

MOTION

15. Reconnecting to the Sto:lo (Fraser River) (Previously Motion B.10)

At the Council meeting on June 8, 2021, due to time constraints, Council did not consider the motion below and as such the motion was placed on the Council agenda of June 22, 2021, as Unfinished Business. Subsequently on June 22, 2021, the motion was referred to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on June 23, 2021, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

MOVED by Councillor Wiebe

WHEREAS

1. In 1988, Vancouver City Council adopted the Fraser River and Burrard Inlet Waterfront Policy which outlines plans for a continuous waterfront walkway along the North Fraser waterfront, and requires developers, where feasible, to construct shoreline protection and a 25 foot (7.6 m) public access walkway along the river;
2. In 1995, Vancouver City Council adopted a Greenways Plan which includes a continuous trail from Burnaby to Pacific Spirit Park along the north shore of the Fraser River (Sto:lo);
3. In 2003, the Eburne Lands Coordinating Group (ELCG) was formed in part to protect, preserve and rehabilitate the foreshore of the Fraser River;
4. In 2005, the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) connected the four orders of government (federal, provincial, local and First Nations) with private sector and civil society interests to find common ground and develop “made-in-the-community” solutions to regional and basin-wide sustainability challenges;
5. In 2013, City Council approved the Renfrew Ravine Master Plan which outlines ways to improve water quality and access to the Ravine which is the headwaters to a salmon tributary that connects to the Fraser River. The Plan identifies multiple opportunities to improve the corridor.
<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/Master-Plan-Renfrew-Ravine-Community-Parks-09012013.pdf>;
6. In 2014, Vancouver City Council endorsed Metro Vancouver’s Experience the Fraser North Arm Addendum Concept Plan which aims to create a continuous trail system along the Fraser River connecting the Salish Sea (Strait of Georgia) from x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam) to SHXW’OWHÁMÉL (Hope).
<https://council.vancouver.ca/20140625/documents/ptec4.pdf>;
7. In 2017, Province and The Musqueam Indian Band signed an MOU on land and water authorizations and stewardship in the estuary and lower reaches of the Fraser River including a framework that will guide land and water authorizations through improved engagement between the Musqueam Indian Band and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations;
8. In 2018 Vancouver City Council approved the Cambie Corridor Public Realm Plan which includes directions to work with the Vancouver Park Board to develop the Fraser River Trail, and provide a waterfront destination within a riverfront park

setting, and improve wayfinding to the Fraser River Trail. <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/marpole-community-plan.pdf>;

9. The 2019, Vancouver Park Board VanPlay Strategy outlines a greenway connection from Little Mountain (Queen Elizabeth Park) to Big River (Fraser River). <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/vanplay-strategic-bold-moves-report.pdf>;
10. In 2019, Council voted to refresh the 1995 Vancouver Greenways Plan which prioritizes strategies for collaborating with key groups and governments and highlights the need to clarify the roles of the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Park Board, Metro Vancouver and First Nations in the service delivery of greenways and the centralization, resourcing and coordination of staff. <https://council.vancouver.ca/20190402/documents/motionb3.pdf>;
11. The City of Vancouver One Water Watershed Characterization Report showcases the need to prioritize work on integrated rainwater management along the Fraser River. This includes the watersheds of Dunbar, Angus, Marpole, Manitoba, South Hill, Fraserview, Vivian, and Champlain which have 8 combined and 26 urban rainwater runoff outfalls that drain directly into the Fraser. <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/one-water-watershed-characterization.pdf>;
12. On November 27, 2020, the Metro Vancouver Board passed a resolution to send letters to federal and provincial agencies, including the Port, and First Nations to assess their interest in participating in a task force. The purpose would be to consider reinstating the Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program (BIEAP) – Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP) Partnership, or establish an equivalent multi-stakeholder partnership for coordinated environmental management in the region including one for the Fraser River;
13. In February 2021, Council approved the East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy which defined park corridors connecting new and existing communities to each other and to the Fraser River. The plan includes primary pedestrian connections from West Fraserlands to Burnaby as part of the Fraser River Greenway. <https://council.vancouver.ca/20210209/documents/rr1.pdf> .

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to report back on the creation of the Fraser River Inter Governmental Working Group to develop a Fraser River Co-management Plan to put reconciliation in action, coordinate the numerous existing plans, complete the North Arm extension of the Experience the Fraser Trail, improve north-south community connections, and improve the overall stewardship & ecological health of the Fraser River (Sto:lo) for generations to come;

FURTHER THAT invited representatives should include but are not be limited to, The x^wməθk^wəy^əm Musqueam Indian Band, The Port of Vancouver, The Vancouver Park Board, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development, CP Rail, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, TransLink, and community experts.

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