

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Minutes

Present:

Chair - Councillor Gill
Councillor Hunt
Councillor Rasode
Councillor Steele

Observers:

Dennis Gordon
Brad Lambert
Steve Bucke
Byron Williams
Bob Cheema
Susan Tanaka
Sodhi Chahal
Nasinder S. Paemas
Devinder Atwal
Amrik Bassi
Jaswani Bajwa

Staff Present:

J. Boan, Transportation Manager
V. Lalonde, General Manager, Engineering
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

Absent:

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt

Seconded by Councillor Rasode

That the minutes of the Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee meeting held on February 27, 2012 be received.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Hwy 99 Corridor – 164 St: 16 Ave to 20 Ave**

Staff met with each of the three key parties involved in achieving 164 Street to try and achieve agreement on a strategy to help facilitate construction of the road with the Costco application. The owner of the lands proposed for the Costco indicated that he needed to have further dialogue with Costco before appearing agreeing to any strategy and thus requested that the their delegation to the Committee be deferred to a future TIC meeting.

Staff made the following comments:

- Key concerns from one of the three owners is the value that they would receive for lands provided for the road and that they would not have any guarantee of sewer being immediately available for their lands.
- Staff has undertaken considerable work trying to find solutions to allow applications to proceed and complete the necessary associated servicing needs. Typically this work would be done by developers.

The agenda was revised to deal with the Outstanding Business items next on the agenda.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Pay Parking

Staff provided an update on Pay Parking in Surrey:

- 49 pay stations have been installed in Surrey since December of 2009 in two phases;
 - Phase 1: Surrey Memorial Hospital; Gateway; Surrey City Centre and Marine Drive/8 Ave; and
 - Phase 2: Gateway expansion; Newton Town Centre; Hospital expansion and Semiahmoo Town Centre.
- The “Pay By Phone” contract has been approved. This will enable users to initially pay and extend their parking through the telephone or a smart phone “app” for a .25 cent fee. This fee goes directly to the company providing this service.
- Pay Parking has increased the turnover of parking in places such as the hospital.
- Pay parking is in place to manage and provide more opportunities for parking. It is not in place to make money and in fact at this time the revenues all go to the installation costs and operation of the pay stations.
- There have been a few issues with the Pay Parking machines. Improvements such as new tactile buttons and simplification of on-screen and instruction information have been implemented.
- Overall, the Pay Parking stations have been well received by the public.
- Business owners have raised concerns with Newton Town Centre pay parking along 137 Street. These businesses have agreed that a proposed change to allow the first 15 minutes of parking being free would resolve their concerns. There have been technical challenges with implementing this change, but staff is working with the vendor (APARC) to try and resolve them.
- Since adding the pay stations along 72A Avenue, the majority parking elsewhere where it is free, such as in the adjacent mall. Staff is looking at ways of modifying the rates and applicable hours to encourage greater use of the street parking.

The Committee made the following comments:

- A complaint was received about how difficult it is to pay a parking ticket on the City’s website. Staff is to look into the issue.
- The City of Abbotsford implemented a smart phone application to enable the public to pay utilities, taxes, and fines. The information about the specific firm that created the application was passed on to the Auditor and the GM of Finance and Technology some time ago. Staff is to follow-up.

2. 144 Street/King George Boulevard Traffic Concerns

Staff provided an update of the 144A Street (KGB to Hwy 10) traffic concerns and made the following comments:

- This was historically an arterial road that was downgraded to a local road.

- In 2008, staff looked at traffic calming on this road, based on complaints received from residents. Traffic calming was not supported due to the 11% grade of 144A Street and the associated safety risks.
- In 2009, a delegation appeared before the TC expressing various concerns.
- The City provided the following solutions to those concerns in 2009-2011:
 - Improved signal time at 144A St/Hwy 10
 - Operations staff continue to monitor the litter issue
 - Modified signage (“Sharp Curve”) at the 90-degree bend
 - Reduced the corner radius at King George Boulevard/144A Street
- Speed studies showed that speeds were reduced and are now at acceptable levels. Speeds were decreased by:
 - 10 km/hr at the bottom of the hill at 144A Street
 - 7 km/h near the top of the hill at 144A Street
 - 6 km/h at Ridge Crescent between 144 Street and 144A Street

Recommendation:

- The fundamental issues have been resolved;
 - Speed concerns have been adequately addressed
 - Traffic volumes are within expected/acceptable range
- Advise residents that the City has implemented the various solutions and changes and staff continues to monitor the situation.

The Transportation Committee supported the recommendations.

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Taxi Concerns

Staff provided a presentation outlining the concerns identified by the taxi industry, staff's assessment of the issues and actions staff has or will undertake.

The following is a summary of the presentation:

- Parking at school's is a challenge for taxi's as they have to ensure that where they drop off students is safe for the students to get to the school
 - Staff will engage discussions with the School District and thought access into the staff parking area may be a solution.
- Vehicle Licensing (Chauffeur Permits)
 - the new two year renewal process was approved in January, 2011
 - the delegation requested that the record of a driver be reduced from the current five year time span to one year
 - Legal Dept staff is to look into what other municipal guidelines are for comparison and review the issue further
- Vehicle Age and Incentive programs for energy vehicles
 - There are environmental benefits to the use of alternate fuel vehicles and although they are more expensive initially you save money over time.
 - There may be an opportunity to give incentive to the taxi industry to encourage use of these vehicles. For example, maybe if taxi companies go to a Prius (or any alternate fuel vehicle), an extra year can be considered making the lifespan 8 years. Surrey would be at forefront to create such an incentive.

- New Westminster taxis operating in Surrey
 - This longstanding issue continues as complaints that Royal City Taxi's are doing illegal pick-ups at the Scott Road skytrain station throughout the day.
 - It was suggested at the last TIC meeting, that By-law enforcement do random checks at the different taxi pick-up locations. Staff to co-ordinate.
 - Staff is to provide the delegation the contact information for By-Laws.
- Review of video tapes of RCMP for "No Pay" events
 - Staff will talk to the RCMP about setting up a process similar to Delta where appointments can be made to view tapes.
- Driver Safety
 - The taxi industry should be making decisions on security measures being put in place. This is not appropriate to be legislated on a municipal basis.
 - It is not appropriate for a City/Municipality to mandate this on a local basis.
- City Centre Parking (SFU/City Parkway) needs
 - Staff has increased available space for taxi parking by allowing it along 102 Ave. The existing taxi stand along City Parkway will have to be moved to accommodate the planned B-line bus stop. The City is proposing to re-locate taxi cabs to the three 1 hour parking stalls immediately south and eliminate the one hour parking. The number of stalls for taxis will remain the same.

The delegation raised the following additional questions and concerns:

1. If Delta Sunshine Cabs are officially a part of the Surrey Cab licensing area
2. Inquiry about public washrooms at skytrain stations for taxi drivers. Staff to look at the other municipalities and to discuss options with TransLink.
3. Newton Exchange parking lot is an issue. When the lot is full, taxis do not have anywhere to park. Delegation is seeking at least 3 spaces for Guildford Taxi, Surdell Taxi and Newton Taxi. Staff will review this issue.

The delegation thanked the Committee for their time and the work completed to date and the delegation was welcomed to return to the TIC once or twice a year to discuss concerns and needs.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

1. Good Citizen Award

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt

Seconded by Councillor Rasode

That the Transportation and Infrastructure

Committee receive the information provided on the Good Citizen Award.

Carried

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION

H. OTHER BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will be held on Monday, April 16, 2012 at 2:00 pm in the Executive Boardroom.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Rasode
That the Transportation and Infrastructure

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Gill, Chair