



# City of Surrey

## Transportation Committee

### Minutes

Executive Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2008**  
Time: 9:07 a.m.

#### Present:

Chair - Councillor Bose  
Councillor M. Hunt  
Mayor Watts

#### Staff Present:

General Manager, Engineering  
M. Petrovic, Transportation  
J. Boan, Transportation Manager  
N. Dyrbye, Legislative Services

#### Guests:

Peter Holt, Board of Directors, FVHRS  
John Sprung, Chair, FVHRS (10:07 a.m.)  
Robert Ashton, Vice Chair, FVHRS (10:07 a.m.)  
Allen Aubert, Secretary, FVHRS (10:07 a.m.)

## A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by Councillor Hunt  
Seconded by Mayor Watts  
That the minutes of the Transportation  
Committee meeting held on May 21, 2008, be adopted.  
Carried

## MOTION TO HOLD A MEETING IN A CLOSED SESSION

It was Moved by Councillor Hunt  
Seconded by Mayor Watts  
That the Committee to pass a resolution to  
close the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 90 (1) (d), (e) and (k) of the  
*Community Charter*.  
Carried

The meeting adjourned for Closed Session at 9:10 a.m. and reconvened at 10:07 a.m.  
with W. Power and N. Rawcliffe having left the meeting and Guests from the FVHRS –  
John Sprung, Robert Ashton and Allen Aubert now in attendance.

## B. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. Jaime Boan provided a status report regarding the **Cyclist lobbyist,  
Mr. Thang Vu.**

This item was dealt with after the second item in Business Arising from the  
Minutes.

The Transportation Manager made the following comments:

- The ideas that have been presented by Mr. Vu are quite extreme including changing speed limits to 40 kilometers per hour on arterials for cyclist safety.
- It is recommended that a letter be sent to Mr. Vu wishing him well with his endeavor to increase cyclist safety but that the Transportation Committee does not wish to get involved with this matter.

It was agreed that staff draft a letter for the Chair to send out to Mr. Thang Vu.

## 2. Update on **Cloverdale Main Street Revitalization Project**

This item was dealt with first in Business Arising from the Minutes.

Staff made the following comments:

- The revitalization project for Main Street Cloverdale is out to tender and scheduled to close next week. They propose that this project will be completed in the fall with the project being scheduled around the various street festivals scheduled for Main Street.
- The current budget stands at an estimated \$2.3 million which will include new sidewalks, street repaving, new lighting and entrance signs to the area. However, there have been discussions concerning the addition of a tram project to run down the middle of the street. This would require installation of overhead wires to power the tram and therefore would also require the street poles to be upgraded to withstand the forces of overhead wires which would then bump the cost up another \$450,000.
- Another option would be to install larger bases underground and smaller poles on top which would then allow for future conversion to larger poles that could accommodate the wiring that would be required for a tram. This would then only increase the cost about \$225,000.

The Committee agreed with the suggestion to install a thicker base to begin with and to install conventional poles to be swapped in the future when needed.

## C. **DELEGATION**

### 1. **Heritage/Community Rail**

Peter Holt provided an update regarding Heritage Rail.

- Over the past 7 years, the City of Surrey has provided continued support and funding totaling \$575,000 which has been fundamental to the success of the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society. Overall, they have received \$1.3 million in funding from the City of Surrey as well as from BC Gaming, the Provincial Government and a few others. They have also received over 7,000 hours of volunteer labour which has helped to keep the Society alive.
- Their goal from the start was to eventually be able to purchase and operate heritage cars on the rail line. It is essential to purchase a locomotive to be able to carry passenger cars and they are fortunate enough to have found a

replica of a baggage car in the United States for a cost of \$650,000 that they plan to have run off of hydrogen methane. This will require an additional \$100,000 to install a power plant to run and fuel the car.

- The biggest issue that they have to deal with is liability for running the passenger cars on the rail lines. They have been working with Southern Rail to receive access from Newton to Cloverdale with the long-term vision to have the train running all the way to the Cloverdale Fair Grounds and have been advised that there will be no costs to access the tracks. They have been advised that a volunteer society such as themselves cannot enter into liability negotiations and that they would have to be covered under the City of Surrey's liability umbrella.
- They are still working on the particulars of the liability factors which include who will run the trains, what the nature of the runs will be and how often they will be. These factors will be considered as part of the liability assessment to try to reduce the risk as much as possible. They have determined that each ride will have capacity for 48 passengers sitting or 70 passengers standing.
- They were trying to try to have the project complete and operational for the 2010 Olympics but with the limited window of time now available, it would at best be a demonstration project for the 2010 Olympics. They feel that this is a unique idea to Surrey that will be able to provide long-term economic benefits to the area. The advantages of moving ahead with this project is that interest has also been expressed from other communities such as Langley and Chilliwack and that they would like to participate in having connections as well should this project follow through.
- They are at the stage now with the project that they have gone through all the initial stages of life, they have a viable plan and they would like to see whether there is an interest of the City to make further investment of around \$3 million over the next couple of years.
- Time is of the essence with this project and if the City of Surrey could approve the negotiation process to commence to at least refine the numbers, that would be greatly appreciated.

The Committee made the following comments:

- Recollection was had that a Corporate Report previously forwarded to Council did not have a provision for funding in the budget this year. If the request for funding were to be approved, alternative funding sources would have to be identified.
- It would be more advantageous to receive a detailed analysis of the costs involved that set out exactly what is being requested of the City financially including a final number of all costs before a final decision could be made.
- If other municipalities are interested in continuing this heritage track then a partnership with them should be looked into to support the funding efforts.
- If Council supports this proposal, then there will be a much stronger possibility to get commitment from other communities wishing to participate.

It was Moved by Councillor Hunt  
Seconded by Mayor Watts  
That Council request staff work to identify sources for funding to raise the \$700,000 necessary to purchase the baggage car for the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society for operation of the Heritage Rail proposed and that the Society enter into preliminary negotiations with the supplier for the baggage car and come back to the City with a more detailed cost analysis of the proposed project with final numbers for the Transportation Committee's review.

Carried

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**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 10:49 a.m.

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Margaret Jones, City Clerk

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Councillor Bose, Chairperson  
Transportation Committee