

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Minutes

2E - Community Room A
City Hall
13450 -104 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018
Time: 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Gill, Chair
Councillor LeFranc
Councillor Woods
K. Rana (Youth Rep.)

Absent:**Staff Present:**

P. Bellefontaine, Traffic Engineering
Manager
S. Afzal, Road Safety Manager
D. Buchanan, Transportation Planner
G. Cross, Traffic Signals Lead
P. Lee, LRT Program Manager
D. Johnstone, Administrative Assistant

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**1. (a) Minutes of February 26, 2018**

It was Moved by Councillor LeFranc
Seconded by Councillor Woods
That the minutes of the Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee meeting held February 26, 2018, be adopted.
Carried

(b) The notes of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting,
held March 19, 2018, were received as information.

B. DELEGATIONS**C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS****1. LRT Update**

Paul Lee, LRT Program Manager, provided the following information regarding
Light Rail Transit (LRT):

- Staff is working to finalize the Partnership Agreement with TransLink. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Phase 1 was signed in 2017, and the Supportive Policies Agreement (SPA) is currently in the process of being finalized and signed off by all parties. The SPA brings together various City policies and strategies for transportation, affordable housing, land use and density along the LRT line, and which are of interest to the Province.
- Funding approval from the Regional Mayors' Council will allow for TransLink to adopt Phase 2 of the regional transportation investment plan, which includes funding for Phase 1 of the Surrey LRT project.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following information:

- The Affordable Housing Strategy is referenced in the SPA, with the framework for all parties to work towards that goal. Parking initiatives that help promote affordable housing through, for example, “unbundling” parking are also referenced in the SPA.
- The Planning and Development Department is developing a comprehensive land use plan along the 104 Avenue corridor between City Centre and Guildford Town Centre with the intent of identifying land uses and density in the area within the context of the future LRT.
- Staff are in the process of detailing the City's financial contributions to the LRT project including contributions in-kind, such as provision of the road allowance required for LRT and road construction.

The Committee provided the following comments:

- Further discussion and presentations from staff is required relative to development along the corridor, particularly as it relates to how bonus density contributions from development are secured. There is a perception that this has been applied inconsistently. Further clarity regarding bonus density, and the manner in which it relates to the LRT could be provided to the Committee at a future meeting or by means of another forum.
- Staff could look at reduced parking requirements along the LRT corridors and the associated financial savings to a development being made available for funding other areas, such as affordable housing.
- Policies for Purpose Built Rental Housing in Seattle allow for units and parking to be purchased separately. It was suggested that researching this type of policy for strata properties along the LRT corridors could be beneficial.
- Effectively promoting the overall vision for LRT, including identifying a full future network and how this can contribute to development opportunities, community building and technology, is beneficial. There is still a perceived lack of enthusiasm for LRT from the public, and additional effort is needed to show the public the benefits of such a system.

P. Lee left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2018 TIC Agenda Items

Phillip Bellefontaine, Traffic Engineering Manager, summarized the planned 2018 Traffic and Infrastructure Committee Agenda Items document.

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following:

- Challenges with conveying Municipal priorities to the Provincial Government and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) and tools available to Council to provide proactive education regarding Municipal priorities were discussed.
- Strategy for improving the transportation systems in the city is needed, in particular improving the north-south and east-west connections across the city.
- Increases to the Road Levy and potential changes to the definition and scope of the Levy could be considered in order to both accelerate and broaden transportation investments.

Staff informed that work was underway on developing a congestion relief plan and that the areas highlighted by the committee would be considered within that. It was also noted that this was an item for a future Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting.

2. Rail Studies and Improvements Update

Graham Cross, Traffic Signals Lead, summarized a PowerPoint presentation regarding Railway Crossing safety improvements and whistle cessation, and reported the following information:

- In December 2014, the Federal Government adopted new regulations and standards for railway grade crossings, with a seven year timeframe for completion. The City is currently in good standing to meet the December 2021 deadline. No timeframe is in place for establishing similar standards for Provincial crossings.
- An engineering consultant has been hired regarding safety assessments and compliance. Safety assessments have been completed on 39 of 44 crossings.
- Safety improvements include: signs and pavement markings, crossing surface, warning systems and gates, and sightlines. Grade of road approach is not required within the seven year timeframe; however, standards would need to be met should any future construction at the crossings occur.
- Costs associated with the crossing surface may be shared between the railway and the City.
- Transport Canada has approved funding for two crossings. Construction for the Scott Road crossing south of 110 Avenue will begin in spring, 2018, and design is currently underway for the crossing at 64th and 152nd. Six other applications remain under consideration for future funding opportunities under the program.

- In order to obtain Whistle Cessation, a signed agreement between the City and railways is required to confirm that safety requirements at the crossing have been met. Council could then pass a resolution calling for the cessation of whistles, and the railways company would then notify Transport Canada. Train whistling is to cease within 30 days of Council's resolution.
- Whistle Cessation has been achieved along Roberts Bank Railway Corridor, and staff is actively working on cessation for Crescent Beach and Elevator Road.
- Staff has met with both the Crescent Beach property Owners Association and individual residents regarding the planned implementation of pedestrian fencing to allow for whistle cessation to be enacted. Further community consultation regarding parking impacts and the visual impact of the pedestrian fence will take place. It is planned to bring the whistle cessation bylaw to Council later this Summer.
- The Elevator Road crossing is still considered a public crossing; however, the road is closed to public access. Discussions are underway with BNSF on the required safety improvements required to allow the city to bring forward the whistle cessation bylaw for this crossing. Staff are hopeful that this will be achieved in 2018.

The Committee expressed their gratitude to staff for their continued work with the community on the Whistle Cessation project.

3. **Vision Zero – Surrey's Safe Mobility Plan Update**

Shabnem Afzal, Road Safety Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Vision Zero, Surrey's Safe Mobility Plan. The following information was reported:

- Vision Zero originates in Europe, and was adopted in B.C. in 2013. The plan aims to reduce the number of traffic fatalities through the philosophy that loss of life is unacceptable.
- The Vision Zero approach shifts the focus from all collisions, to collisions involving fatalities or serious injuries, and aims to compensate for human error with a design approach for traffic and infrastructure.
- Through a safe systems approach, road safety will be examined from a larger societal and economic context, promoting safe roads, speeds, people and vehicles.
- Vision Zero will be identifying who the victims of these accidents are, who caused the accidents and the locations in which they occur in.
- The Surrey Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy will work in partnership with the RCMP.
- Next steps for the project include stakeholder consultation and Council endorsement this Summer.

The Committee noted the following:

- Researching effective initiatives in other areas of the world and implementing them in Surrey is a strong approach.
- It is important to consider both retrofitting existing infrastructure (for example sidewalks), and investing in more infrastructure at the time of construction.
- Too many pedestrians have already been lost this year. Addressing road users' behavior that impacts on road safety, such as not stopping for pedestrians, should be an important part of the Plan.
- The Committee also noted concerns with the exit out of City Hall onto 104 Avenue. It was suggested that a buffer between the parking garage and the turnout, or a signal to alert for pedestrians, be considered. Staff confirmed that this would be looked into.

4. Washington Road Usage Charging Update

Don Buchanan, Transportation Planner, reported that invitations have been distributed to local influencers and media. Two hundred spots have been funded for Canadian participants; however, it was noted that sign up has been slow.

The Committee suggested that issues with Canadian versus American sign up could be a contributing factor for decreased enrollment.

Staff identified that additional information and recruitment would be provided through the Inside Your City staff newsletter and CitySpeaks panel.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

H. OTHER BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will be held on Monday, May 14 2018, in 2E Community Room A.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor LeFranc
Seconded by Councillor Woods
That the Transportation and Infrastructure

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Gill, Chair