



City of Surrey

Council-in-Committee

Minutes

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2006
Time: 5:18 p.m.

Present:

Mayor Watts
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Steele
Councillor Gill
Councillor Martin
Councillor Hepner
Councillor Bose
Councillor Hunt
Councillor Higginbotham

Absent:

Staff Present:

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

A. DELEGATIONS

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. CORPORATE REPORTS

1. The Corporate Reports, under date of March 6, 2006, were considered and dealt with as follows:

Item No. C005 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 preparation of the Transit Village Plan for the area immediately adjacent to the Surrey Central SkyTrain Station. The Transit Village project is a component of the Transport Canada Urban Transportation Showcase initiative. This report is being forwarded to Council in advance of a Public Open House, at which the public will have an opportunity to view a preferred option for the Transit Village Plan and to provide input. It also outlines some preliminary implementation considerations for realizing the proposed plan.

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

The consultant was in attendance and provided the following comments:

- The Transit Village project is a component of the Transport Canada Urban Transportation Showcase initiative.
- There will be a Public Open House to provide the public an opportunity to view a preferred option for the Transit Village Plan and to provide input.
- The objective is to create a new heart for the downtown area, providing more pedestrian-friendly and mixed-use areas.
- The proposal would integrate transit in the downtown core.
- Currently, the city blocks are too big and create challenges to livable, pedestrian-friendly areas.
- The core of this strategy is to introduce new streets; a pair of east-west streets that would act as bus or transit couplets and retail integrated urban design that would integrate major transit functions around the City Centre/SkyTrain Station area with a new public plaza.
- The civic/transit plaza would be located adjacent to the Surrey Central SkyTrain Station and would provide a grand entrance or gateway to Surrey's downtown, a public gathering place, opportunities for civic and/or retail space within the plaza, and a visible connection between the two couplet streets to facilitate transit transfers between buses, SkyTrain, and rapid bus service.
- The North Surrey Recreation Centre would be retained in a more compact multi-storey form focused on the west side of the existing site.
- Additional public and private green spaces would be integral to the Transit Village.
- It is important to get transit and pedestrian qualities right.
- City Parkway has always been thought of as the core or high street and would continue to be a fixed element of the plan and its importance as a north-south greenway would be protected.
- This link would be reinforced with additional street trees, landscaping/park areas, bicycle routes, generous sidewalks, and connections to regional trail systems.
- The proposed plan would be responsive to different development pressures.
- Economic analysis indicates there is very little short term interest in terms of commercial development, but a potential for a lot of residential development.

It was

Moved by Mayor Watts
Seconded by Councillor Hunt
That Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Authorize staff to proceed with a Public Open House to receive public input on the preferred Transit Village Plan option, as described in this Report.

Carried

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt

Seconded by Councillor Higginbotham

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Certified as true and correct:

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson: Councillor Judy Villeneuve
Council-in-Committee