

MOTION ON NOTICE

3. Re-examination of Fencing on the Burrard Bridge

MOVER: Councillor Affleck

SECONDER: Councillor Ball

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver City Council recognizes the tremendous value of Vancouver's historically and culturally significant buildings, monuments, and other sites and structures;
2. The Burrard Bridge, built in 1932, is an internationally recognized masterpiece of the Art Deco style and one of the most important and iconic heritage structures in the City of Vancouver;
3. Many people walk and cycle over the Burrard Bridge specifically to enjoy the spectacular views of Vancouver it offers;
4. Creating an enjoyable walking environment is one of the City of Vancouver's top priorities and an important part of the City's effort to become the greenest city in the world by 2020;
5. At the Wednesday, July 22, 2015, meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Planning, Transportation and Environment, Council approved a \$35 million package of modifications to the Burrard Bridge and nearby streets, including the addition of fencing to the bridge;
6. Fencing was not part of the original project scope for the Burrard Bridge modifications and was neither discussed during the project's public consultation and planning process nor presented to the public as a possibility at any open houses or in any online materials;
7. On July 21, 2015, the Heritage Vancouver Society wrote to Mayor and Council to express their "deepest concerns" regarding changes to the Burrard Bridge project scope made subsequent to the public consultation process (i.e., the addition of fencing);
8. The viewpoint expressed by The Heritage Vancouver Society, namely, that fencing "will diminish, if not destroy, the pedestrian experience as well as the appearance of the bridge from afar," and transform the bridge into a structure that it is "no longer recognizable as an iconic example of the Art Deco style in Vancouver," is one shared by many Vancouverites;
9. Professional opinion is varied on the effectiveness of fencing as a suicide prevention measure within the broader context of suicide prevention and mental health strategies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to re-examine the plan to add fencing to the Burrard Bridge as part of the Burrard Bridge Upgrades and North Intersection Improvements project, including a re-examination of design options that would be less visually intrusive and destructive to the heritage aesthetics of the bridge and to views from the bridge, as well as a re-examination of the effectiveness of fencing as a suicide prevention measure within the broader context of suicide prevention and mental health strategies.

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