

# RAILWAY COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 – 1:00 p.m.  
EOC #1 at City Hall

## MINUTES

### VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	Co-Chair
Mike LoVecchio	Canadian Pacific representative (Co-Chair)
Bill Magri	City Resident
Emily Hamer	Canadian National representative
Gary Caroline	City Resident
Natalie Dickson	City Resident
Singh Biln	Southern Railway representative

### ABSENT:

Richard Wagner	BNSF
Mayor Wayne Wright	Co-Chair
Bahadar Dhillon	City Resident

### GUEST:

Mike Peterson	Canadian National Assistant Superintendent
---------------	--

### STAFF:

Jim Lowrie	Director, Engineering Services
John Hatch	Deputy Director, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Roger Emanuels	Manager, Design and Construction
Keith Whiteley	Civil & Parks Infrastructure Project Coordinator
Cory McLaren	Emergency Planning Assistant
Alison Worsfold	Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 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

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the March 12, 2014 Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

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

### 2.2 Notes of June 11, 2014

The notes of June 11, 2014 were circulated for information.

## 3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

## 4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 4.1 The *Lac-Mégantic* derailment

**Emily Hamer, Canadian National (CN)**, distributed an on table document from the National Transportation Board regarding the contributing factors of the Lac-Mégantic derailment incident. An additional on table item, CN's 2014 Leadership Safety Highlights, was also distributed.

**Mike LoVecchio, Co-Chair**, provided a brief overview of the on table documents.

**Councillor Puchmayr, Co-Chair**, expressed concerns regarding the National Transportation Board's findings, reiterating the importance of railway companies undertaking a proper auditing process.

Discussion ensued, and the Panel noted the following comments:

- Legislation for all Class I railroads has recently changed;
- The CN exceeds all railway safety requirements;
- All CN tracks in New Westminster undergo a visual inspection, as well as an ultrasonic rail detector inspection;
- All CN train cars are inspected prior to arriving in New Westminster;
- CP audits occur regularly and unannounced;
- Approximately \$1.2 million is allocated to CP's operations budget annually;

- SRY maintains its own Safety Management System, which outlines the maintenance of infrastructure, noting that railways are tested for defects annually;
- SRY will be implementing a system that will allow for the Dangerous Goods route to be inspected several times a year; and,
- All railway companies are required to abide by the regulations and standards set out by the Federal government.

**Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction**, suggested that train defect solutions, such as excess water in right-of-ways or muddy conditions, be discussed at the next Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting.

## 4.2 Hazmat Response Training

**John Hatch, Deputy Director of the New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services**, provided an overview of New Westminster's Fire and Rescue Services Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Response training, and noted the following information:

- Mr. Hatch was recently certified as a Hazmat technician;
- By 2015, the goal is to train two hazmat technicians per shift;
- 16 members will be trained to the Hazmat operations level in October 2014, which will result in 66% of the crew being certified at that level;
- Members' training will be specific to the most common Dangerous Goods that circulate throughout the city; and,
- *Agrium*, an ammonium nitrate contractor, has located its Hazmat response unit trailers in the Queensborough fire hall yard.

**Mike LoVecchio, Co-Chair**, advised that CP's Foam Trailer has been relocated to Abbotsford, due to its proximity to the Trans-Canada highway and the Abbotsford International Airport, so that it can be rapidly deployed.

## 5.0 NEW BUSINESS

### 5.1 Quayside Derailment

Mike Peterson, Canadian National Assistant Superintendent, provided a brief overview regarding CN's train derailment along Quayside Drive, which occurred on CP's tracks. Mr. Peterson advised that, upon investigation, the train was travelling under the speed limit at approximately eight to nine miles per hour, and that a rail defect was most likely the cause for derailment. In response to questions from the Panel, Mr. Peterson reported that the tracks underwent an ultrasonic inspection a week prior to the derailment.

## 5.2 Yard Whistling Protocols

Discussion ensued with respect to yard whistling protocols, and the following comments were noted:

- It was suggested that crews utilize radios as their main form of communication;
- It was suggested that, with the exception of railway crossings, engineers refrain from whistling when possible; and,
- Federal protocols permit whistling, as it may be required during specific situations.

## 5.3 Wait for Me Daddy Whistling Protocols

Councillor Puchmayr advised that the City is working with CN and CP with respect to ensuring there be no train whistling during the October 4, 2014 Wait for Me Daddy Memorial event.

## 5.4 Rail Right of Way Maintenance and Clean Up

**Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction**, suggested that City staff be provided with a detailed railway contact list, including information regarding right-of-ways, and what crossing belongs to each company.

Mr. Emanuels also suggested that the signage at each crossing be regularly monitored and maintained with this information, so that citizens are aware of whom to call in an incident. Further, it would be beneficial for City staff and railway companies to tour the rail yards to see what could be cleaned up.

## 6.0 STANDING ITEMS

### 6.1 Whistle Cessation

#### a) Downtown Whistle Cessation Update

**Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction**, noted that the City is on track with whistle cessation at the downtown railway crossing, and that the design documents have been reviewed and approved by CN. Mr. Emanuels advised that the City is now in the process of receiving quotes from potential signal system suppliers to complete the signal upgrades at the crossing.

## **b) City-wide Whistle Cessation Program**

**Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction**, spoke to the topic of city-wide whistle cessation, and noted the following information:

- The Cumberland Street crossing meets criteria for whistle cessation, which is currently being investigated by the consultant;
- Whistle cessation at the Braid and Brunette Street crossing will depend on the future of the Bailey Bridge, as traffic volumes could increase; and,
- The Spruce Street crossing requires work to be completed prior to the implementation of whistle cessation at the location.

## **c) Queensborough Crossing Upgrades**

**Singh Biln, Southern Railway (SRY)**, noted that the president of SRY has requested that an agreement regarding liability issues with the City be established. Upon completion of the agreement, the process should be completed within 30 days, and whistle cessation at the Quayside Drive crossing will commence.

## **6.2 City Projects**

### **a) 4<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian/Bicycle Overpass Update /MOU**

Keith Whiteley, Civil & Parks Infrastructure Project Coordinator, provided information regarding the Fourth Street Pedestrian Overpass, noting the structure was erected during the weekend of September 13, 2014. Mr. Whiteley advised that although the deck will be placed on the bridge by September 21, 2014, the structure will be closed to the public until its grand opening.

## **6.3 Railway Projects**

**Singh Biln, Southern Railway (SRY)**, advised that SRY is currently double tracking its Dangerous Goods corridor along Annacis Island, which will continue into 2015.

## **7.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items.

## 8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 E-mail from Mathew Styranka dated July 8, 2014 Re: Quayside Rail Noise

8.2 E-mail from Janet McDonald dated August 30, 2014 Re: Railway Lack of Safety

### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Co-Chairs, railway companies, and city staff liaise and respond to the two following pieces of correspondence:*

- *E-mail from Mathew Styranka dated July 8, 2014 Re: Quayside Rail Noise; and,*
- *E-mail from Janet McDonald dated August 30, 2014 Re: Railway Lack of Safety.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## 9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

9.1 Evacuation Release of DG's Protocol (Quayside)

9.2 Train Defect Solutions (City and Railways)

## 10.0 NEXT MEETING

January 21, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in Committee Room #2

## 11.0 ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION**, the meeting concluded at 2:50 p.m.

---

**Councillor Chuck Puchmayr**  
Co-Chair

---

**Alison Worsfold**  
Recording Clerk