



REPORT TO COUNCIL
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 16, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Planning and Environment was held on Thursday, February 16, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Kim Capri, Vice-Chair
Mayor Sam Sullivan
*Councillor Suzanne Anton, Chair
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Peter Ladner
Councillor B.C. Lee
Councillor Raymond Louie
Councillor Tim Stevenson

ABSENT: Councillor Heather Deal (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting of January 15, 2006, were adopted.

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson

THAT this meeting of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment end at 6:45 p.m., and, if necessary, discussion and decision on the Administrative Report dated January 31, 2006, entitled "Blenheim Street Re-classification and Traffic Calming and Balaclava Bike Route" be referred to, and speakers continue to be heard, at the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on March 2, 2006.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RECOMMENDATION

1. Blenheim Street Re-classification and Traffic Calming and Balaclava Bike Route (VanRIMS No. 13-1400-30)

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At 2:05 p.m., Councillor Anton declared conflict of interest because she lives on Blenheim Street. Councillor Anton left the meeting and did not return.

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The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated January 31, 2006, in which the General Manager of Engineering Services sought Council approval to re-classify, repave and traffic calm Blenheim Street from West 16th Avenue to Southwest Marine Drive, and to establish a bicycle route on Balaclava and Carnarvon Streets from English Bay to the Fraser River.

Jerry Dobrovolny, Assistant City Engineer, and David Rawsthorne, Neighbourhood Transportation, reviewed the report, gave an overview of the project's history, explained neighbourhood collectors, noted benefits of traffic circles and goals for the project, and gave an overview of the public consultation process.

Messrs. Dobrovolny and Rawsthorne, along with Judy Rogers, City Manager, and Jim Hall, Neighbourhood Transportation Engineer, responded to questions regarding:

- public consultation process;
- number of traffic circles in Vancouver;
- traffic and signage around traffic circles;
- evidence that people will use side streets if Blenheim Street is paved and calmed;
- collaboration with emergency services on the plan;
- pedestrian safety, especially around traffic circles;
- Canada Safety Council's statement that traffic calming does not enhance safety;
- whether speed humps improve or are detrimental to safety;
- measurements of success and possibility of modifications if the project is not successful; and
- cost of the project.

The following delegations spoke in general support of the recommendations in the report:

Lani Levine, The Blenheim Neighbourhood Group (*brief distributed - on file*)
Colleen McGuinness (*brief distributed - on file*)
Norm Couttie (*brief distributed - on file*)
Dennis Steeves (*brief distributed - on file*)
Gerry Mignault (*brief distributed - on file*)
Bob Heyman (*brief distributed - on file*)

Susan Yeomans
Ellen Hockin (*brief distributed - on file*)
Bill Yearwood
Gloria McCormack
Jack Becker, Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition (VACC)
Nancy Lee
Susan Ferguson
Guy Immega (*brief distributed - on file*)
David Barnes
Robert Westendorp
Dan Murray
Tina Tarandi
Thomas Nichols
Andrew Thom
Carolyn Astel
Bob Davies
Sharon Magee
Nancy Self

Their comments included:

- current safety concerns on Blenheim Street due to traffic and excessive speed;
- plan fulfills need of minimizing impact to neighbourhood;
- measures in the report are a compromise between residents and the City;
- plan will slow down traffic on Blenheim Street;
- VACC support for Balaclava Bike route and traffic calming;
- cars need to be slowed down to cycling speed around traffic circles;
- concerns regarding pedestrian and cyclist safety around traffic circles;
- still an 8 block stretch with no traffic controls or calming;
- there is no public process that is completely adequate;
- support addition of sidewalk at 40th Avenue near entrance to Blenheim Street;
- bike route should be done in such a way that it is not attractive to cars;
- urged Council to vote in favour of the report;
- many residents in the entire neighbourhood, not just Blenheim Street, approve of the plan;
- overview of Blenheim Neighbourhood Group (BNG);
- need to have measures that discourage unsafe driving behaviour on Blenheim Street;
- emergency services has approved the plan; and
- there has been substantial public consultation.

The following delegations spoke in general opposition to the recommendations in the report:

Michael McKay (*brief distributed - on file*)
Al Payne (*brief distributed - on file*)
Jim Woolsey
Eugene Hodgson (*brief distributed - on file*)

Jocelyn Fraser (*brief distributed - on file*)
Daniel Overmyer (*brief distributed - on file*)
Juliet Donnici
Bruni Goodson
Dana Sair
Tony Letvinchuk
Bonnie Simpson
Don Simpson
Doug McCann
Derek Brackley
Kevin O'Malley
Brent Borlagh

Their comments included:

- safety concerns about traffic circles, and whether they are a worthwhile investment;
- concern for families and safety of children around Balaclava Park;
- Blenheim Street should keep its classification as secondary arterial;
- pedestrian and cyclist safety should not be subject to experiment;
- support safety measures and repaving, but not reclassification;
- traffic calming will produce an increase in traffic on other local streets;
- proposal could set a dangerous and costly precedent which will cause all residents of busy streets to lobby for similar treatment;
- questioning statistics and the public consultation process;
- criteria for assessment and process for conversion back to secondary arterial if necessary;
- concerns about cost;
- not clear if this is local improvement or city-wide improvement
- plan does not address where traffic will be diverted;
- current proposal is lacking in public consultation and divides the neighbourhood;
- Fire Department is concerned regarding response times due to calming;
- consultation should occur now that recommendations are public;
- City should not proceed based on a process that will be investigated by the provincial ombudsman.
- plan is a result of a partnership between staff and the BNG;
- speeding should be dealt with by enforcing speed limits, not by blocking traffic;
- only residents on Blenheim Street benefit from this traffic calming;
- proposal has not been thoroughly explained to the larger community;
- traffic has already increased significantly on neighbouring streets because of the poor conditions on Blenheim Street;
- process should be taken one step at a time, not all at once; and
- surveys were limited and did not put forth alternatives to improvements.

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The Committee recessed at 4:55 p.m. and reconvened at 5:05 p.m., with the same members present, to continue hearing from speakers.

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MOVED by Mayor Sullivan

THAT the speaker's list for this item be closed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Having concluded hearing from speakers, the Committee agreed to continue to past the time set at the beginning of the meeting in order to have discussion and decision on this matter.

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the re-classification of Blenheim Street, between West 16th Avenue and Southwest Marine Drive, to the category of Neighbourhood Collector.
- B. THAT Council approve the plan for reconstruction of Blenheim Street, between West 16th Avenue and Southwest Marine Drive, including repaving and traffic calming measures, described in the Administrative Report dated January 31, 2006, entitled "Blenheim Street Re-classification and Traffic Calming and Balaclava Bike Route", at an estimated cost of \$4 million; and

FURTHER THAT staff report back providing detailed cost estimates and seeking funding approval as part of the 2006 Basic Capital Budget process.
- C. THAT the traffic circles proposed at 21st, 29th and 37th Avenue intersections be installed as temporary measures for a twelve month trial period, with funding subject to 2006 Basic Capital Budget approval, and with permanent installation subject to a review of intersection safety, of traffic impact on the surrounding neighbourhood and of the impact on emergency response times in the area.
- D. THAT staff report back regarding a Local Improvement to construct curbs and to pave parking lanes on Blenheim Street, between West 16th Avenue and Southwest Marine Drive.
- E. THAT staff report back on the viability of a roundabout at the intersection of Blenheim Street and King Edward Avenue, in the context of an overall review of safety of the intersection.

- F. THAT a bicycle route be established on Balaclava Street and Carnarvon Street and connecting streets, from Point Grey Road at English Bay to Celtic Avenue at the Fraser River, as shown in Figure 3 of the Administrative Report dated January 31, 2006, entitled "Blenheim Street Re-classification and Traffic Calming and Balaclava Bike Route", subject to consultation regarding design details with neighbours abutting the route, at a estimated cost of \$400,000 with funding subject to 2006 Basic Capital Budget approval.
- G. THAT staff report back on a toolkit and priority system for traffic calming on Neighbourhood Collector streets.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

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CITY OF VANCOUVER

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 16, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, February 16, 2006, at 6:49 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT: Mayor Sam Sullivan
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor Kim Capri
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Peter Ladner
Councillor B.C. Lee
Councillor Raymond Louie
Councillor Tim Stevenson

ABSENT: Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor Heather Deal (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Chow
SECONDED by Councillor Stevenson

THAT this Council resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, Mayor Sullivan in the Chair.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on Planning and Environment February 16, 2006

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment. Its items of business included:

1. **Blenheim Street Re-classification and Traffic Calming and Balaclava Bike Route**

Item 1

MOVED by Councillor Ladner

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment at its meeting of February 16, 2006, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Lee

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman
SECONDED by Councillor Louie

THAT the report of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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