

ITEM 6
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 30
COUNCIL MEETING 89/04/24

RE: LETTER FROM THE COMMUNITY FORUM ON AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT WHICH APPEARED
ON THE AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 03RD MEETING OF COUNCIL (ITEM 4)
PROPOSED EXPANSION AT THE VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Director Planning & Building Inspection be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1989 APRIL 17

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION

SUBJECT: PROPOSED EXPANSION AT THE VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT -
LETTER FROM THE COMMUNITY FORUM ON AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE: To provide Council with information on the status of the proposal for a third airport runway and on the process for public participation.

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to the Community Forum on Airport Development, P.O. Box 35476, Vancouver, B.C., V6M 4G8.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 1989 April 03, Council received a letter dated 1989 March 21 from the Community Forum on Airport Development. This organization expressed concerns about the need for public participation in the review process for the proposed third runway at the Vancouver International Airport. It also requested information regarding Council's stand on the airport expansion issue.

2.0 THE AIRPORT PLANNING AND REVIEW PROCESS

Airport expansion has been examined at various times over the past decade. Subsequent to the adoption of the Master Plan in 1981, a federal Environmental Assessment Review Panel produced a set of guidelines in 1983, outlining the justification for a third runway and the physical, ecological, economic and operational impacts that will need to be addressed. No formal hearings were held by the panel to receive public input on these guidelines. Further examination of the airport expansion issue was deferred in 1984 due to the economic recession, and the Panel remained inactive.

At the present time, it is not known when the Minister of Transport will give his approval to proceed to the environmental assessment review process which is mandatory for all major federal projects. When approval is granted, Transport Canada has advised that there will be the following opportunities for public participation.

A public awareness program will be implemented to inform the public about the expansion proposal and the review process. Scoping workshops will be set up for the public to present their concerns to the Environmental Assessment Review Panel, consisting of environmental and aviation experts. The Panel will assess the concerns and determine if additional studies are required. Subsequently, a public hearing will be held in which formal deliberations will take place. The Municipality will have the opportunity to provide written submissions and to attend the hearing. The review process is estimated to last about a year and a half.

In the past two years, background studies have been undertaken in anticipation of the formal review process. The studies include a wildlife assessment on Sea Island, a land use plan for the North Reserve, an update of the environmental management plan, and an economic impact study. Consultants are currently preparing reports on the cumulative effects of development in the vicinity of the airport, on the environmental impacts, and on options to manage and mitigate the impacts.

Transport Canada staff is currently finishing a demand/capacity study. The findings, which have not been published, show that the airport is operating at overcapacity, with 40 percent of the planes experiencing departure delays from June to December 1988. On average, 4,000 to 5,000 departures were delayed each month during this period, with the airline industry incurring monthly costs of \$800,000 to \$2,000,000 as a result. With a record demand of 9 million passengers in 1988, some remedial airfield improvements and more efficient traffic management systems will be implemented to increase capacity.

The GVRD staff will prepare a position paper on the regional impacts of airport expansion to the Technical Advisory Committee in 1989 May for their review. The Director Planning & Building Inspection is a member of the committee. Following this, the report will be forwarded to the Development Services Committee, of which Mayor Copeland is a member. Through these committees, the Municipality will keep abreast of progress in the planning for a possible additional runway at the airport.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Preliminary studies on airport expansion are being undertaken by Transport Canada. However, it is not known at this time when the Minister of Transport will give his approval to proceed with the formal environmental assessment review process. This mandatory review will provide opportunities for input from interested individuals and organizations. At that time, the Municipality would have the opportunity, if it so wishes, to make a submission either directly or through the GVRD to the review panel.

As conditions warrant, staff will keep Council informed of progress in the airport planning and review process.



A.L. Parr
DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION