



It was Moved by Councillor Bose  
Seconded by Councillor Hunt  
That the Finance Committee defer the  
question on this motion to later in the meeting after public input has been heard.  
Carried

**Item No. F016** 2009 Five Year (2009 - 2013) Financial Plan -  
Capital Program  
File: 1705-09

The General Manager, Finance & Technology submitted a report concerning

The General Manager, Finance & Technology was recommending approval of the  
recommendations outlined in their report.

It was Moved by Councillor Bose  
Seconded by Mayor Watts  
That the Finance Committee defer the  
recommendations of Corporate Report F016 to later in the meeting after public  
input has been heard.  
Carried

**Item No. F017** 2009 Five Year (2009 - 2013) Financial Plan -  
Utilities Budget  
File: 1705-09

The General Manager, Finance & Technology submitted a report concerning

The General Manager, Finance & Technology was recommending approval of the  
recommendations outlined in their report.

It was Moved by Councillor Bose  
Seconded by Councillor Hepner  
That the Finance Committee defer the  
recommendations of Corporate Report F017 to later in the meeting after public  
input has been heard.  
Carried

## **2. 5:30 p.m. - Public Input**

Eric Wilson, Chair, Surrey Board of Trade ('SBOT') Finance and Taxation Team;  
Anita Huberman, CEO, SBOT; Craig East, Governor, SBOT; and, Rick Fijal,  
Vice-President, SBOT, 101, 14439 – 104 Avenue, Surrey, BC were present,  
following are comments from their presentation:

- The purpose of SBOT is to monitor public sector spending in order to suggest how to maximize the productivity of the local economy and encourage growth in the private sector.

- SBOT is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest business board of trade in BC, representing over 3000 business contacts, in turn representing over 31,000 employees.
- Surrey has paid off all of its long-term borrowings and has built up significant reserves and surpluses to assist growth and manage our City challenges in the years ahead. Surrey has been able to accomplish the above while having the lowest tax jurisdictions per capita in the Metro Vancouver area.
- Surrey success measurements include: clearly laid out Official Community Plan and related strategies; lowest spending per capita - \$718 per capita; lowest revenue per capita - \$1,172 per capita; fiscal responsibility gap between 2000 and 2006 – 1.60; very conservative investment policy on its \$700 million of ‘invested cash’. Surrey is one of the few large cities in “BC that does not have long term debt.
- SBOT believes that Surrey has to develop a significantly higher business assessment base. The importance of effectively executing the City’s Economic Development Strategy and Employment Land Strategy are critical. Without the development of significantly higher Business assessment base, any ‘tax shift’ from residential taxpayers to business taxpayer will result in a significant property tax increase to business, which will not be acceptable to business.
- SBOT acknowledges the important goals of ‘one to one worker to job ratio’ and will work with the City to achieve this goal as it links to other important City Strategies.
- SBOT message to give is to keep traffic moving. This means that new left hand signals need to be added to certain intersection and a combination of light rail and rapid transit needs to be implemented. The current Highway 99 freeway accesses to the Grandview Heights area are limited to the King George Highway 99A exchange and exchange #8 – 2 kilometers from the Border. SBOT will support any City direction and support from the Province to add a Highway interchange between the two existing interchanges.
- SBOT support the City Vision of re-development of Surrey Central to become the area’s second largest business hub and will work with the City to achieve this goal.
- SBOT encourages Surrey to report to the taxpayers annually on this ‘fiscal responsibility measure’, with explanations.
- The local road and traffic safety levy program new tax is based on Surrey’s assessment base and calls for a 1% tax rate in 2008, growing at a further 1% each year for four years for a total new tax commitment of 4% of the assessed based at the end of the fourth year. If the assessment base holds up, the business share of this new grow of \$7 or \$8 million is an extraordinary difficult tax hit.
- SBOT believe that Surrey should consider a review in order to enable Council and all taxpayers to gain an understanding of where our tax payments are being consumed, and if necessary, make the necessary longer term adjustment to the tax burden approach between revenue sources by tax class following consultation with the taxpayers.
- SBOT encourages Surrey to increase significantly the information related to the City’s impact of its taxation policies on the three business classes.

Deb Jack, Surrey Environmental Partners ('SEP'), 7860 – 143 Street, Surrey, BC was in attendance and provided a copy of her presentation. Following are comments provided:

It was Moved by Councillor Hepner  
Seconded by Councillor Steele  
That a copy of the presentation provided by  
Deb Jack, Surrey Environmental Partners, be received.  
Carried

- SEP is a non-profit, serving as an umbrella organization for both Surrey organizations interested in the natural aspects of the city and individual citizens.
- SEP supports the Nature Matters program of Surrey, the adult education sessions, children and youth events, and the outreach aspects of Nature Matters.
- SEP believes that Surrey must take the initiative to conserve, to create living legacies for the future. There appears to be no funds for parks acquisition outside the customary method. This the third year SEP has requested the city provide these living legacy parks as an extraordinary investment for the future.
- Proper funding for the Nature Centre both for continued capital improvement and sufficient staff for full operation is essential.
- Surrey has been remiss in not developing a center that reflects the importance of the aquatic aspects of Surrey.
- Proper stewardship for Surrey's Natural Capital assets is imperative. Competent allocation of resources for issues such as invasive plants that affect both the natural and riparian areas, and risk reduction of interface fires in the riparian and natural areas is essential.
- SEP continues to request that the City create the position of Environmental Planner, located in Planning, for a more holistic perspective, to ensure both short and long range considerations of all environmental issues that the city faces in all departments.
- SEP is pleased that an environmental sensitive areas update is underway albeit with different parameters. SEP looks forward to reviewing and commenting on the study.
- SEP believes that Surrey requires a complete assessment of its present green infrastructure, including recording all trees, city and private, all significant shrubs, and yard sizes and composition.
- SEP continues to encourage and support the attainment of an Urban Forest Canopy of 40 – 50%. SEP has a repeated concern that most public area have a vast majority of deciduous trees and request more evergreens suitable to the changing environment.
- The development of a natural areas acquisition policy will complement the Ecosystem Management study and will provide a more direct action plan for acquisition of natural areas.

- SEP continues to recommend that Surrey develop a policy requiring green roofs and walls for wildlife habitat purposes to be on all commercial, industrial, institutional buildings and multiple-resident structures.
- SEP continues to request that the requirements for riparian setback be increased.
- SEP has initiated discussions with Engineering about the need for a 70 litre rain barrel program as available in Vancouver and Delta and a scheme for recycling hanging baskets and pots where neither green waste collection nor composting is available to prevent invasive plant materials from being deposited in parks.

Lesley Tannen, Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association ('BIA'), Suite 300, 10524 King George Highway, Surrey, BC was in attendance and provided the following comments during her presentation:

- The 1,100 members of the BIA understand the challenges of creating a financial plan and then having to deal with the impact of real events on our goals.
- Public safety is still the number one issue for our members so BIA is pleased to see that the Operations plan includes more police to maintain the ratio of police to residents as our population continues to grow.
- BIA does not want a low personnel level to put Surrey at a disadvantage within the Region, and suggests that additional staff be requested to support integrated teams reviewing development proposals.
- BIA asks that the City ensure taxes are used to improve infrastructure and thereby help 'set the stage' for re-energized development as the economy rebounds.
- BIA is pleased to see planning funds for the City Centre/Downtown area in 2009 and capital for significant infrastructure during the five-year horizon of this plan. This investment will lay the foundation for future private and institutional development. Surrey is helping to create the vision and the impetus for the transformation of the City Centre/Downtown into the Metropolitan center south of the Fraser.
- The BIA can be counted on to support the City in its quest for senior government investment in our future.

Bonnie Burnside, Whalley Community Association ('WCA'), 16293 – 96 Avenue, Surrey, BC was in attendance and provided the following comments during her presentation:

- The North Surrey Recreation Center is the oldest facility in Surrey. The WCA request that plans be provided for the improvement of this facility.
- WCA appreciates the development of Tom Binnie Park.
- There are pedestrian safety concerns along King George Highway and the WCA request that mid-intersection cross walks be installed.
- The WCA would like to see a program that will provide small grants to community/neighbourhood group to promote beautification efforts.

Rosemary Zelinka, Surrey Association of Sustainable Communities ('SASC'), #12 – 14065 Nico Wynd Place, Surrey, BC was in attendance and provided the following comments during her presentation:



**Item No. F016** 2009 Five Year (2009 - 2013) Financial Plan -  
Capital Program  
File: 1705-09

It was Moved by Councillor Hepner  
Seconded by Councillor Martin  
That the Finance Committee:

1. Approve the capital projects as outlined in Section 3.2 of Corporate Report F016; and
2. Direct Staff to prepare the 2009 Five-Year (2009-2013) Capital Financial Plan incorporating these projects.

Carried with Councillor Bose opposed.

**Item No. F017** 2009 Five Year (2009 - 2013) Financial Plan -  
Utilities Budget  
File: 1705-09

It was Moved by Councillor Martin  
Seconded by Councillor Hepner  
That the Finance Committee:

1. Approve the recommendations outlined in Section 3.0 of Corporate Report F017; and
2. Direct Staff to prepare the 2009 Five-Year (2009-2013) Financial Plan for each of the Water Utility, the Sewer/Drainage Utility and the Road and Traffic Safety Levy incorporating these recommendations.

Carried

## **B. ADJOURNMENT**

It was Moved by Councillor Martin  
Seconded by Councillor Steele  
That the Finance Committee meeting do  
now adjourn.

Carried

The Finance Committee adjourned at 6:56 pm.

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Margaret Jones, City Clerk

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Councillor Gill, Chairperson  
Finance Committee