



City of Surrey

Council-in-Committee

Minutes

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2005
Time: 3:15 p.m.

Present:

Chair: Councillor Bose
Mayor McCallum
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Steele
Councillor Priddy
Councillor Watts
Councillor Hunt
Councillor Higginbotham

Absent:

Entering the Meeting
in Progress:
Councillor Tymoschuk

Staff Present:

City Manager
City Clerk
General Manager, Planning & Development
City Solicitor
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance, Technology & HR

A. DELEGATIONS

- 1. Julian Rozental, ICBC
Vince Lalonde, Manager, Utilities & Transportation and
Jaime Boan, A/Traffic Operations Manager, City of Surrey
File: 5460-90**

Julian Rozental, ICBC, Vince Lalonde, Manager, Utilities & Transportation and Jaime Boan, A/Traffic Operations Manager, City of Surrey were in attendance regarding the safety and efficacy of roundabouts and their programs for participation and funding.

Julian Rozental, P.Eng. provided the following comments:

- The first roundabout was constructed in 2000 in B.C. and supported financially by ICBC.
- ICBC's role primarily is to provide consultation to municipalities to assist logistically with knowledge, expertise, and experience traffic calming and control.
- ICBC also provides advocacy and has embarked on significant education and training to drivers and the public.
- ICBC has funding formulas in place to cover claim costs.
- 20 roundabouts have been completed and funded by ICBC to date throughout B.C.
- There has been a significant increase in interest in roundabouts and 7 were implemented this year alone.
- Roundabouts offer a greater capacity of mobility at intersections and offer significant environmental and aesthetic value.
- They offer significant cost and maintenance reduction in the long term.
- Roundabouts have contributed to a reduction in motor vehicle accidents
- Operating speeds are slow by design and roundabouts force drivers to slow down using a one-way system with minimal conflict points.

- They are self-explanatory and there is a limited margin for error as differential speeds are reduced.
- There are only 8 conflict points with roundabouts as compared with 32 conflict points in a traditional intersection.
- There has been very good safety experience in general with pedestrian safety.
- Single lane roundabouts are safest for pedestrians.
- There have no been reported cyclist incidents in North America.
- Roundabouts, in general, offer a whole range of traffic volumes providing fewer delays per vehicle.
- They are not the solution for every problem; only if an adequate design can be achieved – such as an intersection with no more than four legs or locations with visibility problems such as the top of a hill.

Jaime Boan, Acting Traffic Operations Manager, provided the following comments:

- The City is looking to increase the numbers of roundabouts in Surrey.
- Currently, there are two located at 8th Avenue and King George Highway and at 8th Avenue and Highway 99, both built by the Ministry of Transportation.
- There is another roundabout under construction at 108 Avenue and 158 Street with another project at 20 Avenue near South Surrey Athletic Park going to tender soon.
- Another project at 14th Avenue and King George Highway is undergoing detail design work; another five projects throughout the City are currently being evaluated; and another 3 projects are in the planning stages.
- There is a fundamental difference between traffic circles and roundabouts: roundabouts are a traffic control measure, may provide a split island with pedestrian refuge and crosswalks; can accommodate all vehicle types safely and efficiently. Traffic circles are a traffic calming measure with a small diameter, providing deflection in the travel path forcing vehicles to slow down.
- In addition to the benefits of both safety and operational delay, there are reduced cost benefits to roundabouts.
- Roundabouts are more expensive than traffic signals, but these costs are gained back in the long term as there is less maintenance and repair involved.
- The City has had the opportunity to partner with ICBC to maximize funding for roundabouts in Surrey.
- Proactive approaches to the use of roundabouts will be added in Neighbourhood Concept Plans.
- Roundabouts are also called green intersections due to the landscaping, fitting in well with the philosophy of “Surrey – the City of Parks”.
- There are many benefits to the use of roundabouts: safety, reduced delays, lower long term costs, and green intersections.
- A two-lane roundabout is under consideration for 124 Street and 60 Avenue.

**2. Alaina Holland, President
Surrey Little Theatre**
File: 5400-01; 0550-20-10

Alaina Holland, President, Surrey Little Theatre was in attendance regarding the parking problem at the Surrey Little Theatre. She introduced Rod McDonald, Past President, and Bergitte Seit, Director, and Norma Luxton, who were also in attendance.

The following comments were provided:

- The proposed roadwork in the 7000 to 7200 block 184 Street would restrict access to their facility and create an economic impact.
- Construction a parking lot is not an option because of the small amount of land available and existing septic field.
- Their most immediate concern is the 2005/2006 season which opens November 3 and ends with the traditional youth production in July 2006.
- Revenues from three main stage shows over the season nets \$121,000.
- Surrey Little Theatre will lose money and suffer serious problems.
- How can the parking problem be solved immediately to ensure economic well-being and how can parking lot access problems be solved in the long term.
- The theatre is identified in the Clayton Neighbourhood Concept Plan as a landmark focal point and there is an opportunity to establish Surrey Little Theatre as a showcase venue.
- With the City's assistance and the cooperation of one landowner who owns a parcel of land up to Fraser Highway, they could provide long term viability for the theatre.
- Current buffer areas could be dedicated as parking.
- There is a similar situation in the Township of Langley where the municipalities purchased adjacent land and provided parking for their theatre group.
- The City could provide a grant to Surrey Little Theatre to make up for lost revenues due to lack of parking or purchase adjacent land for parking.
- The organization recently spent \$30,000 on a new roof and were surprised to learn of the proposed roadwork.
- They would appreciate the City's assistance and cooperation in finding short and long term solutions for this problem.
- Surrey Little Theatre provides seating for 75 patrons and offers stage shows Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.
- There is also a concern regarding pedestrian safety due to sidewalk conditions, and most patrons are seniors.
- The next production opens February 2, 2006.

Councillor Tymoschuk entered the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

- The comment was made that there is still parking at Clayton Hill down 71 Avenue and that safe pedestrian access will be ensured.

Councillor Priddy left the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

**3. Sandy McLeod, Co-Chair
Surrey Homelessness & Housing Task Force**

File: 5080-01; 0550-20-10

Sandy McLeod, Co-Chair, Surrey Homelessness & Housing Task Force was in attendance to provide Council with the results of the 24 Hour Count regarding the homeless and its implication for Surrey; work of the Surrey Homelessness & Housing Task Force to address homelessness, and to provide recommendations to combat homelessness in Surrey.

The following comments were provided:

- The Surrey Homelessness & Housing Task Force (the Task Force) has been operating for approximately 4 years and consists of community members from business, faith, Fraser Health Authority, Surrey Memorial Hospital, service providers, and federal and municipal members.
- The Task Force has drafted a Community Needs Assessment and Homelessness Plan.
- They have undertaken three 24-hour counts of homeless people in Surrey to provide information to guide planning and service provision.
- They are providing continuing workshops and forums to raise awareness about homelessness in Surrey.
- A two-day forum on homelessness attracted over 200 participants.
- Increased Surrey's share of Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) Program dollars from 18% to 22%.
- Provided essential support for a number of homelessness initiatives in Surrey, including Hyland House, the Phoenix Centre and Project Comeback, as well as the recent announcement of six safe house beds at Kla-How-Eya.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of homeless persons in Surrey over the past three years: from 160 in 2002 to 371 in 2005 (increase of 132%). The street or unsheltered population increased by 141% for the time period in question.
- The Task Force is supportive of Surrey's Plan for Social Well-being of Surrey Residents and hopes the plan and recommendations will make a real difference in addressing social issues.
- The Task Force urges Council to do the following:
 - examine the feasibility of establishing a Homelessness and Housing Foundation similar to that of the City of Calgary whereby the business community, faith-based groups, philanthropic organizations, residents and others can contribute toward the development of an endowment to fund homelessness and housing initiatives in Surrey.
 - establish a working group of developers and service providers to examine how the City's Affordable Housing fund can be more effectively utilized to facilitate affordable market and non-market housing, exploring a variety of models including supportive year round housing and to leverage senior government dollars to address homelessness in Surrey. Incorporate a

certain percentage of affordable housing and purchase and renovate older homes for local individuals or families. Look at other models such as smaller housing units for single adults who are homeless or living in poverty.

- become a partner with the provincial and federal governments to address homelessness in Surrey and actively participate at all tables to advocate for Surrey its economic fair share of federal funding. Additionally, that the City advocate for resources to support individuals with mental, physical and/or substance misuse issues to acquire and maintain suitable housing. It is important to take a holistic view of homelessness, including addressing employment readiness and underemployment, life skills training and transportation considerations.
- hire additional staff and designate an individual whose responsibility it would be to address homelessness and housing related issues in Surrey.
- provide financial support to the Task Force to enable it to undertake an advisory, advocacy, capacity building, collaboration, education, planning and research activities.
- The City work to preserve and enhance the existing stock of affordable, market rental housing in Surrey. Additionally, that the City conduct an inventory of such housing to act as a benchmark and that any additions and deletions be tracked on an annual basis.
- Surrey's at risk of homelessness population numbers are 12,870 or 23% of the GVRD area. These people earn less than \$20,000 per year and most are located in the Whalley and Newton areas.
- The 2006 census will update these figures.
- The homeless are also impacted by being able to afford public transportation.
- The Task Force has been operating out of budget for the last six months.

Councillor Priddy returned to the meeting at 4:24 p.m.

4. Jeff Welch, Chair
Kameka Clarke & Cindy Walker, United Way Representatives
2005 United Way Campaign
File: 0320-20 UW; 0550-20-10

Jeff Welch, Chair, Kameka Clarke and Cindy Walker, United Way Representatives, 2005 United Way Campaign were in attendance to make a presentation with respect to the United Way Campaign.

The following comments were provided:

- This year's United Way Campaign had its official kick-off October 17, 2005.
- The goal for this year's campaign is to raise \$205,000. In 2000, the goal was for \$135,000 so it is obvious how quickly the goal has risen in a short time.
- Last year's campaign raised \$204,000 and the Lower Mainland average is 19% participation rate compared to Surrey's participation rate of 75%.
- Kameka Clarke commented that the City of Surrey has been a fantastic supporter of the United Way campaign and exceeds expectations.

- Surrey has won the Award for Excellence for six straight years.
- The success of the campaign is due to the excellent leadership of individuals like Jeff Welch and due to the support of Council, Department Managers, and the Union.
- Surrey has already received 25% of its 2006 target goal!
- Surrey goes beyond dollars raised and is a true community partner in many ways such as providing volunteer hours.
- The United Way invested \$1.5 million in Surrey last years for a variety of programs and services.
- Funding for prevention and early intervention programs make good economic sense as do early literacy programs and drop-in centres and bring a good return on investment.
- There have been a number of initiatives where Surrey staff have partnered with United Way such as “Vibrant Surrey” and “Project Comeback”, an employment project for homeless individuals to earn money.

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. CORPORATE REPORTS

1. The Corporate Reports, under date of October 17, 2005, were considered and dealt with as follows:

Item No. C017 A Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents -
Stage 1 Action Plan: Social Service Gaps for Which the
City has Primary Responsibility
File: 5080-01

The General Manager, Planning & Development submitted a report to:

- Present to Council the consultant's report entitled "Plan for the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents – Stage 1 Action Plan: Social Service Gaps for Which the City has Primary Responsibility" (Stage 1 Action Plan), attached as Appendix I to this report;
- Provide an overview of the public consultation process associated with the preparation of the Stage 1 Action Plan;
- Advise Council of the next steps required to complete the preparation of the Stage 2 Action Plan, related to the Plan for the Social Well-Being Plan for Surrey Residents; and
- Seek authorization for staff to review the funding and resource requirements to implement the Stage 1 Action Plan and to bring forward recommendations for Council's consideration as part of the 2006 annual budgeting process.

The General Manager, Planning & Development was recommending approval of the recommendations outlined in his report.

It was Moved by Councillor Higginbotham
Seconded by Councillor Watts
That Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Approve, in principle, the action steps documented in the "Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents - Stage 1 Action Plan: Social Service Gaps for Which the City has Primary Responsibility"; and
3. Direct staff to review the funding requirements and necessary resources to implement the Stage 1 Action Plan and bring forward recommendations, in this regard, for Council's consideration as part of the budget approval process for the City's 2006 budget.

Carried

Item No. C018 Urban Transportation Showcase Program - Status Report on the Development of a Transit Village Plan for the Surrey Central Station Area
File: 6520-20 (Surrey City Centre)

The General Manager, Planning & Development submitted a report to provide Council with an update on the status of the work of preparing a Transit Village Plan for the area surrounding the Surrey Central SkyTrain Station. This project is a component of the Transport Canada Urban Transportation Showcase initiative. The consultants, who are working with staff on the development of the Plan, will be scheduled to make a presentation to Council at the meeting during which this report is to be considered by Council. This report is being forwarded to Council in advance of a Public Open House, at which the public will have an opportunity to view options for the design of the transit village and to provide input to staff with respect to the options.

General Manager, Planning & Development was recommending that the report be received for information.

It was Moved by Councillor Watts
Seconded by Councillor Higginbotham
That Corporate Report C018 be received for
information.

Carried

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER BUSINESS

It was
additional full-time social planning position to support recommendations arising from the Surrey Social Plan, to represent the City at regional and provincial tables, and to address escalating housing and health issues in the City.

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by Councillor Watts
That Council consider at budget time an
Carried with Councillors Hunt, Steele, and
Tymoschuk against.

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was
now adjourn.

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Steele
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do
Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson: Councillor B. Bose