



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

JUNE 6, 2006

A Special Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Transportation and Traffic was held on Tuesday, June 6, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor B.C. Lee, Chair
Mayor Sam Sullivan
Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor Elizabeth Ball, Vice-Chair
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor Kim Capri
Councillor George Chow
*Councillor Heather Deal (Leave of Absence - Civic Business
for first portion of the meeting)
Councillor Raymond Louie

ABSENT: Councillor Peter Ladner (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Tim Stevenson (Leave of Absence)

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

1. Gateway Program Pre-Design Phase - Highway 1 Corridor (File 13-1400-10)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated May 29, 2006, in which the General Manager of Engineering Services, in his comments, noted that Vancouver City Council has passed a specific motion opposing the widening of Highway 1 and the twinning of the Port Mann Bridge and that the Vancouver Transportation Plan indicates that there will be no addition of road capacity for general purpose traffic entering Vancouver. He added that it appears the Provincial government intends to proceed with the Gateway Program nonetheless, including the widening of Highway 1 and twinning of the Port Mann Bridge. The report puts forward recommendations designed to ensure the best use of the added capacity on the Highway 1 corridor, in line with Vancouver's priorities, through lane allocation, road pricing, and demand management strategies to maximize long term benefits from the project, and to minimize negative impacts.

The General Manager of Engineering Services recommended approval of Recommendations A through H and noted the Ministry of Transportation and the Gateway Program are being advised that consistent with Vancouver's Transportation Plan, Vancouver will not be increasing general purpose vehicle capacity within the city to match any increases resulting from the Gateway Program's plans for the Highway 1 corridor.

Jerry Dobrovolny, Assistant City Engineer, Transportation, reviewed the report and with Tom Timm, General Manager of Engineering Services, Lon LaClaire, Strategic Transportation Planning Engineer, and Don Klimchuk, Transportation Monitoring Engineer, responded to questions regarding infrastructure problems in the city if highway capacity is increased and potential mitigation strategies. Mr. Dobrovolny noted that many details about the project are not yet known and that Council will be provided with new information as it becomes available.

The following spoke in opposition to the Gateway Program:

Bonnie Fenton, Chair, Bicycle Advisory Committee
Deming Smith, Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST)
David Fields, Transportation Campaigner, Society Promoting Environmental
Conservation (SPEC)
Colleen Nystedt
Eric Doherty, Livable Region Coalition
Chris Barrington-Leigh, Civil Society Development Project
Paul Keeling, Civil Society Development Project
Ian Bruce, David Suzuki Foundation
Pierre Rovtar, Fraser Valley Conservation Coalition

Comments made by the foregoing speakers included:

- the cycling component of the Gateway Program will not adequately mitigate the negative impacts freeway expansion will have on cycling in Vancouver;
- increased traffic on local Vancouver streets will result in increased run-ins with cyclists and a general reduction in the quality of cycling in Vancouver;
- air quality is not addressed in the Gateway Program;
- the Gateway Program moves away from the goal of achieving a 10% mode share of cycling as a form of transportation in the City of Vancouver by 2010;
- the Bicycle Advisory Committee supports the City's current transportation policies and therefore recommends that Council reject the proposed Gateway Program;
- several speakers urged Council to take a stand as the largest municipality in the region and oppose the Highway 1/Port Mann Bridge widening because it is contrary to existing City policies;
- the Gateway Program undermines the Livable Region Strategic Plan, which has worked well for 20 years; infrastructure should fit with the LRSP and the goals communities have worked so hard for;
- concern was expressed that construction could extend through the 2010 Olympics;
- Vancouver is recognized for the 1967 "great freeway debate" which resulted in the reversal of a proposed freeway through the city; that decision should be upheld;
- the region is desperate for more transit; the money for the Gateway Program should be spent on developing more mass transit;
- expanding car capacity will lead to expansion, sprawl and car-dependent communities in the Fraser Valley;
- highway expansion will lead to depletion of the Agricultural Land Reserve;

- it has been proven worldwide that increasing traffic capacity does not solve traffic problems;
- the project cannot achieve its own objective of reducing congestion; adding capacity generates more traffic and increased congestion;
- the project will contribute to the climate crisis and the health and safety of people in the region;
- there are numerous solutions that do not involve highway and bridge expansion; the City should take a leadership role and provide the provincial government with viable alternative scenarios;
- the Gateway Project should be more accountable to specific goals;
- Grandview Highway and 1st Avenue are already too congested and the intersection at 1st Avenue at Commercial Drive will become an even worse bottleneck;
- concern was expressed regarding the public private partnership component;
- with Gateway at one end and the Sea to Sky Highway at the other, the City of Vancouver is caught in the middle;
- the agricultural land in the Fraser Valley is already suffering from the effects of pollution;
- the project is extremely expensive and fiscally irresponsible;
- alternatives suggested by the David Suzuki Foundation included:
 - a new rapid bus service servicing Surrey and Langley to Coquitlam with queue jumper lanes for the Port Mann Bridge;
 - new park and ride lots that allow people quick and easy access to express busses and rapid transit;
 - additional SkyTrain cars to boost capacity and service which is currently running at one third capacity;
 - an increase to TransLink's bus fleet.

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

1. THAT Council accept Recommendations A to H (as set out below) of the Administrative Report dated May 29, 2006 entitled "Gateway Program Pre-Design Phase - Highway 1 Corridor" as points of dialogue for staff, should the Provincial Government, having considered all of the alternatives, be determined to move forward with the widening of Highway 1 and twinning of the Port Mann Bridge:
 - A. THAT Council support the recommendations contained in the GVTA (TransLink) staff's April 10th, 2006 report titled "Regional Transportation Implications of the Provincial Gateway Program" (attached as Appendix A), with the exception of GVTA Staff Recommendation C which recommends conditional support for Highway 1/Port Mann Bridge widening, as this support would be contrary to existing City policy.

Should the Provincial Government decide to proceed with the changes to the Highway 1 corridor noted in the Gateway Program Definition Report, staff recommend:

- B. THAT Council support only the conditions to the GVTA staff recommendation C, that the Gateway Program include:
- (i) the introduction of tolls and other transport pricing mechanisms to fund, manage demand and promote efficiency in the use of the transportation system;
 - (ii) the introduction of a system of road user priorities to be reflected in the designation of specific lanes, priority access and other measures to promote the movement of transit, high-occupancy and goods movement vehicles ahead of single-occupant vehicles;
 - (iii) the Province does not promote the Patullo Bridge as a free alternative to the Port Mann Bridge, due to the traffic diversion effects that may arise;
- C. THAT Council request that the GVTA Board include in their recommendations:
- examination of distance-based tolls between the Port Mann and Second Narrows bridges;
 - completion of a regional HOV strategy;
 - consideration of additional cost-sharing for the westerly extension of rapid transit along the Broadway corridor;
 - identification of strategic transit system needs between 2021 and 2031; and
 - examination of opportunities to enhance regional transportation modelling, as listed in Appendix B.
- D. THAT Council endorse the recommendations from the GVRD April 21st, 2006 staff report titled "GVRD Response to the Provincial Gateway Program" (attached as Appendix C) supporting:
- the Ministry of Transportation being advised of support for the Gateway Program's overall goals;
 - the need for a regional demand management strategy; and
 - the need for a regional goods movement strategy, as listed in Appendix D.
- E. THAT the Ministry of Transportation and the Gateway Program be requested to fund integration, mitigation and safety improvements that may be needed on city streets as a result of Gateway Program projects.

- F. THAT the scope of the Gateway Program Cycling Plan be defined to include funding for cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in the vicinity of Highway 1's Cassiar Connector, including connections to Burnaby and North Vancouver.
 - G. THAT Council support the Gateway Program's proposed inclusion of safety improvements to Highway 1 on-ramp and off-ramps, and that the Gateway Program be requested to consult with the City and the GVTA on the details of these proposals.
 - H. THAT Council direct staff to forward copies of this report to the GVTA Board, the GVRD Board, the Ministry of Transportation, the Gateway Program and federal ministers responsible for Canada's Pacific Gateway Strategy.
- 2. THAT Council urge the Provincial Government to proceed first with the North/South Connector and the new Pitt River Bridge.
 - 3. THAT Council adhere to its unanimous opposition to twinning of the Port Mann Bridge and widening of Highway 1.

referred

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Anton

THAT this matter, including the motion moved by Councillor Cadman, be referred to the Regular Council meeting on June 13, 2006 as Unfinished Business:

CARRIED

(Councillors Cadman, Chow, Deal and Louie opposed)

Council also agreed that the hearing of delegations on this matter is concluded.

The Committee recessed at 11:35 a.m. and reconvened at 11:45 a.m. and adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

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CITY OF VANCOUVER

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

JUNE 6, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Tuesday, June 6, 2006, at 1:10 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on Transportation and Traffic 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 Raymond Louie
- Councillor Tim Stevenson

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Anton
SECONDED by Councillor Ball

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on Transportation and Traffic June 6, 2006

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

1. Gateway Program Pre-Design Phase - Highway 1 Corridor

Item 1

MOVED by Councillor Capri

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Transportation and Traffic at its meeting of June 6, 2006, as contained in item 1, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Anton

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 Lee

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

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