

RAILWAY COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL

September 5, 2018 – 1:00 p.m.
Committee Room 2, City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Co-Chair
Emily Mak	- Southern Railway (SRY)
Rod McIvor	- Community Member
Mike LoVecchio	- Co-Chair, Canadian Pacific (CP) Rail Representative
Joslyn Young	- Canadian National (CN) Rail Representative

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stephen Semenick	- BNSF Railway Representative
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STAFF:

Tim Armstrong	- Fire Chief
Roger Emanuels	- Manager, Design and Construction
Lisa Leblanc	- Manager, Transportation
Stacey Neves	- Engineering Technologist
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

Meeting called to order at 1:07 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the agenda for the September 5, 2018 meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the January 10, 2018 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the January 10, 2018 meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

No Items

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Items

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Rail Communications & Updates

Roger Emanuels, Manager, Design and Construction, and Stacey Neves, Engineering Technologist, discussed a strategy aimed at communicating with the public and businesses in the City, in regards to the railways. They referred the Panel to the pamphlet that had previously been distributed to Quayside residents as an example of the information that could be provided.

Ms. Neves noted that the City's Communications staff had suggested that an FAQ webpage which also features information from railway partners may provide the best method of communication, as it is easily updated. Ms. Neves requested that the Railway partners provide Engineering Services with information on the top questions asked by the public, and offered to develop the wording of the FAQ section and circulate it to the group.

The Panel members noted the following:

- The individual railway websites already contain sections that would provide the information needed to populate the information specific to the City's page;
- The railways' public inquiry line would be an important number to feature on the page; and,
- The provision of an interactive map indicating each railway's track and operation area may be helpful in directing the public to the correct railway inquiry line.

Tim Armstrong, Fire Chief, noted that improved information from the railways in regards to emergency response protocols and emergency mediation suppliers would be useful for the Fire Service. Additionally, Chief Armstrong noted that clarification of the Fire Services' role in risk management in regards to rail incidents may be needed to develop mutual understanding.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the four railways and Emergency Operations hold a meeting to establish and understand protocols with regards to railway safety and environmental incidents.

CARRIED.

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

5.2 Rail Complaint Processing

Roger Emanuels, Manager, Design and Construction, and Stacey Neves, Engineering Technologist, discussed the processing and tracking of complaints received by the City and how these are addressed by the railways.

The Panel members noted the following:

- At CN, inquiries and complaints are logged North America-wide, and are tracked to see if they are consistently generated from one particular area;
- At CP, all inquiries and complaints are tracked and compiled in a report which includes trends, however these are not broken out by city;
- The City is encouraged to provide the railways' phone numbers to the public to make any complaints directly, rather than take responsibility for them;
- Having a consistent and standard response from the City on specific issues would be beneficial;
- In terms of idling, trend analysis shows that complaints tend to go up in the summer when windows are left open, not that there is more idling occurring;
- Educating the public by including information about why trains idle in the proposed FAQ section (as discussed in Item 5.1) would be useful, as this is a common concern that can be misunderstood by community members;
- Although proximity guidelines encourage good building practices near railyards, it is the personal responsibility of property owners to understand the full extent of the railways' rights to activity; and,
- Ongoing discussions occur between the railways and the Real Estate Association to provide information, mitigate complaints and educate realtors and public alike.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

No Items

7.0 STANDING ITEMS

7.1 Whistle Cessation and Crossing Upgrade Update

Roger Emanuels, Manager, Design and Construction, and Stacey Neves, Engineering Technologist, summarized the September 5, 2018 staff report which detailed the status of each crossing.

7.2 City Projects:

a) Brunette Fraser Greenway, Braid Street Section Update

Lisa Leblanc, Manager of Transportation, provided the following information about the Brunette Fraser Greenway:

- Phase 1 has been completed;
- Phase 2 involves the installation of a watermain, which has been tendered and is expected to be completed in February 2019; and,
- Phase 3 would involve the multi-use bike path, to be constructed in 2019.

7.3 Railway Projects:

a) Southern Rail (SRY) Update

Emily Mak, SRY Representative, discussed the recently completed installation of a deflection boom under the Queensborough rail bridge, which is designed so that boats do not damage the trestle with the high freshet, and will likely be in place for 10 years.

b) Canadian National (CN) Rail Update

Joslyn Young, CN Representative, provided the following update:

- Details on a recent capital expenditure announcement made by the Provincial government including \$3.4 billion on infrastructure, upgrades, maintenance and track improvements, mostly in Northern BC;
- An increase in the flow of rail traffic and goods movement has been observed;
- It is encouraging to see Federal government investment in rail-associated infrastructure projects, as contained in the Port of Vancouver letter (in the agenda package).

c) Canadian Pacific (CP) Rail Update

Mike LoVecchio, CP Representative, provided the following update:

- Positive investments on a regional basis from the national infrastructure program would positively impact multiple municipalities due to the network nature of the railway business and the need for efficient movement of goods;
- A CP Holiday Train stop in New Westminster was strongly considered but given the schedule of the train's arrival in the region, it was not ideal. The City would be kept on the potential list and revisited in 2019 for further discussion;

The Committee noted that a CP train stop would be beneficial for residents and would make a significant impact to the community.

- Longshoreman Union Local 502 issued a 72 hour strike notice which may have impacts on inter-modal traffic and the supply chain. CP's CEO wrote to the Federal Government to express concern about the timing of the strike action;
- CP hosted an eight-part TV series on the Discovery Channel called "Rocky Mountain Railroad", and Mr. LoVecchio presented a DVD of the series to the City.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Rocky Mountain Railroad DVD donated by CP Railway be donated to the New Westminster Library.

CARRIED.

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

d) BNSF Update

No update was provided.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Email from Danial Obermann re Train Horns and White Noise Technology (January 24, 2018)

Mike LoVecchio noted that no new crossing innovations had been introduced recently, and that the Transport authorities set the decibel levels, not the railways.

8.2 Email from Sarah Boorman re Train Idling (February 6, 2018)

Committee members noted the following in discussion about train idling:

- Development of idling guidelines when switching in City railyards may be useful in order to appease residents and provide room for improvement;
- There may be many reasons why trains are emitting plumes of smoke, which may require public education, however an expectation of air quality is to be expected by residents;
- [SRY] Investment in upgrades have been completed, such as smart start and switching to ultra-low sulphur fuel, however more could be done if financing was available;
- At the Queensborough rail bridge, some trains have to come to a full stop before the incline of the rail bridge for safety reasons which can cause restarting and emissions;
- Information on the benefits of rail transportation to the environment could be included in the information on the City's website (see Item 5.2), such as:
 - Information on the supply chain found on the Port of Vancouver website; and,
 - The Greater Vancouver Gateway Council, which works to raise the public's awareness of different modes of travel (trains, boats vs truck).

- 8.3 Email from Monica Nugent re Train Pollution (June 17, 2018)
- 8.4 Letter from Mike Hoyer re Train Idling (July 3, 2018)
- 8.5 Letter from Peter Xotta, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority re Federal Funding Announcements – Greater Vancouver Gateway 2030 (July 30, 2018)

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the correspondence items be received for information.

CARRIED.

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

9.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the RCAP is scheduled for Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in Committee Room 2, at City Hall.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, The meeting concluded at 2:37 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Co-Chair

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Heather Corbett
Committee Clerk