



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC)

July 7, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

This meeting was held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Patrick Johnstone	- Chair, City Council Member
Véronique Boulanger	- Community Member
Mike Cairns-Smith	- Community Member
Alice Cavanagh	- Business Community Representative
Berta Dominguez	- Community Member
Julianne King	- Community Member
Alex Kwan	- Professional/Technical Representative
Asifa Lalji	- Community Member
Reena Meijer-Drees	- Local Pedestrian Advocacy Group Representative
Randi Poitras	- Community Member
Elliot Roy	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Garey Carlson	- HUB Representative
Iain Lancaster	- SD 40 Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Lisa Leblanc	- Manager, Transportation
Mike Anderson	- Transportation Engineer
Stephen Blore	- Transportation Planner
Eamonn Ward	- Acting Inspector, NWPD
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Sustainable Transportation Advisory Committee agenda of the July 7, 2020 meeting be adopted with the addition of New Business Item 5.2 - Pattullo Bride Project by Reena Meijer-Drees, Local Pedestrian Advocacy Group Representative.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of March 4, 2020

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Sustainable Transportation Advisory Committee minutes of the March 4, 2020 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Climate Action Bold Steps 2 and 7: Planning Principles, High Level Strategy and Assumptions

Lisa Leblanc, Manager, Transportation, provided a two-part presentation outlining Climate Action Bold Step 2: Car Light Community and Bold Step 7: Quality People-Centred Public Realm, two of the Seven Bold Steps endorsed by Council last fall and which advance goals in the City's Master Transportation Plan.

Bold Step 2: Car Light Community

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Leblanc provided the following comments:

- It is unclear if TransLink's Trip Diary accounts for personal vehicles being used for business purposes;
- Management of curb space for both private and business use has been implemented as a way to facilitate less driving, and is incorporated in the discussion guide for the Downtown Transportation Plan along with other points

- such as how curbside space should be allocated and how curb-adjacent space should be prioritized. As well, developers are being asked to provide pickup/drop off space on site;
- The City continues to improve greenway networks and add safer routes as more people will opt to cycle if they feel safe and comfortable doing so;
 - In partnership with HUB, the City holds cycling training programs at schools and will soon offer cycling skills workshops for families as well;
 - Staff collection of travel mode data is difficult to prioritize given other priorities; however, a transportation survey could be conducted to gather information; and,
 - Traffic counters installed on some city streets indicate an increase in vehicular travel again, and improved monitoring is in the transportation work plan.

Discussion ensued, and Committee members provided the following comments:

- Universal design concepts should be considered, including sidewalks without curbs, or with roll-over curb, which negate the need for ramps;
- While at times challenging to implement, good examples of universal design concepts installed in existing environments include the Anvil Centre and Brewery District in New Westminster and Station Square in Burnaby, all of which include the roll-over curb/curbless sidewalk concept being successfully used;
- Universal design concepts along Great Streets should be considered;
- The goal of 60% of all trips in the City being made via sustainable transportation modes by 2030 seems too conservative;
- Personal vehicular use may drop; however, business use of personal vehicles may rise and this should be taken into consideration; and,
- Census data does not account for “trip linking” – i.e. those who use more than one mode of transportation to one destination.

Step 7: People-Centred Public Realm

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Leblanc provided the following comments:

- Road space belonging to the Ministry of Transportation (MoTI) is not included in the percentages outlined as their primary objective is to move motor vehicles - including buses, goods movement vehicles and private vehicles - in and out of the city; however, reallocation of road space regulated by TransLink, such as the major road network and truck routes, are up for consideration, subject to TransLink approval;
- Transportation staff will work with the climate action team on the estimated decline in greenhouse gas emissions expected with reallocation of road space;

- Staff anticipate working with UBC students next year to address and measure quality of street use experience as it is different for everyone. This topic will be coming back to the Committee next year for feedback; and,
- It is expected that some reclaimed street space will accommodate tree planting, green infrastructure, etc., and not only be allocated for public gathering.

Discussion ensued, and Committee members provided the following comments:

- Other aspects of road space that have an impact on the climate include road maintenance, drainage, etc., and changing the way we use streets will affect those things;
- The temporary closure of Front Street is a great idea; however, the City should continue working towards permanent solutions; and,
- Some members of the committee expressed their opinion that temporary road closures and bicycle sharrows should not be counted as reallocated road space.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Streets for People in 2020: Overview of the Motion and Strategy Discussion

Lisa Leblanc, Manager, Transportation, provided the above-titled presentation which included a motion brought forward by Councillor Johnstone and adopted by Council on May 11, 2020, which empowers staff to make short term bold changes.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Leblanc provided the following comments:

- Automated pedestrian crossing signals, implemented during the pandemic for touchless walk signal activation, are expected to remain indefinitely as staff observe the impact of the modifications and determine how to move forward;
- Closure of the northbound motor vehicle lane on the McInnes Street overpass which allows physical distancing of those walking, rolling, and cycling is temporary as this lane is needed to move vehicles out of the Quayside area. It is yet to be determined when the lane will be reinstated for vehicular use;
- Widening of the McInnes Street overpass sidewalk will occur once the Bosa Pier West work is complete;
- Regarding the Cool Streets Initiative, staff looked at the City overall and concluded that there are a few areas with a relatively high proportion of vulnerable population, significant tree cover, and are lacking in park space; and,
- Participation in temporary patio programs varies across the region as some cities have received over 60 program applications already, while others have received none.

Discussion ensued, and Committee members provided the following comments:

- Lack of business participation in the temporary patio program may be due to the cost of outdoor furniture, the timing of the program, etc., should be revisited another time;
- The BIA may be able to loan outdoor furniture to businesses who wish to participate in the program but find the cost of outdoor furniture prohibitive; and,
- Improved access to Century House is needed for those with walkers, etc., as both sidewalks leading to the facility are too narrow.

5.2 Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project

Reena Meijer-Drees, Local Pedestrian Advocacy Group Representative, expressed concern and frustration with the lack of information being shared by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) and feedback being received regarding pedestrian and cycling routes to the new bridge as the Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project moves forward. Ms. Meijer-Drees noted the Walkers' Caucus has considerable concerns about the current proposal and that it is unclear how much consultation can be expected as the project progresses. She advised that the Walkers' Caucus has not received a response to their letter of June 2, 2020, and that the last, one-hour meeting with MoTI, the City, HUB, and the Walkers' Caucus was insufficient time for a fulsome discussion of the issues.

Lisa Leblanc, Manager, Transportation, advised that MoTI's project team released information regarding bridge design, connections on both sides of the bridge, and how it will integrate into the transportation networks on either side of the bridge, including the motor vehicle connections and those for pedestrians and cyclists. She acknowledged that the New Westminster side is a challenging location where they are working to land a very large infrastructure in a very small space while leaving the existing bridge in place until the new bridge is operational. As well, there are a number of significant aspects to be considered in planning approaches to the new bridge, including road and bridge structure, utility corridors, the SkyTrain, the railway, heritage features, existing towers, trees, topography, etc. Ms. Leblanc assured the Committee that advocacy for quality pedestrian and cycling connections has been taking place at both Council and staff levels, and noted that the City agreed with some points in the most recent plan but disagreed with others. MoTI advised, after the last consultation with the City, HUB, and Walker's Caucus, that they would take the feedback received to conduct additional technical analysis and to prepare a memo in response; however, the City has not yet received the memo.

Councillor Johnstone encouraged Committee members to visit the Pattullo Bridge Project page on the MoTI website to view the drawings and project details as well as to voice their concerns, noting that the more people they hear from the better. As well, he requested that the Walkers' Caucus, HUB, and others copy Council and

staff with their correspondence to MoTI's Pattullo Bridge Project team as a way of keeping everyone apprised of the feedback being provided on the project, the concerns being raised, and to help inform Council's discussion on the project.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

There were no items.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. – TBD

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Certified correct,

Original Signed
Councillor Patrick Johnstone
Chair

Original Signed
Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk