

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Minutes

Present:Chair - Councillor Gill
Councillor Rasode**Absent:**Councillor Hunt
Seniors Liaison: Councillor Steele**Staff Present:**J. Boan, Transportation Manager
P. Bellefontaine, Transportation Planning Mgr.
P. Lee, Rapid Transit & Strategic Projects Mgr.
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services**Guests:**Ermic Block
Michel Touzard
David Deane
Paul Sandhu
Don Reeder

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the September 17, 2012 meeting to be adopted.

It was

Moved by Councillor Rasode

Seconded by Councillor Gill

That the minutes of the Transportation

Committee meeting held on September 17, 2012 be received.

Carried**B. DELEGATIONS****C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

1. **32 Avenue Update**
File No. 5400-80-03200

The Manager of Transportation provided an update on 32 Avenue.

The following comments were made:

- Staff has a meeting with TransLink on Thursday, October 25 to discuss the progress on their review of 32 Avenues truck route status.
- TransLink is expected to go through the findings of their review on December 7 with the TransLink Board.
- A further update will be provided at the November TIC meeting.

2. Pattullo Bridge Update

The Manager of Rapid Transit and Strategic Projects provided an update on the Pattullo Bridge Project. Staff made the following comments:

- Staff is currently working with TransLink, MoTI and New Westminster in developing the framework to complete a Strategic Review of Pattullo Bridge.
- TransLink has noted that this process will not delay the completion of a new Pattullo Bridge and that the intent is to carry forth with the review until the spring of next year.
- TransLink have assured staff that aspects of the design process will continue for the 6-lane bridge solution.
- TransLink have estimated the maintenance/rehabilitation work for the bridge at \$150+ million. The 5-year program to replace the deck, address railings and \$150 million of seismic upgrade all adds up to \$250 million.
- Staff drafted a letter to the Ministry of Transportation and will bring it forward to the next TIC meeting for review.

3. Rapid Transit Update

File No. 8630-01

The Manager of Rapid Transit & Strategic Projects provided an update on Rapid Transit. The following comments were made:

- Staff is preparing a Communication and Advocacy program for Surrey's LRT rapid transit vision and details of the program will be presented to Committee and Council for information and direction.
- In Phase 2 of SRTAA, TransLink's recommendations excluded Alternative LRT-1, which represents Surrey's vision of LRT on all of the following rapid transit corridors: King George Blvd.(KGB), 104 Ave. and Fraser Hwy. The three alternatives recommended by TransLink included the following:
Alternative 1: BRT on KGB, 104 Ave and Fraser Hwy.
Alternative 2: BRT on KGB and 104 Ave and LRT on Fraser Hwy.
Alternative 3: BRT on KGB and 104 Ave and SkyTrain on Fraser Hwy.
- TransLink has been informed repeatedly that Surrey's aspiration is to have LRT on all three rapid transit corridors. Surrey has demonstrated that BRT service would be insufficient to accommodate future demand on KGB and Fraser Hwy. On 104 Ave., LRT service is needed for critical land use shaping purposes.
- The General Manager of Engineering will respond to TransLink expressing Surrey's concern and staff will complete documentation to justify LRT provision in Surrey on all three corridors.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. South Surrey Park'n Ride Status Update**

The Manager of Transportation provided an update on South Surrey Park'n Ride. Staff made the following comments:

- It has been confirmed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure that funding is in place for the construction of the expansion.
- The new expansion will be located across King George Boulevard using the provincial land around the Hwy 99/King George interchange.
- The land is soft in that area, therefore; pre-loading may be required and could extend the construction period up to two years.

2. Fraser Highway Express Bus Proposal

The Manager of Rapid Transit & Strategic Projects provided a report on the Fraser Highway Express Bus Proposal. Staff made the following comments:

- TransLink is conducting a system wide review to determine measures that will yield higher system efficiency, e.g., extending 15 minutes coverage to half an hour, or removing/re-routing service entirely.
- Fraser Highway is experiencing overcrowding. There is a proposal to run an express bus from Surrey Centre to Langley and then regular coverage to Aldergrove.
- Staff is working closely with TransLink to ensure Surrey's needs are recognized and current service levels are maintained or improved in finalizing these changes for 2013.

Upon receiving more details from TransLink, staff will bring information to the next meeting.

3. 16 Avenue/Highway 99 Interchange Update

The Manager of Rapid Transit & Strategic Projects provided an update on the 16 Avenue/Highway 99 Interchange. Staff made the following comments:

- *Design:* The 16 Avenue/Highway 99 Interchange project is being fast-tracked for tendering by the end of this year.
- *Construction:* The opening day and what the project will look like needs to be discussed further with the Ministry. Construction is to start in February or March of 2013 with a completion date of 18-24 months. The City has tentatively approved the closure of 16 Ave during construction but will wait for public comments at the next public open house. The full closure is expected to last 6-8 months.
- There are two options to deal with 164 Street connections to 16 Ave:
 - One option is right-in/right-out. If analysis shows it is safe to do so, then the right-in and right-out would be implemented.

- The other option is full closure of 164 Street which would address safety concerns that have been identified. Based on the safety review completed to date, staff recommends a full closure.

Based on current information, the Committee supported staff's recommendation for a full closure of 164 Street. A final decision will be made following review and public consultation.

- *Public Consultation & Announcements:*
 - Introduction letters delivered to local residents (Sept. 17)
 - Official project announcement at UBCM (Sept. 27)
 - Media announcement (Oct. 12)
 - Open house (late Oct./early Nov.)
 - Staff to prepare a standard response for public comments and refer to the Ministry's communication team.

4. **20 Avenue Overpass over Highway 99**

The Manager of Transportation provided an update on the 20 Avenue Overpass of Highway 99.

Background:

Council approved plans in 2009 for a future 20 Ave overpass over Highway 99. Public consultation was undertaken. 57% supported the overpass and 39% opposed. At the time of consultation, the expectation for construction was in the 10-15 year timeframe after the widening of 16 Ave and the 24 Ave on-ramps. The overpass is not in the current 10 Year Servicing Plan.

Staff made the following comments:

- 16th Avenue interchange is proceeding.
- The public has expressed an interest in a 20 Ave overpass to reduce the concentration of traffic on 24 Ave and 16 Ave. Businesses are also interested in the overpass to improve connections between current and future retail development and the existing residential area to the west of Hwy 99.
- An interested developer has indicated that he may be interested in front-ending the overpass. The same developer has commenced the process to front end a new \$12 million sewer pump station and forcemain within the Sunnyside NCP area, which will require a DCC front ender agreements and a DWA (development works agreement). The introduction of this pump station would permit significant development to occur within this NCP.
- The cost of the 20 Ave overpass is approximately \$4-5 million. In order to be eligible for a DCC rebate, the works would have to be added to the 10-year plan. As there is no defined benefitting area for collector or arterial road works, there is no mechanism for General DCC front ender agreements. Further investigation would be required to find an alternate mechanism if the developer wishes to front end these works.
- *Benefits of early overpass:*
 - A proactive rather than reactive approach to managing traffic growth in the area

- Services future growth in the area, such as NCP 5A (Orchard Grove) NCP2 (Sunnyside) and the Aquatic Centre.
- Improves efficiency of 16 Ave interchange by providing direct connectivity for more localized trips.
- *Issues with Constructing overpass early:*
 - Acceleration of timeline would be contrary to resident expectation
 - Increased volume of traffic on 20 Avenue. Currently it is 8,000 VPD west of Highway 99
 - Reprioritization of 10 Year Servicing Plan projects required
 - Actual costs of the overpass would be significantly higher than the estimated \$4-5 million as there would be a requirement to undertake improvements beyond the overpass along 20 Avenue.

The Committee endorsed staff recommendations to include the 20 Ave overpass in the update to the City's 10 Year Servicing Plan, to work with the interested developer to try and establish a funding mechanism for front-ending the 20 Ave overpass and that a direct funding contribution should be made by the developer in bringing this project forward at this time.

5. TravelSmart

The Manager of Transportation Planning provided a report on TransLink's "TravelSmart" Program. Staff made the following comments:

- TransLink is mandated by the Province to develop TDM strategies. The "Travel Smart" program is a package of personalized transportation marketing and travel planning resources for individuals about their transportation options including transit, cycling, walking or carpooling.
- The TravelSmart Program was first promoted during the Winter Olympics in 2010 with strong messages to people to avoid using their car and instead use transit, walk or cycle. The Program successfully contributed to a 36% reduction in vehicle traffic in downtown Vancouver during the Games. It is currently developing into a regional-wide program.
- The basic philosophy of "TravelSmart" is that people are interested in using transit, walking or cycling but often don't know what services and facilities are available to them.
- The TravelSmart website has videos, links, resources and articles for the public's transportation information. If a Surrey TravelSmart website were created it would provide links to the Surrey transportation website which already provides a comprehensive resource for information.
- Although the TravelSmart website is an important element of the Program, TravelSmart also includes other initiatives such as school travel planning and new immigrant transit familiarization sessions, both of which have been provided within Surrey.
- Staff noted that there are positives to being involved with this program and Surrey would be demonstrating regional TDM leadership by participating. The program will also help tackle misconceptions about transportation in

Surrey and both complement and add value to the large on-line transportation resource the City already has in place.

- If Surrey were to participate in the TravelSmart program, it would be the largest municipal partner. Langley City and Township, North Vancouver and West Vancouver are already part of the TravelSmart Program.

The Committee recommended that TransLink be invited to present the "Travel Smart" Program to a future Council-In-Committee meeting.

6. 20 Avenue Bicycle Project Update

The Manager of Transportation provided an update on the 20 Avenue Bicycle Project.

Background: Staff has been undertaking consultation with the local community and other stakeholders with regards to the 20th Avenue bicycle route. The original plan which proposed the introduction of two on-street bicycle lanes received significant opposition from residents due to worries about the loss of parking and the potential for increased traffic speeds due to the wider pavement. A revised proposal for a multi use pathway on the north side of 20th Avenue was presented to the Committee in September and the proposal was endorsed.

Staff made the following comments:

- Staff has been consulting with the Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society (SAHS) who are not in support of the proposal.
- Since presenting the planned project to the Committee, staff has undertaken further review of the impact on trees. Approximately 212 smaller diameter non by-law trees (the majority of which are less than 10 cm dia), and 21 by-law trees are impacted by the project.
- Staff described the mitigation measures to reduce tree loss including retention of 1/3 (12) of the by-law trees:
 - Meandering the pathway to avoid trees
 - Reducing the overall width of the pathway to 3 m from the standard 4 m
 - Further width reductions to 1.5 m in proximity to significant trees
 - Elimination of the boulevard in some sections and the planting in the boulevard of an estimated 95 new trees
- Staff noted that the project is being supported by TransLink with \$320,000 of approved funding. This will be lost if the project is not completed by December 2013.

The Committee endorsed staff's recommendation to proceed with the project which includes the following next steps:

- Proceed with public consultation for the revised proposal
- Continue to work with the SAHS
- Proceed with tree clearing in the Fall/Winter 2012
- Construct project in the Spring/Summer 2013

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

H. OTHER BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will be held on **Monday, November 19** at 2:00 pm in the Executive Meeting Room.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Gill, Chair