

RAILWAY COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL

September 9, 2015 – 1:00 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Co-Chair
Councillor Bill Harper	- City Council
Singh Biln	- Southern Railway representative
Mike LoVecchio	- Co-Chair, Canadian Pacific representative
Bill Magri	- City Resident
Bryan Vogler	- City Resident

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bahadar Dhillon	- City Resident
Michael Savage	- City Resident
Richard Wagner	- Burlington North SF

GUESTS:

Allen Fryer	- Coal Alliance
Wayne Mills	- President, International Union of Operating Engineers

STAFF:

Tim Armstrong	- Fire Chief
Eugene Wat	- Manager, Infrastructure Planning
Mark Allison	- Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Sustainability
Roger Emanuels	- Manager, Design and Construction
Keith Whiteley	- Civil and Parks Infrastructure Project Coordinator
Lauren Blake	- Committee Clerk

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

1.0 INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members provided introductions.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Item 9.1: Fire Services Updated be added to the agenda; and,

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the May 1, 2015 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the May 1, 2015 Railway Community Advisory Panel be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Transportation of Coal (Coal Alliance)

Allen Fryer, Coal Alliance, and Wayne Mills, President, International Union of Engineer Operators, provided an on-table PowerPoint presentation regarding the transportation of coal.

Discussion ensued, and the Panel noted the following comments:

- The transportation of coal can create jobs and provide a net gain to local communities;
- Railway companies meet the health and safety requirements for the transportation of coal;
- The same precautions are taken for the transportation of both metallurgical and thermal coal;
- It was suggested that the railways could teach the importance of railways at the secondary school level; and,

- It was suggested that there could be a better use of the Fraser Surrey Docks facilities rather than the exportation of US thermal coal, as the project would create a small number of jobs.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

7.0 STANDING ITEMS

7.1 Whistle Cessation

a) Downtown Whistle Cessation Update

Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction, advised that whistle cessation would begin at the Begbie Street crossing, as well as the Front Street and Fourth Street crossing, in late September 2015.

b) City-wide Whistle Cessation Program

Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction, advised that Cumberland Street crossing requires sightline improvements and encroachments to be cleaned up.

With respect to the Braid Street crossing, Mr. Emanuels noted that the Braid Street crossing is challenging due to its proximity to the traffic signal and the poor driving habits of the area. Mr. Emanuels advised that the traffic signalization would be reviewed in order to address Transport Canada's concerns.

c) Queensborough Crossing Upgrades

Roger Emanuels, Manager of Design and Construction, advised that a Memorandum of Understanding for cost sharing between the City and Southern Rail is being developed for the Quayside Crossing. A preliminary design has been completed and will be presented to the public for feedback in late September or early October 2015.

Mr. Emanuels advised that a public notice regarding whistling cessation at the Port Royal crossing is scheduled to be released in October 2015.

Mr. Emanuels noted that the Twentieth Street and River Drive crossing requires repaving and will have evening whistle cessation. The crossing would act as a private crossing.

With respect to the Ewen Avenue crossing, Mr. Emanuels advised that the staff would meet with Southern Rail to discuss preliminary designs.

Singh Biln, Southern Rail, advised that in order for BC Safety Authority to remove whistle requirements at a pedestrian crossing, fencing must be installed, as well as a risk assessment a public notification must be completed.

7.2 City Projects

a) Sapperton Station Access

Mark Allison, Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Sustainability, advised that an elevation connection to Spruce Street would be ideal, noting that TransLink has expressed support for the idea. Mr. Allison further noted that improved access to this area would be an important element of the proposed Royal Columbia Hospital expansion and Economic Health Care Cluster.

b) Sapperton Station Fibre-Optic Connection

Mark Allison, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Sustainability, advised that in order to provide a fibre optic connection in Sapperton, the site lines and turning radius at Sapperton Station would require review.

In order to provide a fibre optic connection to the area underneath the railway system, Mike LoVecchio, Canadian Pacific, and Singh Biln, Southern Rail, advised that the installation should be similar to other utilities, and an easement agreement may be required.

c) Braid Street Greenway

Mark Allison, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Sustainability, advised that the City has received a \$450,000 federal grant to complete the Brunette Fraser Regional Greenway along Braid Street. This section of the greenway would require effective safety devices that are consistent with whistle cessation.

In order to install effective safety devices that are consistent with whistle cessation along Braid Street, the Mike LoVecchio, Canadian Pacific, suggested that the City contact the Public Works Manager.

d) Trail Advance Schedules

This item was discussed as part of item 7.2 c.

7.3 Railway Projects

There were no items.

8.0 OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items.

9.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

9.1 Fire Services Update

Chief Tim Armstrong, New Westminster Fire Department, provided the following Update regarding Fire Services:

- The on-going training for the Hazmat team is progressing well;
- Additional hazmat training has been scheduled for November/December 2015;
- Staff have been developing an evacuation exercise at the request the Quayside Community Board;
- The exercise is scheduled for November 26, 2015; and,
- The Quayside community has not provide much feedback regarding the exercise.

Discussion ensued, and the Panel suggested that staff consider alternative methods of contact Quayside residents, including the following:

- Electronic notice boards that the Engineering department utilizes to notify residents of construction;
- Organizing a tent at the Quayside boardwalk sale;
- Place an advertisement on CityPage and provide information via social media; and,

- Provide information on electronic billboards in New Westminster.

10.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

11.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

There were no items.

12.0 NEXT MEETING

January 13, 2016 – 1:00 p.m. (Committee Room #2)

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, The meeting concluded at 2:44 p.m.

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Co-Chair

Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk