



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

SPECIAL SERVICES & ACCESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 28, 2013 3:05 pm
Council Chamber, City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Betty McIntosh	Chair
Glen Henderson	New Westminster School Board
Ron Jones	Community
Mary Varga	Community
Bruce Warren	Community
Ken Wilkinson	Community
Michael Wilson	Community

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Christine Nieder	Community
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ABSENT:

Cori Lynn Germiquet	New Westminster Chamber of Commerce
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STAFF:

Fan Jin	Transportation Technologist, Engineering Services
Jason Haight	Manager, Business Operations, Parks, Culture & Recreation
Kathy Prothero	Recording Clerk, Engineering Services
Eugene Wat	Manager, Infrastructure Planning, Engineering Services

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

5.3 Name of the Committee – Bruce Warren

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of Minutes of September 12, 2013

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Special Services and Access Committee meeting held September 12, 2013 be received and adopted.

CARRIED

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion

A brief discussion took place again regarding the elevator design within the Skytrain Stations, in particular at the New Westminster Skytrain Station.

MOVED and SECONDED, this Committee recommends:

THAT Council contact TransLink's Planning Division regarding new transit stations and elevator function / design to ensure universal accessibility.

CARRIED

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion

Engineering staff will contact TransLink and invite construction/design personnel to attend the next meeting to provide feedback to members on this issue.

In addition, options will be discussed with the New West Transit Station to accommodate the pickup/drop off location for disabled taxis.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Master Transportation Plan - Mr. Jerry Behl

This consultation been ongoing for well over a year and the presentation is attached to these minutes for information. Following are comments made by members during the presentation:

- Councillor McIntosh would like to see an amendment made to the change the word 'Creating' to **'Enhancing' a Walkable City**;
- There are gaps in links between certain neighbourhoods (eg, Victoria Hill and Sapperton and around the Old Penitentiary grounds);
- Can lights be synchronized on 10th Avenue rather than 6th Avenue and 8th Avenue to encourage through traffic to use that road for enhanced traffic flow; and
- The next Master Transportation Plan meeting will be scheduled once the presentation is made to Council on December 2, 2013.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Improved Communication / Parks, Culture & Recreation Accessibility - Mr. Jason Haight

Mr. Haight referred to the comments made at the last meeting where reference was made to improved communication:

- The PCR website was assessed with numerous improvement completed to better profile and describe accessibility and financial assistance services;
- The Department's Financial Assistance Policies and Procedures were posted on-line;

- Added Metadata to website and webpages to improve online search functionality;
- Created a new web page that identifies accessible PCR facilities; and
- Active Living Guide added information on accessibility.

Under the banner of public enquiries, residents provided input via our website and commented that there is no accessible parking at the east end of Larco at the Westminster Pier Park. A few stalls have now been identified and Engineering Operations in conjunction with Impark and Larco, will widened and mark at least two parking stalls for accessible parking needs at the entrance of the park.

One member stated that the walkway cordoned off in front of the River Market near the tin soldier is a major accessibility issue and is not identified well from the east side. There is no accessible entrance at the River Market other than at Donald's. Staff advised that the problem is the responsibility of the River Market and they have been made aware of the concern.

4.2 Recommendations to Council - Update – Mr. Eugene Wat

Mr. Wat updated members on recent recommendations submitted to Council:

- Memorial Plaque on Curb Letdowns – Cost would be approximately \$2k. Engineering Operations have expressed concern regarding plaque placement, e.g., uneven surface, slippery, etc., and suggested that curb letdowns be funded through City annual capital budget only. With the current level of curb letdown installations, the City will have 100% accessibility by 2016. Members agreed with staff findings.
- HandiDart Pickup/Dropoff at Plaza 88 (from last meeting) – Staff approached TransLink to allow handicap taxis to use the HandiDart bay in the bus loop, which was turned down. First Capital was contacted and Mr. Wat will be meeting with a representative to see what options are available around the transit exchange. He cannot comment on the bus exchange as this is TransLink's property. There is a height restriction in the complex which may restrict taxi use of the commercial parkade of the shopping mall.
- Traffic Speeding Through City Hall Parking Lot – Engineering Operations will look at installing a speed hump in the area.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Intersection Safety Review – McBride Blvd and East Columbia Street Crosswalk – Mr. Eugene Wat

Mr. Wat updated members on the status of the intersection at Victoria Hill. This intersection is part of the Central Valley Greenway and the crosswalk was moved up to better align with the new greenway but a section of the heritage retaining wall limits the sightline of drivers turning right and pedestrians/cyclists. A number of complaints have been received in the last

few years and modifications were made to traffic signal control. The compliance level was initially 43% and a separate signal phase installed for pedestrian and cyclists increased the compliance level to 65%.

Consultants have recently investigated to see if there are any further potential improvements to increase driver compliance.

Councillor McIntosh questioned whether there is signage that would capture the driver's attention. Staff advised that the no right turn on red sign was replaced with a separate set of lights for right turns which improved compliance. Members suggested that the crosswalk be dropped back to where it used to be:

- Painting with large stripes so that it stands out as a crosswalk with a zebra-like pattern and clearly identifies the crosswalk.
- Heritage wall is moved.

Options identified by the Consultant:

- Status quo;
- To move crosswalk back down to corner (but would create a dog-leg and there is quite a slope), make the center median wider and some barrier fencing or railing to stop individuals from crossing mid-block;
- Leave the crosswalk where it is and relocate part of the wall (approx. 17-18meters of the wall); and
- Move crosswalk to corner, cut an opening in the wall and build separate pathway down slope and go through the opening of the wall.

Members comments:

- Install flashing orange lights so that as cars come toward the crosswalk it would draw their attention to the right-turn light;
- Move the light so that it is closer to traffic attempting to turn; and
- Pedestrian overpass.
- Councillor McIntosh commented that it would be beneficial if there was any other type of signal that would draw the attention of the driver.

Moved and seconded, this Committee recommends

THAT Council direct staff to explore options to enhance the visibility of pedestrians in the crosswalk by adding zebra markings and installing enhanced signalization for drivers. Let it be noted that members offer no support to move the crosswalk from its current location because of accessibility issues.

CARRIED

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion

5.2 Queen's Park Facilities Accessibility Audit – Member Feedback from Tour Notes

Members were very impressed with the tour and the efforts to enhance accessibility at the two facilities. A letter of thanks will be sent to Mr. Mark Stevens.

The notes were accepted as presented.

CARRIED

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion

5.3 Name of the Committee– Mr. Bruce Warren

Mr. Warren spoke of the current name of the Committee and does not feel it properly represents the efforts of members. Some suggestions are:

- Advisory Committee for Access Ability
- Access Ability Advisory Committee

MOVED and SECONDED, this Committee recommends:

THAT Council consider renaming the Special Services and Access Committee to Access Ability Advisory Committee to better describe the efforts of the members.

CARRIED

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Information Updates – Councillor McIntosh

- Pedestrian Bridge to Queensborough – There were two options presented to Council. Staff were directed to move forward with a pedestrian bridge and a selection will be made once funding in place.
- Santa Clause Parade on Columbia Street; Saturday December 7 @ 11:00 am
- Century House rebranding: Go - Get - Give

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE (Circulated to members)

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the following correspondence circulated to members be received:

- 7.1 September 2013 Access Transit External Stakeholder Newsletter
- 7.2 Custom Transit Service Review; Invitation to Round 2
- 7.3 SPARC BC Deryck Thomson Award Notice
- 7.4 Transition, Fall 2013

- 7.5 My Health My Community Survey
- 7.6 2014 Call for Volunteers
- 7.7 Memo re Queensborough to Quayside Pedestrian Bridge
- 7.8 Access Transit External Stakeholder Newsletter - October
- 7.9 Abilities, Fall 2013
- 7.10 Access Transit External Stakeholder Newsletter - November

CARRIED

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 16, 2014 @ 3 pm
Council Chamber, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was concluded at 5:00 pm.

**COUNCILLOR BETTY MCINTOSH
CHAIR**

**KATHY PROTHERO
RECORDING CLERK**