brunette River Bailey Bridge

Jim Lowrie, Director, Engineering Services, reported that the City of New Westminster and the City of Coquitlam are currently in the process of discussing how to best address the issue of the one-lane Brunette River Bailey Bridge that must be replaced within two years while not impacting rail safety on Braid Street. Mr. Lowrie noted that the new bridge would most likely come down to being comprised of either one or two lanes. Although there has only been one meeting to date, there will be a technical analysis concluded in the near future, which will display the impact of both replacement options, and will study bridge alignment, traffic volumes, implications on rail crossings, etc.

Mayor Wright advised that one of biggest issues with the development of the new bridge will be dealing with the train tracks, as there are four different railway tracks located at the entrance of the crossing.

6.0 STANDING ITEMS

6.1 Whistle Cessation

Roger Emanuels, Manager, Design and Construction noted that city staff is looking at whistle cessation in 3 locations throughout the city:

1. Downtown

- This area has been the main focus, as it bears the greatest concentration of new residents;
- There are three crossings being studied;
- No design is required for 6th Street as this crossing, as it has been closed and is used for emergency access only;
- Opus Consultants have prepared the safety audits and preliminary design sketches for all three crossings;
- The city is currently in the process of retaining Hatch Mott Macdonald consultants for the rail crossings and signal upgrades;
- HMM consultants are finalizing design details in order to ensure that each railway crossing signal is addressed;
- HMM consultants are also making sure that all three crossings meet governmental regulations; and,
- The current schedule has construction of the crossing commencing in mid 2014, based on railway approvals and the availability of equipment.

2. City-wide

- Initial safety audits have been completed at each crossing;
- If the proper equipment is in place, Cumberland Street may get cessation ahead of the other locations;
- Spruce Street bears certain challenges with achieving cessation due to the steep topography and road geometry at that location;
- Due to the fact that the Sapperton SkyTrain station emergency exit is located between railway tracks, the City is currently working with Translink to look at a new access, including stairs and hopefully an elevator; and,
- The city is in discussion with SRY regarding track improvements at 20th Street by incorporating the signalization of the crossing, and ultimately achieving cessation.

3. Queensborough

- Opus Consultants have completed Safety Audits at all of the Queensborough Crossings;
- SRY has reviewed these audits and have recommended a number of changes, due to the fact that significant developments are expected that may change the requirements at the crossings;
- The city, SRY and Opus Consultants are in the process of setting up a workshop to update the audits;
- The Quayside Drive crossing assessment was included in the Queensborough assessments; and
- It may be possible to look at the Quayside Drive crossing separately from the other crossings in order to move it ahead of the others.

Discussion ensued, and the following comments were noted:

- The design at the Begbie crossing should take into account the limited pedestrian refuge areas;
- The addition of gates or signals may be required to control pedestrian movements at this location;
- Approvals may be quicker when a consultant is working with just one railways, such as SRY in Queensborough;
- A workshop with SRY will be beneficial in order to speed up the design review;
- Residents have been reporting that certain operators are not blowing in accordance with Transport Canada standards to minimize the impact on the surrounding community, which should be investigated;
- Pushing the issue regarding whistle compliance may actually lead to an increase in whistling;
- Federal standards require a whistle sequence providing for a minimum of 20 seconds at the approach to each crossing; and,
- Continuing with past practice, we need to communicate clearly with our local citizens in regards to what the protocols are, what is happening, etc.

Sample liability insurance agreements (Railways)

Rick Poznikoff, Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), advised that the CPR requires municipalities to purchase liability insurance from an external vendor, rather than holding the policy itself. Mr. Poznikoff noted that the CPR ensures the sounding of a whistle at each railway crossing, unless otherwise stated by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada. This practice has resulted in no pedestrian insurance claims in British Columbia for the past several years.

6.2 City Projects and Plans (City)

Councillor Puchmayr reviewed the following projects and plans:

- **Draft Queensborough Community Plan** – This plan is currently being worked on. Councillor Puchmayr has asked staff to modify the draft plan to include the new proximity guidelines.
- **Fourth Street Pedestrian/Bicycle Crossing to Waterfront Pier Park** – Of significant importance to New Westminster, staff will be seeking to lower the costs in order to complete the project in 2014.
- **Queensborough to Quayside Pedestrian/Bicycle Crossing** – The crossing will be built from the money from the casino Development Assistance Compensation fund. \$6 million in DAC funds is available for this project. SRY has been very cooperative in working with the City to realize this important connection.

6.3 Railway Projects and Operational Issues (Railways)

7.0 OTHER BUSINESS

No items.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the following items be received for information:

- 8.1 **Rail safety information (CN and TransCAER)**
- 8.2 **Memorandum of Council Resolution dated September 23, 2013 Re: Membership to RCAP**
- 8.3 **SRY letter addressed to Mayor Wright dated July 25, 2013 Re: Movement of dangerous goods**

CARRIED.

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

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Information on public and private crossings
- Rail traffic volumes
- RCAP mission statement
- RCAP work plan

10.0 NEXT MEETING

1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 in Committee Room 2 (light lunch to be provided)

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 2:30 p.m.

Mayor Wayne Wright
Co-Chair

Alison Worsfold
Recording Clerk