



REPORT TO COUNCIL
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MAY 25, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Planning and Environment was held on Thursday, May 25, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

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

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Diane Clairmont, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Dangerous and Nuisance Building at 4539 Fleming Street (VanRIMS No. 11-4400-10)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated April 13, 2006, in which the City Building Inspector sought Council approval to declare the building at 4539 Fleming Street a nuisance and dangerous to public safety and order the owner to demolish the building and provide a chain-link fence around the site afterwards to prevent dumping. The General Manager of Community Services recommended approval.

Peter Sweeney, Manager, Building Inspection Branch, reviewed the report.

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council declare that the building at 4539 Fleming Street, Lot E of Lot 5, Block 5, District Lot 352, Plan 4247, PID 010-406-379 is a nuisance and dangerous to public safety pursuant to Section 324A of the Vancouver Charter.

- B. THAT Council approve the Resolution attached to Administrative Report *Dangerous and Nuisance Building at 4539 Fleming Street*, dated April 13, 2006, and order the property owner to pull down and demolish the building and to provide a chain-link fence around the perimeter of the property within 30 days of a copy of the Resolution being served pursuant to Section 324A of the Vancouver Charter.
- C. THAT in the event that the owner fails to comply with the order of Council, Council further orders and hereby authorizes the City Building Inspector, in his discretion, to carry out the work outlined in paragraph (B) above, pursuant to Section 324A(2) of the Vancouver Charter.
- D. THAT in the event of the failure of the owner to allow the City Building Inspector and/or his designate access to the site to carry out the work as outlined in paragraph (B) above, the Director of Legal Services is hereby authorized in her discretion, to commence a legal action or proceeding in relation to the building located at 4539 Fleming Street, and may, in her discretion, seek injunctive relief in that action or proceeding in order to bring the building and site into compliance with the City By-laws and Council's Resolution.
- E. THAT the City Clerk be directed to file a 336D Notice against the Certificate of Title to the property at 4539 Fleming Street, in order to warn prospective purchasers that there are violations of the Vancouver Building, Standards of Maintenance, Electrical and Health By-laws related to this property and that there is an order of Council against the property.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mayor Sullivan not present for the vote)

2. Active and Safe Trips to School - Pilot Program (VanRIMS No. 11-2000-20)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated May 11, 2006, in which the Manager, Sustainability Group sought Council approval to develop and deliver The Active and Safe Trips to School Pilot Program. The City Manager recommended approval.

Tom Osdoba, Manager, Sustainability, introduced Sean Pander, Climate Change Project Manager, who reviewed the report, and along with Mr. Osdoba, Tom Timm, General Manager, Engineering Services, and Bernadette Kowey, Way-to-Go? School Program, Provincial Coordinator, responded to questions relating to the following:

- how physical exercise curriculums can be changed within the school system;
- catchment areas/magnet schools;
- social attitudes related to children being driven to school as opposed to cycling;
- safety and physical well-being of students e.g. use of drop-off areas, special parking lots; where child cyclists should be riding - street/sidewalk; specific routes;
- awareness building (marketing budget);
- level of discussions with Vancouver School Board;

- process of developing the program;
- covered/secure storage facilities;
- relationship of the proposed program to City's overall transportation plan;
- program implementation and how children/parents will be engaged in making choices relating to mode of transportation;
- statistics relating to number of students who do have bicycles; and
- plans to work with community/stores to round up bicycles for children who need them and programs to provide transit passes for student/class field trips.

Staff advised there are funds for community outreach and communication plans.

Kristen Yarker-Edgar, Vancouver Native Health Society, spoke in favour of the program noting the following:

- program will be beneficial as childhood obesity is rising, mainly in impoverished areas where there is no money for sporting equipment; program will ingrain accessible physical activity into daily life;
- youngsters today are in danger of being the first generation to live shorter lives than their parents; their well-being is responsibility of all within community and government;
- will increase safety with implementation of parentally supervised elements; and
- already some program liaisons/partnerships within City.

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council direct staff to develop and deliver an Active and Safe Trips to School Pilot Program in up to 15 Vancouver schools in 2006/2007, as described in Administrative Report *Active and Safe Trips to School - Pilot Program*, dated May 11, 2006, with up to \$44,000 in funds to come from the Sustainability Group operating budget, including:
 - A contract with BN Kowey and Associates for the proactive delivery of the Way-to-Go! program that includes working with elementary schools to decrease unnecessary vehicle idling, provided the contract amount does not exceed \$35,000;
 - A contract with Life Cycle to deliver safe cycling skills training in 10 elementary schools for up to \$20,000, provided the City's financial commitment (after external funding and cost recovery) does not exceed \$7,500;
 - The creation of an annual non-monetary award to recognize a leading school, community group, or individual for their contributions to Vancouver's efforts to increase active and safe trips to school (award expenses are estimated at \$1,500).
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the City all legal documents required to implement recommendation A.
- C. THAT all such legal documents be on terms and conditions satisfactory to the City Manager and the Director of Legal Services.

- D. THAT Council direct staff to forward a copy of Administrative Report *Active and Safe Trips to School - Pilot Program*, dated May 11, 2006, to the Vancouver School Board and request that they support the pilot and its objectives.
- E. THAT Council direct staff to include designated safe routes to school in the definition of "pedestrian collector routes" to enable staff to consider these routes when prioritizing pedestrian improvement spending.
- F. THAT Council direct staff to report back on the effectiveness of this pilot at the end of the 2006/2007 school year, including recommendations with regard to continuation, improvement and expansion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. TransLink Governance Review (VanRIMS No.: 13-1400-20)

At the Regular Council meeting immediately following the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on May 18, 2006, the following motion was submitted by Councillor Louie. Councillor Anton called Notice under Section 5.4(c) of the Procedure By-law. The motion was to be considered at the Regular Council meeting immediately following the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting on May 25, 2006. At that meeting, Council referred this item to the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on May 25, 2006, in order to hear from speakers.

WHEREAS the British Columbia Minister of Transportation has appointed a three-member panel to review the governance structure of the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority (GVTA) or TransLink; and

WHEREAS the review panel is accepting submissions from interested stakeholders, including Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) member municipalities, until the end of May;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council make the following recommendations to the TransLink Governance Review Panel:

1. That the TransLink Board of Directors consist only of locally-elected officials;
2. That the locally-elected municipal officials on the TransLink Board of Directors continue to be appointed by the GVRD Board of Directors on a sub-regional basis;
3. The term of appointment to the TransLink Board of Directors be changed to three years from one year;
4. That the Province and TransLink develop a formal mechanism within the GVTA Act to formalize Provincial input into TransLink's Strategic Transportation Plans, and that this mechanism also contain funding commitments from the Province with regards to TransLink's capital and operational expenditures;

5. That the Province designate a formal political liaison to TransLink;
6. Oversight of TransLink's revenue sources and the region's transportation planning processes must remain at the regional level. For these reasons, TransLink should continue to require the approval of the GVRD Board of Directors for increases to existing revenue streams, the introduction of new revenue streams, and the adoption of long-term strategic plans;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council recommends that the other levels of government provide TransLink with a long-term operational funding, potentially in the form of an ongoing transfer of fuel taxes already collected by the Provincial and Federal Governments, and that this transfer be indexed for inflation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council state its opposition to an authority-style governance structure and to the appointment of non-elected directors to the TransLink Board, as TransLink derives much of its revenue from taxation, and it is crucial to maintain democratic transparency and accountability in the collection and administration of taxes.

amended

Marion Town, Executive Director, Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST), spoke in support of the motion (brief submitted - on file). Her comments included:

- TransLink policies and services should be consistent with and supportive of the Greater Vancouver Regional District's (GVRD) regional growth management plans;
- critical that TransLink be governed by a board of elected politicians directly accountable to all of the people who pay for and use TransLink services;
- crucial that TransLink maintain a high degree of local autonomy;
- TransLink must be granted secure and reliable sources of funding in order to carry out its mandate to deliver the transportation needs of the region;
- the scope of the Greater Vancouver Transit Authority must embrace transit, major roads and bridges, cycling and transportation demand management;
- supports 3-year term for directors; and
- there should be no taxation without representation; experts do not necessarily have accountability to broader community.

Councillor Louie introduced the motion.

The following motion reflects amendments accepted by the Mover.

Moved by Councillor Louie
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS:

The three person panel reviewing the Governance of the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority (GVTA, also known as TransLink) has officially requested comments from local municipalities on five issues:

1. The appropriate division of responsibility and control between the Province and TransLink for transportation matters in Greater Vancouver.
2. The appropriate size, composition, and appointment processes for the Board of Directors of TransLink.
3. The appropriate responsibilities, authorities, and powers of the GVRD in relation to TransLink under the GVTA Act.
4. The appropriate responsibilities, authorities, and powers of TransLink to institute revenue measures for funding service delivery and capital projects.
5. How to ensure the Province will have effective input into, and oversight of, TransLink activities and decisions as they affect Provincial interests.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT TransLink's Governance should embrace the following principles:

- A. THAT regional transportation plans be consistent with GVRD growth management plans and air quality objectives while enabling economic growth and Provincial and National goods movements.
- B. THAT major TransLink funders, including representatives appointed by the Provincial and Federal Governments, be present on the TransLink Board.

- C. THAT the TransLink Board be responsible for road-based transportation planning in the region, including major highways and bridges and transportation demand management, in addition to its current responsibilities, and that Provincial and Federal representatives on the TransLink Board ensure that Provincial and Federal needs are addressed.
- D. THAT the majority of votes on the TransLink Board remain with locally-elected Directors to ensure accountability to the majority of citizens affected by TransLink decisions.
- E. THAT the number and choice of locally-elected Directors on the Board reflect population, sub-regional areas, and areas with heavy transit use; and that alternate Directors be allowed; and weighted votes used.
- F. THAT these locally-elected Directors continue to be appointed by the GVRD Board to ensure consistency with GVRD land-use planning.
- G. THAT the terms of appointment to the TransLink Board be three years.
- H. THAT the TransLink Board review and provide comment on the GVRD's strategic land use plans to ensure Provincial and National transportation needs are adequately addressed.
- I. THAT TransLink strategic plans continue to be subject to GVRD approval.
- J. THAT TransLink funding move away from property taxes and parking area taxes and be based on secure, sustainable, adequate funding coming from federal and provincial contributions including fuel taxes collected from this region, as well as fares, tolls, private funding, and other road-pricing charges.

carried unanimously

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Louie

THAT in E of the motion, the words "and weighted votes used" be deleted.

LOST

(Councillors Anton, Ball, Capri, Ladner, Lee and Mayor Sullivan opposed)

Council recessed at 4:15 p.m. and reconvened at 4:25 p.m. with all members present.

The amendment having lost, Councillor Louie's motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the following addition be made to the motion relating to TransLink Governance Review:

THAT Vancouver maintain its current weighted vote share.

LOST
(Councillors Anton, Ball, Capri, Ladner, Lee and Mayor Sullivan opposed)

MOTION AS AMENDED

WHEREAS:

The three person panel reviewing the Governance of the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority (GVTA, also known as TransLink) has officially requested comments from local municipalities on five issues:

1. The appropriate division of responsibility and control between the Province and TransLink for transportation matters in Greater Vancouver.
2. The appropriate size, composition, and appointment processes for the Board of Directors of TransLink.
3. The appropriate responsibilities, authorities, and powers of the GVRD in relation to TransLink under the GVTA Act.
4. The appropriate responsibilities, authorities, and powers of TransLink to institute revenue measures for funding service delivery and capital projects.
5. How to ensure the Province will have effective input into, and oversight of, TransLink activities and decisions as they affect Provincial interests.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT TransLink's Governance should embrace the following principles:

- A. THAT regional transportation plans be consistent with GVRD growth management plans and air quality objectives while enabling economic growth and Provincial and National goods movements;
- B. THAT major TransLink funders, including representatives appointed by the Provincial and Federal Governments, be present on the TransLink Board;

- C. THAT the TransLink Board be responsible for road-based transportation planning in the region, including major highways and bridges and transportation demand management, in addition to its current responsibilities, and that Provincial and Federal representatives on the TransLink Board ensure that Provincial and Federal needs are addressed;
- D. THAT the majority of votes on the TransLink Board remain with locally-elected Directors to ensure accountability to the majority of citizens affected by TransLink decisions;
- E. THAT the number and choice of locally-elected Directors on the Board reflect population, sub-regional areas, and areas with heavy transit use; and that alternate Directors be allowed; and weighted votes used;
- F. THAT these locally-elected Directors continue to be appointed by the GVRD Board to ensure consistency with GVRD land-use planning;
- G. THAT the terms of appointment to the TransLink Board be three years;
- H. THAT the TransLink Board review and provide comment on the GVRD's strategic land use plans to ensure Provincial and National transportation needs are adequately addressed;
- I. THAT TransLink strategic plans continue to be subject to GVRD approval;
- J. THAT TransLink funding move away from property taxes and parking area taxes and be based on secure, sustainable, adequate funding coming from federal and provincial contributions including fuel taxes collected from this region, as well as fares, tolls, private funding, and other road-pricing charges.

The Committee adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

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

MAY 25, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, May 25, 2006, at 4:31 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 Suzanne Anton
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor Kim Capri
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Peter Ladner
Councillor B.C. Lee
Councillor Tim Stevenson

ABSENT: Councillor Raymond Louie

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Diane Clairmont, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Anton
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

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
May 25, 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. Dangerous and Nuisance Building at 4539 Fleming Street
2. Active and Safe Trips to School - Pilot Program
3. TransLink Governance Review

Items 1 - 3

MOVED by Councillor Lee

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment at its meeting of May 25, 2006, as contained in items 1 to 3 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Chow
SECONDED by Councillor Stevenson

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

- a) **World Peace Forum Society (VanRIMS No. 08-3000-11)**

In response to Councillor Capri's questions regarding whether the City could protect its grant to the World Peace Forum Society in light of the recent wrongful dismissal suit involving the Society, the City Manager advised nothing could be done.

The Council adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

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