

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

July 10, 1964.

HIS WORSHIP THE REEVE
AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Gentlemen:

REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

Your Committee met on Monday, June 29th with Mr. S. Sigmundson, Manager of the B. C. Hydro Transit Operations to discuss the proposed transit fare increases for the Lower Mainland area.

Following are highlights of the discussions:

- (1) The multiplicity of fare zones within the Lower Mainland Area was being consolidated into four larger North, South, East and West zones. In commenting on the Council's concern over the establishment of a boundary between the East and West zones along Boundary Road, it was submitted that this was a common boundary to Vancouver and Burnaby and residents within walking distance of this boundary would have an actual decrease in fares. The establishment of zone boundaries was a difficult part of the zone revision as each zone must be established so that the transit routings within the individual zones are self-sufficient. The suggested movement of the zone boundary to Willingdon Avenue in the interests of avoiding a two-zone fare for the heavy populations in North and South Burnaby, travelling to and from Vancouver, and in the interests of attracting residents from Vancouver into the business areas of Burnaby, was not acceptable to the Transit Division. Franchise agreements in force were a factor in setting the zone boundaries.
- (2) The establishment of the Eastern zone would combine the areas of Burnaby, New Westminster and Coquitlam, including Fraser Mills. An advantage would be afforded the residents within these communities travelling within the one-fare zone.
- (3) On the question of subsidies by the Power and Gas Utilities to offset deficits in the Transit Utility, it was submitted that this aspect could not be considered in conjunction with the present application for fare increases since, in the event that a Public Hearing were held before the Public Utilities Commission, the Transit Division arguments would be based on the financial structure of the transit operation only and on the possibility that costs would increase during the current year.
- (4) The Transit Operations' deficit had been allowed to grow recently in large proportions and it became necessary that some action be taken to correct the situation.
- (5) B. C. Hydro and other transit systems in the country accept as a working factor that 10% increase in fares would mean a 3% reduction in rider volumes over the system. Recent statistics in rider volumes showed a 1½% to 2% decline.
- (6) There would be no increase in service with the increase in fares.
- (7) In commenting upon the suggestion that parking facilities be provided at some outlying point to encourage people to use the Transit Service into the City centre, it was submitted that this had been tried and worked successfully in some areas but it was not

Page 2

Policy Committee Report
July 10, 1964.

considered feasible in the City of Vancouver as there were no critical parking problems in downtown Vancouver and people would rather pay for parking area than pay transit fares. If a large free parking area were provided, the proposal, in some circumstances, would work.

- (8) In commenting on a query about centralization of the transit operation in Burnaby, it was submitted that the present operation with the main centre at Oakridge and supplementary centres at New Westminster and North Vancouver, operated efficiently. To centralize in Burnaby or any one place would prove costly.
- (9) Replacement cost of the transit system was estimated approximately at \$20,000,000. including rolling stock and buildings.

SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF KASHIRO, JAPAN

His Worship the Reeve reported on a recent visit to Japan by the delegation from the Vancouver Visitors Bureau, in the interests of promoting tourism for the Lower Mainland Area and the Province of British Columbia generally and advised that contact had been made with the Mayor of the City of Kashiro and that overtures had been made toward a sister city relationship between this Municipality and the City of Kashiro by an exchange of gifts between the Reeve and the Kashiro Mayor.

His Worship the Reeve recommended that overtures be made to the City of Kashiro in Japan towards a sister city relationship with this Municipality and your Committee would so recommend.

Your Committee would also recommend that expenses amounting to \$80.00 involved in presenting a suitable gift to the Mayor of the City of Kashiro in the form of a framed photograph of the Burnaby Mountain Centennial Pavilion, be approved. These expenses cover arrangements for shipping, shipping costs and the preparation of the necessary plaque and engraving.

JOINT LABOUR NEGOTIATIONS

Your Committee considered the attached report of the Municipal Manager dealing with the establishment of a Municipal Labour Relations Bureau and would recommend adoption of the recommendations contained in Paragraph 9, as follows:

- (a) That the Municipal Labour Relations Bureau be established and staff be available to work with Mr. G. Robson as of October 1st, 1964.
- (b) That the Liaison Committee be established by the Councils.
- (c) That the Executive Committee be empowered to proceed with the establishment of the Bureau.