



REPORT TO COUNCIL
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

FEBRUARY 13, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Transportation and Traffic was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2007, 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 Peter Ladner
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: Pat Boomhower, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Standing Committee on Transportation and Traffic meeting of December 12, 2006, were adopted.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Knight Street and 49th Avenue - Addition of Left-Turn Arrows (VanRIMS No. 13-1400-22)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated November 27, 2006, in which the General Manager of Engineering Services provided information regarding staff's review on installing left-turn arrows at Knight and 49th Avenue prior to the construction of the left-turn bays and sought Council's approval to install the arrows in coordination with the left-turn bays.

Jerry Dobrovolny, Assistant City Engineer - Transportation, outlined the modeling method used in presenting scenarios with respect to this intersection, and noted any traffic light changes in amount of green time is a zero-sum gain.

Winston Chou, Transportation Engineer, reviewed the report and illustrated a reduction in left-turn queues compared to the existing scenario. Mr. Chou also noted ICBC staff present to answer questions.

Messrs. Dobrovolny and Chou, together with Tom Timm, General Manager of Engineering Services, and Don Klimchuk, Transportation Monitoring Engineer, responded to questions regarding curb lane parking, sudden vehicle lane changes in front of trucks, container traffic, long-term planning, advanced green and pedestrian safety, left-turn bay costs and cost-sharing, bus shelters, pedestrian signals and corner improvements near the school.

Heather Gascoigne, Principal, Sir Sandford Fleming Elementary School, and Anne Lee, Facilities Planner, Vancouver School Board, spoke regarding student pedestrian safety issues with respect to the intersection, and noted the proposal focused on traffic flow. Designated time for pedestrian crossing with no turning traffic was recommended, as well as traffic calming measures at Lanark Street and a pedestrian light at Dumfries Street for crossing 49th Avenue. Concern was expressed about the number of vehicles speeding on Knight Street, the complexity of the intersection at 49th Avenue, increasing truck traffic, noise level, children's perception and judgement of traffic, and number of lanes to be crossed.

MOVED by Councillor Capri
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the north and southbound left-turn arrows at the intersection of Knight Street and 49th Avenue be installed in coordination with the left-turn bays scheduled for construction in July, 2007.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Stevenson absent for the vote)

2. 2007 Pedestrian Study (VanRIMS No. 13-5000-01)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated January 30, 2007, in which the General Manager of Engineering Services provided information on plans for a 2007 Pedestrian Study.

Don Klimchuk, Transportation Monitoring Engineer, reviewed the report and noted new funding, not included in the report, has been secured from TransLink recently which will allow data collection in BIA areas and transit routes to be expanded. Mr. Klimchuk further noted bicycle counts will be done at most of the study locations as well. Staff will report back on the study later in the year.

Mr. Klimchuk, together with Jerry Dobrovolny, Assistant City Engineer - Transportation, responded to questions about monitoring the impact of listening devices, such as cell phones, on street crossings, their increased use and related accident statistics, and surveying pedestrian opinion with regard to vehicle right-turns on red.

MOVED by Councillor Capri
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council receive the Administrative Report dated January 30, 2007, entitled "2007 Pedestrian Study" for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Parking Meter Rate Review, Expansion of Meter Zones and Equipment Purchase (VanRIMS No. 13-5500-31)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated January 30, 2007, in which the General Manager of Engineering Services reviewed the City's parking meter operations and recommended selected parking meter rate changes to better reflect market conditions, the expansion of the metered zones, and the purchase and installation of new and replacement parking meter equipment.

Doug Louie, Parking Management Engineer, reviewed the report and together with Tom Timm, General Manager of Engineering Services, Jerry Dobrovolny, Assistant City Engineer - Transportation, and Ralph Yeomans, Parking Operations and Enforcement, responded to questions regarding impact on businesses, payment and renewal by phone, technologies, terminal trials, residential permit parking, parking availability near destination playing fields, shopping areas, BIAs, theatres, and stalls and rates related to vehicle size and type and to specific groups of drivers.

In response to questions, staff advised they would be reporting back on parking meter technologies and operations later this year, and would also provide an information memo on meter periods near civic theatres, including other theatres with concerns, with respect to matinees. Staff also confirmed that with respect to the towing company used by the city, it is the towing company's policy that drivers check vehicles for occupants before towing.

MOVED by Councillor Ladner
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the parking meter rate changes for 2007 and 2008 as detailed in Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated January 30, 2007, entitled "Parking Meter Rate Review, Expansion of Meter Zones and Equipment Purchase", and THAT the Director of Legal Services bring forward the necessary By-laws to enact these changes.

- B. THAT Council approve the expansion of the metered zones as detailed in Appendix B of the Administrative Report dated January 30, 2007, entitled "Parking Meter Rate Review, Expansion of Meter Zones and Equipment Purchase", for future potential meter installations subject to consultation with adjacent business owners, and THAT the Director of Legal Services bring forward the necessary By-laws to enact these changes.
- C. THAT Council approve the ongoing purchase and installation of new parking metering equipment, for installation in approved metered zones, at an estimated increased cost of \$24,000 annually over and above the existing capital budget of \$26,000, plus an additional \$50,000 in 2007 and 2008 only, with funding from increased parking meter revenues.
- D. THAT Council approve an increase in the annual parking meter maintenance funding, parking meter collections funding, and parking meter replacement reserve contribution by \$29,000 in 2007 and an additional \$53,000 in 2008, and an additional \$53,000 in 2009, funded from increased parking meter revenues as detailed in this report.
- E. THAT Council approve the purchase of replacement parking metering equipment at an estimated cost of \$150,000 in 2007 and another \$150,000 in 2008, with funds provided from the Parking Meter Replacement Fund.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mayor Sullivan absent for the vote)

**4. Neighbourhood Collector Streets - Traffic Calming Toolkit and Priority Guidelines
(VanRIMS No. 13-1400-30)**

The Committee had before it a Policy Report dated January 26, 2007, in which the General Manager of Engineering Services, in consultation with the Director of Planning, sought Council endorsement of a traffic calming measures toolkit and of guidelines for determining priorities for traffic calming on Neighbourhood Collector streets.

David Rawsthorne, Greenways and Neighbourhood Transportation Engineer, and Edna Cho, Planner - Community Visions Implementation, reviewed the report and outlined types of traffic calming measures, priority guideline criteria and considerations, and the public consultation process.

Mr. Rawsthorne, along with Jerry Dobrovolny, Assistant City Engineer - Transportation, responded to questions regarding driving education about traffic circles, garden plots in bulges, location of wide streets, building cycling capacity, medians, emergency services' response, and the Blenheim Street project.

Al Payne and Juliet Donnici, SMART (Smart Management of all Residential Traffic) Steering Committee, expressed concern that the public process is flawed regarding the Blenheim Street project and should not be continued in the development of measures for other collector streets. A summary of their comments follows:

- recommended making the public process clear so as not to be commandeered by those on the proposed street, and learning from the costly Blenheim Street pilot project first;
- the neighbourhood collector should not be more obstructive than the adjacent residential streets;
- the Blenheim Street project did not follow policy about accommodating bicycles on collector streets; despite rebuilding the street, it lacks bike lanes and paved shoulders, and with its narrow lanes drivers cannot pass bicyclists;
- Blenheim Street is too bumpy for some people;
- persons on busy streets wanting the diversion of traffic to elsewhere, do not represent the larger neighbourhood interest, meanwhile other Blenheim Streets users were kept out of the planning loop;
- promises were not kept with respect to the temporary traffic calming measures on a trial basis; felt the Blenheim neighbourhood was manipulated and a number of residents are unhappy about this case;
- traffic calming devices such as roundabouts or traffic circles on a neighbourhood collector have not been tested; Blenheim Street was the experiment and its success has not been measured; and
- with increasing density and number of vehicles, it is time to re-think the Transportation Plan.

David Nykl, Slow Down Dundas Group, and Harry Mah, Hastings-Sunrise Visions, Traffic Sub-Committee, spoke in favour of the staff recommendations. A summary of their comments follows:

- concern was expressed about the speed, volume and safety of traffic on Dundas Street;
- heavy commuter traffic heading downtown or to other parts of the GVRD, results in short-cutting, fast moving queues morning and evening, and dangerous passing including on crosswalks;
- traffic jams on the highway also affect the northeast corner;
- although not a truck route, Dundas is frequently used by various trucks, and has had a propane truck lose its tank in a school neighbourhood;
- it is not safe anymore, meanwhile traffic pressures are increasing;
- Council is urged to approve the toolkit, make Dundas be a priority for effective calming measures as soon as possible, and not let Dundas get worse;
- additional measures recommended for Dundas are entrance barriers and clear signage for commuter and commercial traffic; there are arterials nearby;
- it is terrifying stepping out of a parked car on Dundas and becoming the traffic calming measure;
- dangerous situations are created; preventive measures are needed;

- the workshops attended have been tremendous and allowed community input into the kind of traffic calming measures needed; and
- the toolkit is vital step to help make our neighbourhood safer and more useable for local residents.

Mr. Rawsthorne responded to questions regarding survey range, stop sign placement, ranking criteria, the Blenheim Street project, public process, and advisory committee input.

MOVED by Councillor Capri

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council endorse the following traffic calming measures, described further in Appendix A of the Policy Report dated January 26, 2007, entitled "Neighbourhood Collector Streets - Traffic Calming Toolkit and Priority Guidelines", as acceptable for use on Neighbourhood Collector streets, subject to the considerations described herein:
- i. Corner and Mid-block Bulges
 - ii. Medians
 - iii. Intersection Re-alignments
 - iv. Roundabouts
 - v. Narrow Travel Lanes
 - vi. Curved Streets
 - vii. 30 km/h Speed Limits in School and Playground Zones

AND THAT these measures, in combination with existing approved traffic control devices, form the basis for a Neighbourhood Collector Traffic Calming Toolkit.

- B. THAT Council endorse the guidelines for determining priorities for traffic calming on Neighbourhood Collector Streets as outlined in Appendix B of the Policy Report dated January 26, 2007, entitled "Neighbourhood Collector Streets - Traffic Calming Toolkit and Priority Guidelines".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

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

FEBRUARY 13, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2007, at 12:20 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 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: Syd Baxter, City Clerk
Pat Boomhower, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson
SECONDED by Councillor Anton

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
February 13, 2007

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

1. Knight Street and 49th Avenue - Addition of Left-Turn Arrows
2. 2007 Pedestrian Study
3. Parking Meter Rate Review, Expansion of Meter Zones and Equipment Purchase
4. Neighbourhood Collector Streets - Traffic Calming Toolkit and Priority Guidelines

Items 1 - 4

MOVED by Councillor Ladner

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Transportation and Traffic at its meeting of February 13, 2006, as contained in items 1 - 4, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Chow

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Ball
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for Leave of Absence - Councillor Deal (VanRIMS No. 08-2200-20)

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

THAT Councillor Deal be granted a Leave of Absence from the Standing Committee on Transportation and Traffic for the following dates due to her attendance at the GVRD Environment Committee meetings: February 13, May 15, October 16, and November 13, 2007.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENQUIRIES AND OTHER MATTERS

1. Reporting Potholes (VanRIMS No. 13-4500-31)

Councillor Anton requested the telephone number for anyone wishing to report potholes on city roads and highlighted advantages of the 311 service for such enquiries. Staff advised of the Street Operations telephone number during office hours as (604) 871-6200 and after hours (604) 606-2679.

2. Review of Towing Procedures (VanRIMS No. 08-4400-01)

Councillor Lee advised of the death of an elderly woman related to a towing incident and requested City staff to provide an information memo on the process, where and when the review is taking place.

3. Lunar New Year Celebrations (VanRIMS No. 01-5000-30)

Councillor Louie advised that he, along with Councillors Chow and Lee, attended the Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association's "clean sweep" event on February 12, 2007, and encouraged the public to come to Chinatown for the New Year Parade and celebrations on February 18, 2007.

4. Unfinished Business Items (Van RIMS No. 08-2000-01)

Councillor Louie expressed concern that three motions he introduced at the Regular Council meeting on January 30, 2007, were not on today's agenda and sought clarification as to when these motions on notice would be on a Council agenda.

Staff responded to questions in this regard and provided information as to when these motions would be before Council.

MOVED by Councillor Anton
SECONDED by Councillor Ladner

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED
(Councillors Cadman, Chow, Louie and Stevenson opposed)

The Council adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

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