



City of Surrey

Transportation Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2007
Time: 9:060 am

Present:

Councillor B. Bose - Chair
Mayor Watts
Councillor M. Hunt

Absent:

J. Boan, Transportation Manager

Staff Present:

P. Ham, General Manager, Engineering
V. Lalonde, Manager, Utilities & Transportation
P. Bellafontaine, Transportation Engineer
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Transportation Committee – January 31, 2007

It was Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Mayor Watts
That the minutes of the Transportation
Committee meeting held on April 11, 2007, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation

Allan Lamb, Executive Director of the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation (the “Foundation”), was present to provide an overview of the Foundation’s support of the Surrey RCMP with the extraordinary traffic law enforcement work focused at the following intersections:

- 152 Street and 108 Avenue
- 152 Street and 104 Avenue
- 88 Avenue and King George Hwy

A. Lamb provided a brief PowerPoint presentation outlining the work of the Foundation as well as the upcoming work with RCMP detachment representatives to increase the perceived risk of apprehension at the above-mentioned intersections. Further comments were provided as follows:

- The Foundation was formed five years ago to become more involved in traffic safety.
- Partnership with the RCMP is a large part of the program.
- A recent study at UBC with approximately 200 students (over the age of 21) regarding role model influence on driving habits provided the following results:
 - Parents have a strong influence on the driving habits of their children, with a greater influence coming from the father;

- Many parents who have penalty points believe they are “safe, cautious, good drivers that are in control”.
- The Foundation is working with the parents of young families, to address the role modeling influence their behaviour will have on their children.
- It is important for parents to get involved and stay involved; a driver education program is not good enough.
- 18 to 25 year old drivers are most likely to be problematic.
- The Foundation is also working with seniors and the Alzheimer’s Society, addressing the leading cause of vehicular accidents, cognitive impairment, dementia.
- The Foundation’s Mature Drivers Program won the BCMA 2006 excellence award in education.
- Impaired driving still tops the scale with two of every eight people killed on the road each week.
- Many severely impaired convictions are being reduced to six points and a charge of undue care and attention (decriminalized); the courts are over worked.
- Work is being focused on drugs, drinking and driving, which is a lethal combination.

Discussion ensued regarding impaired driving and the resources available to address the seriousness of drugs, drinking and driving. The suggestion of a community court system and compulsory programs was reviewed and it was recommended that the delegation meet with the newly appointed Crime Reduction Coordinator.

With regard to the upcoming law enforcement blitz, the following points were made:

- Enforcement is good, but telling the people that enforcement is taking place is key.
- Nanaimo and Surrey are the two communities that will be addressed first.
- In Surrey, intersection enforcement is the focus, with the intersections identified by the police as the most critical.
- There is a 12 month commitment from the police (integrated road safety units, traffic police officers) to provide enforcement for these intersections.
- A May date is yet to be determined for the start of enforcement; Staff will coordinate publicity (all forms of media) with BCAA.
- Enforcement will be in peaks with longer break periods following each enforcement period; the perception will be enforcement is there at all times.

There was further discussion regarding the problems at each of the intersections and the data that is collected from them. Statistics of before and after will be gathered from various sources for review. It was determined that an opportunity should be created for the delegation to present at an evening meeting before the launch of the intersection enforcement program.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Mayor Watts
That the Transportation Committee
recommends that Council hear Allan Lamb from the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation in a Regular Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. one or two weeks prior to the launch of the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation partnership program with the Surrey RCMP.

Carried

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**1. Transit Issues Update**

At the January 31, 2007 TC meeting it was requested that the GM, Engineering review the information received from the Coast Mountain Bus Company delegation for preparation of a report to be provided to the TC. V. Lalonde, Manager Utilities and Transportation, provided the following information:

- Subsequent to the TC meeting in January, Staff met with TransLink and Coast Mountain Bus Company to address the concerns that were noted.
- The issues raised were:
 - Frequency of bus cancellations and passenger pass-by's;
 - Insufficient number of buses – leasing buses, acquiring used buses or extending the life of buses needs to be explored;
 - Buses cannot meet their schedules due to traffic congestion;
 - Insufficient number of bus drivers and mechanics to run the fleet;
 - Road safety issues are not being addressed; and
 - Concern regarding bus exchanges, particularly the Newton Exchange.

A memo from the GM, Engineering outlining the responses to the six issues above was distributed to the TC, noting the following:

- The number of bus cancellations arose due to an aging fleet, snow storms and delivery delays on new buses. TransLink have acknowledged the problem and are addressing this by changing the bus supplier and borrowing buses from other service areas. Subsequent discussions with Coast Mountain have confirmed that as of mid March, cancellations have been greatly reduced.
- Funding is currently an issue for the acquisition of additional buses as TransLink has already moved ahead the 2008 bus purchases to this year. Buses are being borrowed from other regions on a temporary basis as acquiring used buses did not work well in past experiences. There are limits to extending the life of the buses well beyond the planned retirement due to the frequency of repairs and safety becoming increasingly problematic.

- TransLink have just completed automated passenger counts which will allow them to determine routes requiring more frequent or adjusted services to meet bus schedules, and will be utilized in updating route times in the September schedule change.
- TransLink has a major hiring initiative, working hard to hire new bus drivers and mechanics. There are regular radio and newspaper ads for recruiting new staff. For the region, they have already hired 14 new mechanics, four of which have been hired for the Surrey garage. Six extra mechanics have been temporarily brought in.
- Road safety issues are ongoing with the City receiving information directly from TransLink after a thorough review and screening process has been done. There have been some delays on specific improvements, but the City and TransLink will be working to move these projects forward.
- With regard to bus exchanges, a GVTA constable has been dedicated to Surrey. While issues arise at all stations, it is believed that the GVTA constable and RCMP are doing an excellent job regarding safety at the Newton Exchange. The issue of litter and graffiti is being dealt with separately through direct meetings with the City and TransLink operations staff. The City is progressing an upgrade of the current street lighting (awaiting consultant recommendations). Through the SoFA Transit Plan, Surrey is working with TransLink on identifying new locations for exchanges at Newton and Guildford. The Showcase project has already identified the on-street exchange planned for City Centre. Surrey and TransLink are also working with Bosa on a new exchange for Semiahmoo.

It was

Moved by Mayor Watts

Seconded by Councillor Hunt

That the Transportation Committee close the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 90 (1) (a) (e) (g) and (i) of the *Community Charter*.

Carried

The TC meeting recessed at 10:15 a.m. and reconvened at 10:22 a.m. with the same members in attendance.

It was noted that, in dealing with the issues above, it is necessary to give an overview of the new Transportation Plan (the "Plan"). P. Bellafontaine, Transportation Engineer and project lead for the Plan, was present to review the detailed memo, provided on table, from the GM, Engineering regarding the Plan. Additional comments were as follows:

- The existing Transportation Plan was done and adopted in 1999.
- By the time the new Plan is completed, it will be very close to 10 years since the prior one.
- There are several recommendations being made by Staff as to how the Plan will develop, its form and character.
- For transportation to be properly considered within a broader framework of policies and priorities, the different objectives of what a good

transportation system should be seeking to achieve should be presented in an integrated way.

- Six themes have been identified which reflect the main priorities and what the Plan will seek to achieve:
 - More travel choice;
 - Safer, healthier neighbourhoods;
 - A better managed road network;
 - Protection of our built and natural environment;
 - Successful local economies; and
 - Responsible and sustainable growth.
- With approximately 1,000 people coming to Surrey each month, there are many issues and changes in priorities to be addressed.
- The Plan should provide a vision for how transportation will be delivered in Surrey 20, 30 or more years from now.
- Need to examine and identify issues and challenges, establish objectives and strategies for delivery and evaluate and prioritize transportation system issues.
- Many of the challenges faced have to do with the current reliance on the car and the serious implications for congestion, the environment, safety and health.
- For those who do not have access to a car, or who want to use their car less, getting around can be difficult.
- The Plan will aim to promote a transport system that caters for all travel needs including the movement of goods and services associated with a successful economy.
- Growth and development of the road system network will remain the major component of the Plan and future budgets.
- The Plan will aim to create a balanced transport system that gives choices in the way travel is to, from and within Surrey and which integrates with other policy areas associated with the environment, health and safety, economic well being and development.

There was discussion pertaining to other cities in North America that could be identified as being an exemplary city in terms of planning. Portland, Ottawa, and Victoria were noted. Further points were made as follows:

- A joint transportation meeting with other Mayors and City Managers could be beneficial.
- An environmental assessment early in the development of the Plan should be undertaken and incorporated into the Plan.
- The upcoming Sustainability Charter will address the land use and transportation relationship.
- It is imperative that the Plan integrate with other departments.
- The Plan is ambitious; extensive regular and repeated consultation will be undertaken with the public and stakeholders in developing the Plan.
- There will be regular updates to Council and the TC.
- It is anticipated the Plan will be completed in 18 months.

3. Port of Vancouver – Supply Chain Strategy

Mr. Chris Badger, Customer Development and Operation to appear before the TC to present the Port of Vancouver’s Supply Chain Strategy.

Due to further time constraints, the TC was requested to defer this item until the next meeting.

File: 5650-20

4. Transportation Tour

The transportation tour that was rescheduled for November 28, 2006 was cancelled due to severe weather conditions. At the January 31, 2007 TC meeting a rescheduled date was not set. The TC established a further rescheduled transportation tour of the south to be on Tuesday, May 22 at 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., all members of Council to be invited.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Transportation Funding Strategy

It is anticipated that J. Boan, Transportation Manager, will seek the Committee’s expectations of the Transportation Funding Strategy in June.

E. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt

Seconded by Mayor Watts

That the Transportation Committee meeting

do now adjourn.

Carried

The Transportation Committee adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Chairperson