

Local Road Issues

The list of specific roadway elements is illustrated on the attached figure. These are within the general area of Highway 1 and 96 Avenue, and include a number of connections and terminations of existing roadways which will be required by the new River Crossing expressway connecting 96 and 98 Avenues. It is understood that Council's concern related to the fact that in the original MoU, these links appear to be very specific and detailed whereas the overall alignments for the project have been presented as conceptual in nature, requiring considerable additional investigation and consideration of stakeholders' concerns, biophysical impacts, etc., prior to development of specific details.

Staff has been reassured by GVTA that no details have been finalized. The list is intended to identify potential road segments, which may need to be realigned and/or terminated as a result of the project. The precise location and configurations of these modifications have yet to be finalized.

The wording in the MoU has been adjusted to reflect the fact that the road alignment and resultant changes to the local road network is still preliminary and remains open to adjustment.

Abbey Ridge Area Concerns

City and TransLink staff met with Abbey Ridge area residents on April 2. The residents' concern is that the conceptual alignment of the east-west connector road comes closer to their area than they would like, and cuts through an area of undeveloped wooded provincial, city and privately owned properties. They are concerned mostly regarding the impact the road will have on their quality of life due to traffic noise, as well as the potential environmental impacts to creeks and wildlife in the undeveloped area. The residents also presented their preferred alignment which shifts the roadway further to the east and away from their area.

As is explained above, it was explained to the residents that the current alignment is very conceptual and more of an illustration rather than a firm alignment plan, and certainly open to review and revision. Although the residents' alignment may not prove to be the most optimal, TransLink committed to having their consultants evaluate it, along with others, to determine an optimal alignment through the area, considering the physical, environmental and community issues. A further meeting is to be scheduled with the Abbey Ridge residents within the next couple of weeks to present and discuss the consultant's alignment options evaluation work.

Commitment on South Fraser Perimeter Road

As outlined in the previous Report R033, the GVTA and the Province are working towards a funding mechanism and an agreement for the implementation of the South Fraser Perimeter Road and other key regional road priorities under the Fraser Gateway Program. This work is projected to be complete by the end of 2003.

The revised MoU states that Surrey's support for the FRC is based on the following conditions:

- That the funding provisions for South Fraser Perimeter Road be defined and provided for with the same level of certainty as that for the Fraser River Crossing;
- That the actual construction of the Fraser River Crossing can proceed ahead of the South Fraser Perimeter Road;
- That a defined funding and implementation commitment by the Province and the GVTA for the South Fraser Perimeter Road be in place by the end of 2003.

Should these conditions not be met, then the City of Surrey will not agree to the FRC going ahead, and will not replace the interim MoU with a formal legal agreement covering the FRC.

CONCLUSION

The MoU, in its revised form, states that it is non-binding, does not indicate specific roadway modification details, and clearly states that the MoU is contingent upon sufficient commitment to funding and implementing the South Fraser Perimeter Road. Without such a commitment the City will not proceed with a formal agreement on the New Fraser River Crossing and its support for the New Fraser River Crossing will be withdrawn. We feel that the MoU now adequately addresses Surrey's issues and concerns.

Both Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge have approved the MoU and the Township of Langley will be considering approval in the near future.

Paul Ham, P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

PH/KZ/brb
Attachment

g:\wp-docs\2003\transportation\03131336kz.doc
BRB 5/13/03 2:34 PM