

**Present:**

Chairperson – Mayor McCallum  
Councillor Annis  
Councillor Elford  
Councillor Guerra  
Councillor Hundial  
Councillor Locke  
Councillor Nagra  
Councillor Patton  
Councillor Pettigrew

**Absent:****Staff Present:**

City Manager  
Acting City Clerk  
General Manager, Corporate Services  
General Manager, Engineering  
General Manager, Finance  
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
General Manager, Planning & Development  
City Solicitor

**A. DELEGATIONS**

- 1. Jonquil Hallgate, Chair, Surrey Road to Home Society, and Susan Sanderson, Executive Director, Realistic Success Recovery Society**  
File: 0250-20

The delegation provided an update on Surrey's homeless count numbers, information on the Recovery Facilities Count and to discuss Homeless Week in BC events and highlighted the following information:

- Surrey needs more Emergency Weather Response (EWR) shelters, especially in City Centre where the homeless population is concentrated. The number of EWR shelters in the city has steadily decreased over the last couple of years and the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in additional space restrictions. There are safety issues that can arise when individuals do not have a warm space during cold weather. It was requested that the City mobilize any spaces available for EWR shelters.
- The Metro Vancouver Homeless Count is scheduled for every three years and was most recently held on March 4, 2020. While the final report has been delayed due to COVID-19, preliminary statistics indicate that 644 homeless individuals agreed to participate in the count, which is 7% more than in 2017. The largest number of homeless individuals identified as male, 33% of participants identified as indigenous and there are higher numbers of homeless senior individuals. 25% of respondents reported that they work full-time, indicating that there is a high cost of living in the region, as well as a lack of affordable housing. Many individuals reported that they have one or more health issues and cannot access services because they do not have a permanent address. This also makes it difficult for service providers to follow-up with homeless patients.

- On March 5, 2020, the Surrey Road to Home Society conducted its first count of individuals identifying as homeless within licenced residential treatment and recovery facilities. Individuals in these facilities are not included in the Metro Vancouver Homeless Count and their non-inclusion provides an incomplete picture of the homeless situation, especially in Surrey. The Surrey Recovery Facilities Homeless Count gathered 192 responses. The Count indicated that without access to treatment facilities, the number of individuals experiencing traditional homeless would be higher. These facilities also help individuals transition back into the community by providing support and a positive environment for recovery.

2. **Sarah Ross, Director of System Planning, and Dan Freeman, Senior Manager of Bus Priority Programs, TransLink**

File: 0250-20

The delegation provided an update on planning for RapidBus service on the Scott Road corridor and highlighted the following information.

- RapidBus is a faster, more frequent, and reliable bus service that offers at least 20% faster service than local buses. TransLink, in partnership with the Cities of Surrey and Delta, is currently working to expand RapidBus services to Scott Road. TransLink will provide funding for buses, infrastructure and changes required for streets within existing right-of-ways while both cities will be partners in deciding what street changes can be implemented.
- Scott Road is one of the most important corridors in the region and is the busiest road south of the Fraser River, 23,000 passengers daily. While transit passengers account for almost half the daily riders on the corridor, bus service along Scott Road is currently not competitive, as current bus routes take nearly twice as long as cars. It is anticipated that RapidBus services will be faster, travelling southbound during PM peak traffic in 39 minutes or less.
- The selected RapidBus alignment will travel from Scott Road Station to 72 Avenue and then travel along 72 Avenue to the Newton Exchange. TransLink has studied current ridership, transit connections and worked with staff on current and future growth patterns. The proposed route should shorten riders' travel time and provides pedestrian-friendly stops from the area south of Scott Road and 72 Avenue.
- There are street changes that can be implemented to further improve bus service, including in-lane bus stops, queue jumps, dedicated bus lanes and turn restrictions. Many of these changes can also increase safety along these routes. TransLink will work with City staff to determine what street changes can be implemented for the project.
- Preliminary engagement has already begun with stakeholders along the corridor. Further engagement will be conducted once designs are completed in Spring 2021. It is anticipated that the project will launch by September 2023, or sooner if possible.

**B. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by Councillor Guerra

Seconded by Councillor Patton

That the Council-in-Committee meeting be

adjourned.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

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Kelly Rayter, Acting City Clerk

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Mayor Doug McCallum, Chairperson