

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER

INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

City Hall, Atrium Meeting Room  
141 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, North Vancouver

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 6:00 pm

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MINUTES

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**Present:** Alex Boston (Incoming Chair)  
Ann McAlister  
Brian Polydore  
Cam McLeod  
Christie Sacré  
Heather Drugge  
Melina Scholefield (Outgoing Chair)  
Pam Bookham (Councillor)  
Pam Horton  
Raj Janjua  
Robert Glover

**Staff:** Courtney Miller, Planner 1  
Daniel Watson, Transportation Planner  
Tanis Huckell, Committee Clerk

**Presenter:** Antje Wahl

**Apologies:** Gary Goller  
Kathleen Callow  
Marcus Siu

Quorum 5

0360-20-ITC

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**1.0 CALL TO ORDER, OPENING COMMENTS**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:03 pm with a quorum present. Heather Drugge moved to adopt the agenda; Alex Boston seconded. Melina Scholefield pointed out that the agenda item pertaining to the field trip should not include Tanis Huckell's name.

All voted in favour of the amended agenda.

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Melina Scholefield asked the Committee members for any corrections. Ms. Pam Horton indicated that regarding discussion of the 2015 field trip, she found it extremely insulting that we indicated we would approach ACDI (the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues) without also indicating we would consult her.

Melina Scholefield clarified that at that meeting, it was agreed that Ms. Horton would be contacted, and in fact was contacted on February 5 by Melina. The fact that this was not reflected in the minutes was not meant to be an intentional oversight.

The minutes will be amended to reflect that Ms. Pam Horton specifically would be contacted for discussion about field trip planning.

Additionally, on the second to last page, where Daniel Watson reported on the Low Level Road, it was pointed out that the paragraph should read "safety audit", not "safety ordinate".

Cam McLeod moved to approve the amended minutes and Heather Drugge seconded the motion:

**THAT** the minutes of the regular Integrated Transportation Committee meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 be adopted with the aforementioned amendments.

Melina also reported that the thank you letters for the Port Metro Vancouver representatives are in progress and will be sent out shortly.

Round table introductions were completed.

## **3.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

None.

#### **4.0 ELECTIONS**

The Chair and Vice Chair both indicated that they were not expressing re-interest in these executive positions. Courtney Miller assumed the role of Chair temporarily. He confirmed that these positions are one-year terms and would take effect immediately until January 31, 2016.

It was agreed that a show of hands would be used for voting as opposed to a closed ballot.

Raj Janjua moved to nominate Alex Boston as Chair. Melina Scholefield seconded the motion. There were no further nominations. The position was won through acclamation.

Alex Boston nominated Ann McAlister for the position of Vice Chair. Ann accepted the nomination but did express concern about potential time constraints. Another committee member pointed out that often when a committee has a relatively inexperienced Vice Chair, the previous Chair and Vice Chair have stepped in to offer assistance. All agreed Ann would be supported in this way.

There were no further nominations and the position was won through acclamation.

#### **5.0 TRANSLINK PLEBISCITE**

Melina Scholefield initiated the discussion regarding the TransLink plebiscite, which the group had discussed superficially at the January 2015 meeting. Concerns that had been raised at that point included the City of North Vancouver's official position on the plebiscite, and the components of the proposed plan that directly affect the transit system on the North Shore and our connections to the rest of the Lower Mainland.

A wide-ranging discussion ensued, during which the following perceptions emerged:

- There is an apparent lack of accountability on the part of TransLink to the province; people aren't seeing guarantees about the delivery of the transit improvements that are being used to sell this tax.

- Residents generally understand the need for a good transportation plan, but are concerned about the details and the logistics required to obtain that plan.
- There are outstanding issues on the North Shore with respect to transportation that have not been addressed.
- Staff at the City of North Vancouver have not been directed to pursue further engagement on behalf of residents.
- The sense is that the general public seems aware of this upcoming plebiscite; some are following the issue quite closely, but others see it as just another tax.
- TransLink is mistrusted.
- The City of North Vancouver's Council seems a bit "lukewarm" on the issue; there may be some hesitation by the local municipal Councils to support what may be perceived as a vote to impose another tax.
- Given how important the improvements are that we want to see on the North Shore – to the transit system, substantial improvements to our roads, and cycling and walking trail improvements – if the vote is a "No" vote, is there a Plan B?
- Public meetings will have a lot of residents complaining about increased taxes. This Committee and/or Council should have an organized presence at such meetings to encourage a "Yes" vote, rebut criticisms, and give evidence to support the Yes side.
- There is hesitation on expending City resources on getting actively involved, as there are other agencies in Metro Vancouver who are taking on that involvement/engagement.
- Staff have been in contact with the Mayors' Secretariat who are promoting the Yes vote; we would probably publicize events that they are organizing via social media and the City's website.
- Would like to see a non-passive approach from our Council; this is not a time to be complacent.
- Public information sessions should be held both during the day and in the evenings, to ensure the broadest range of the public can attend and comment.
- There is immense benefit to the Mayors' Council package, connecting North Shore residents and businesses to the rest of the region.

- A bus depot should remain on the North Shore; this should be a priority regardless of the outcome of the plebiscite.

After discussion it was agreed that there was an element of a resolution emerging.

(At this point the group moved onto the next item of the agenda and resumed discussion of this topic after a break. For continuity's sake the remainder of the discussion has been recorded here.)

A resolution was constructed, as follows:

WHEREAS the Mayors' Council Transportation Plan has immense benefits to North Shore residents and businesses on the North Shore, connecting to the rest of the region, and enhancing the efficient movement around the region;

WHEREAS investments in transportation will provide economic development, congestion reduction, climate protection, and public health benefits;

WHEREAS the improvements planned for the North Shore are critical to achieving the goals and objectives in the draft official Community Plan;

WHEREAS the consequences of not investing now in sustainable transportation infrastructure, in particular would have a significant impact on livability in our city and the region;

AND WHEREAS supporting the Yes position in the plebiscite is the single best opportunity to realize these benefits in the near term;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Integrated Transportation Committee urges Council and City staff to become actively involved in the plebiscite, and that active involvement by the City include:

- Taking a strong stand in favour of a Yes vote;
- Providing information and encouraging citizens to become informed about the plebiscite and the implications of both a Yes or No vote;
- Promoting public events and voting reminders related to the plebiscite;

- Acknowledging concerns expressed in the community about transparency and accountability in decision-making and implementation planning for improvements; and
- Encouraging TransLink to host daytime, evening and online events so that a broad cross-section of people can participate in the process of becoming better informed.

Heather Drugge moved, Melina Scholefield seconded. There was no further discussion on the resolution, and no opposed. The representative for the School District abstained as there had not been any discussion with the Board and felt it was not right to vote without that discussion.

Before moving on, a Committee member pointed out that Raj Janjua's component of the resolution regarding a bus depot on the North Shore was still formally on the table. He agreed to withdraw the motion.

## **6.0 HUB PRESENTATION**

Ms. Antje Wahl introduced herself and her presentation on behalf of HUB, a non-profit organization that aims to make cycling an attractive choice for everyone.

Recently, HUB sent a letter to City staff, Council, and Port Metro Vancouver regarding the recent completion of the Low Level Road construction, and what frequent cyclists in that area are now experiencing. The goal of this presentation is to share this with this Committee as well. Any feedback from this Committee is also welcome.

Some questions followed:

Q: Who owns the road? A: When it reaches substantial completion, it will become the City's road again, but Port Metro Vancouver designed it.

Q: As a follow-up to comments on the bollards and how awkward they can be to trail users, is there a design standard that the City follows when it comes to such a path? A: No, there really isn't one available; will take comments on the frequency of the bollards back

to our Parks Department. One issue at play here is national standards; to do otherwise, we need some supporting evidence.

*The Committee took an intermission at 7:30pm.*

*Cam McLeod left the meeting at 7:30pm.*

*The Committee reconvened at 7:45pm.*

## **7.0 2015 FIELD TRIP**

Melina Scholefield reported that she had been in contact with Pam Horton to discuss potential field trip ideas. Melina thanked Pam for reaching out to the ACDI Chair. Both Pam and Melina felt it would be useful to hear from Committee members regarding any hopes that they might have in order to help design a trip that would be fruitful for all. In addition, specific areas of concern might be good to experience.

Pam indicated that she was on the ACDI Committee at its inception. In the past for Awareness Access Week, they've had a "prepackage" of items – namely a blue bus by the Civic Plaza, various wheelchairs for people to try, and so forth. ICBC also has a program that Pam and a friend created for them approximately 10 years ago. Ultimately, the question that Pam and Melina arrived at, was whether this Committee wanted a similar prepackage, or to experience everything in the real world. Members could be paired with somebody with low vision, low hearing, physical mobility issues, and so forth.

Discussion ensued and members contributed their thoughts. In general, members felt that a "real world experience" would be more enlightening than a controlled one. It was suggested that people could partner up at mutually convenient times, and then share experiences at an ITC meeting.

Melina indicated she would be happy to continue to play a role in brainstorming for this event with Pam, if Pam was agreeable.

It was agreed that a program subcommittee consisting of Pam, Melina, Alex Boston and the Committee Clerk would meet to continue to organize this.

## **8.0 CITY PROJECTS / STAFF UPDATE**

Low Level Road: Staff reported that the Port has hired a consultant to perform a safety audit to review the project. The City has provided comments to the auditor and passed on comments we have received from others (including HUB).

This spring, hopefully we will be installing sidewalks for a block on Jones, on Moody between 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> and on Mackay between the alignment of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> streets, which will give a continuous sidewalk from Marine Drive to 1<sup>st</sup> Street, on the east side of Mackay.

The Official Community Plan has a Public Hearing on March 3.

The City's Children and Youth Travel Safety Working Group is proceeding; the Terms of Reference are almost complete and the City hopes to have this group meet for the first time by mid-March. At the moment it is looking more like a working group than a committee. Additionally, the Safe and Active Schools Travel Program is engaged with Larson Elementary and Ridgeway Elementary to expand the program.

*ACTION: DANIEL WATSON TO REPORT BACK  
IN MARCH ON THE PROGRESS OF THIS ITEM.*

*Pam Horton left the meeting at 8:30pm.*

The Chair asked that if City staff hear of public events regarding the plebiscite, that Committee members are advised.

## **9.0 TRANSPORTATION EVENTS (MEMBER UPDATE)**

The east sidewalk of the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge has been reopened and is apparently a much improved piece of pavement. The west side is now closed; possibly reopening in the fall but this is uncertain.

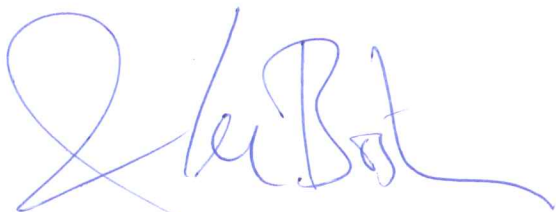


**10.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

On behalf of committee, Ann McAlister wished to thank the outgoing Chair and Vice Chair for their contributions to the committee during their terms.

**11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.



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Alex Boston, Chair



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Tanis Huckell, Committee Clerk