

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER

INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

City Hall, Atrium Meeting Room
141 West 14th Street, North Vancouver

Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 6:00 pm

M I N U T E S

Present: Alex Boston (Chair)
Andrew Robinson
Brian Polydore
Christie Sacré
Martin Davies
Pam Horton
Trevor Bowden

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

Presenter: Blair Arbuthnot, Binnie Consulting
Lisa Parker, Planner 2 (Parks and Greenways)
Carolyn Kennedy, Landscape Technician

Guests: Dana Bourgeois
Fiona Walsh
UBC Cohort

Apologies: Ann McAlister
Cam McLeod
Carol Reimer
Gary Goller
Kathleen Callow
Marcus Siu
Pam Bookham (Councillor)

Quorum 5

0360-20-ITC

1.0 CALL TO ORDER / OPENING COMMENTS / ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND PREVIOUS MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:05pm with a quorum present.

The agenda was adopted as proposed with no objections.

Pam Horton wished to explain to new members that she is obliged to leave at 8:30pm, regardless where on the agenda the Committee has progressed to.

It was regularly moved, seconded and carried unanimously:

THAT the minutes of the regular Integrated Transportation Committee meeting held on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 be adopted.

2.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

3.0 SPIRIT TRAIL – SUNRISE PARK TO LYNNMOUTH PARK

Lisa Parker, Blair Arbuthnot from Binnie Consulting, and Carolyn Kennedy gave a presentation on the section of the Spirit Trail the City is currently working on, Sunrise Park to Lynnmouth Park.

The City's component of the Spirit Trail (a running from Deep Cove to Horseshoe Bay) comprises about 6.5 km. This current section is the easternmost portion, and borders the District of North Vancouver boundary. Guiding principles in design included increased safety and usability.

The presentation for this section discussed the grade of the path and ensuing accessibility challenges (topography), habitat enhancements, changes to parking configuration in the area, and changes to vehicular movement in the area. The presentation also discussed some of the history in arriving at this point in the design process with Bentall Kennedy, the management corporation for Park & Tilford.

One important component in the design process is considering potential user conflicts between Spirit Trail active users, Lynnmouth Park passive users, and on and off-leash dog users. Feedback in this respect is greatly appreciated.

Detailed design should be completed by the summer of 2016, with construction in fall 2016 and completion by the end of 2016.

Questions and comments from the committee included, but were not limited to, the following:

- This will be an important connection to big destinations: Second Narrows Bridge, Mountain Highway Interchange, Capilano University, Queensbury area, etc. Consider efficiency of movement of the volume of people this will draw.
- Was there consideration of creating the trail between Park & Tilford Mall and the North Shore Studios? **A:** Yes. There was also discussion of creating the path around the gardens. Those were rejected by Bentall Kennedy. Security issues for the North Shore Studios were also an issue. This current proposal actually has the best implications with respect to user experience and engagement with the retail (coffee shops etc. are a great "rest stop" on the trail).
- Appreciate the fact that you're considering the dog users in Lynnmouth Park, and potentially separating them from Spirit Trail users
- This is a critical chain in the Spirit Trail necklace; would underscore ensuring the connectivity implications are fully thought through

- Have noticed an increase of gate and bollard configurations that don't work well with long loads. **A:** Because of grade changes here, this path is not meant to include cyclists. We want to ensure that if someone loses control, they won't have an accident that takes them onto 3rd Street. Not looking for it to be a cycling connection.
- Consistent and clear signage will be critical; want to foster an etiquette that is conducive to a mixing of modes
- Another important piece of connectivity/education: how to safely get off the Spirit Trail
- Lighting will be critical in areas of potential conflict with vehicular traffic
- Concerned about the amount of asphalt in a riparian area; speed and volume of run-off into valuable habitat
- Will the 8% grade be one long continuous path? **A:** No; there will be landings and seating areas along the way.

The conversation shifted to a discussion of various methods of separating user groups (e.g. fences, berms). A barrier between two user groups has to be visually appealing, but must also ensure the safety of users. Two groups being able to see each other will increase the perception of safety. Lighting is also a consideration for safety issues, while at the same time having ecological impacts.

At this point it was regularly moved and seconded that the Committee's guests be invited to speak.

Mr. Dana Bourgeois spoke to user compliance and enforcement.

Ms. Fiona Walsh spoke to types of users.

L. Parker thanked the group for their feedback and indicated this project would be returning to the Committee after the second Open House.

The Committee recessed at 7:15pm and reconvened at 7:25pm with the same members present. The UBC cohort departed but Mr. Bourgeois and Ms. Walsh remained.

4.0 2016 TERM – MEMBER INSIGHTS AND INTERESTS

Members and staff were asked to summarize what has historically worked well at this Committee, and what has worked well at other committees that could be brought to this Committee.

Some insights, interests and suggestions included:

- A review of the terms of reference would be useful
- Pedestrian safety review / exploration
- Construction site signage (i.e. from a distance to allow anticipation)
- Construction site management
- Limit developers' presentations; often go over time
- Learn more about different modes of transportation
- Would like to become more of a proactive committee, as opposed to reactive
- Consolidate a list of minor projects; the "low hanging fruit" list

- Some sort of a “committee orientation” by the City would be useful, for all committees
- Some overlap with leaving members to ensure knowledge passed on
- Would appreciate a better understanding of contexts and constraints from staff
- Would like a better understanding of how the mandate of this committee intersects with other City mandates; how different committees may or may not overlap
- Exploration of walkability of the City
- Staff highlights of developer material in advance appreciated
- Would like a better understanding of how the bike and pedestrian networks are evolving, and how to better facilitate car sharing
- With diverse perspectives around the table, a reminder that everybody has important contributions; hope people don’t feel apprehensive about “weighing in”
- Impressed with how City staff have worked recently with City schools with respect to safe and active travel; priority would be ways to keep students safe
- Staff have found the value of comments from this committee very useful
- A workshop-type of environment tends to be more useful in terms of gathering feedback than a Q&A session
- Bringing items earlier in the design phase allows the committee to be more proactive than reactive
- Committee can’t set priorities or direct staff to do any work; i.e. couldn’t bring a list of capital projects for committee to prioritize; usually too many other factors at play
- Most other City committees have a much more structured agenda process, and only review developments; it was originally envisioned that this committee, with its broader terms of reference, would form subcommittees and return to the committee with “projects”
- This sort of “review” is valuable
- Staff updates are valuable; helps to know what’s going on in the City, even if you’re not directly engaged
- “Quiet” agendas are to be expected, due to the natural cycle of construction; more planning in fall and winter requiring input
- Building agendas can sometimes be a challenge; educational pieces are good in lieu of a development item, but it can be hard for staff to justify to management holding a meeting solely for educational purposes, when there isn’t a core item on the agenda
- Value for City: members providing feedback on infrastructure as used by residents
- Important to leave your advocacy role at the door, and put on your “advisory hat”
- A yearly orientation session would be valuable, for both new and returning members
- Re: construction site concerns: would be beneficial for staff if committee members gather photos and/or examples of what they’re seeing...are concerns due to the fact that people aren’t following the rules, or are the rules insufficient?

5.0 TRANSPORTATION EVENTS (MEMBER UPDATE)

This item was considered next as Ms. Horton had to leave the meeting. Minister Fassbender, our Minister responsible for TransLink, has decreed that at least one fare gate must stay open until it is confirmed that people with mobility concerns can successfully “tap in and tap out” of the new Compass Card fare gates.

Pam Horton left the meeting at 8:35pm.

6.0 STAFF UPDATE

The West Keith Road bike lane project is in progress; it is hoped that construction will start in September. It should return to ITC in the next few months.

Design work for the Green Necklace along East Keith and Grand Boulevard is essentially done. It went to Council for funding appropriation, and the report included feedback from ITC as well as other advisory committees and Open Houses.

For Bewicke from Copping to Marine, we have reached about 30% in design stage. The initial design presented to ITC hasn't changed. Construction will be at a different time from the West Keith Road construction.

Andrew Robinson left at 8:40pm.

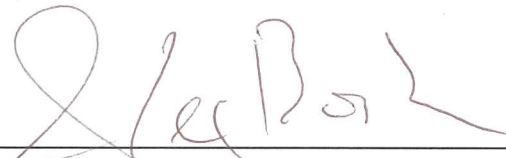
Staff in Engineering have been working on the EV (electric vehicle) parking guidelines. We cannot mandate inclusion of such guidelines in Community Development; we can update the EV policy which asks developers to consider EV parking, but cannot dictate what quantities they must provide.

7.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

None.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.



Alex Boston, Chair



Tanis Huckell, Committee Clerk

