

ITEM 16
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 45
COUNCIL MEETING 89/06/26

RE: NORTH BURNABY TRANSIT AREA PLAN

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

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

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1989 June 20
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING INSPECTION Our File: 08.211
SUBJECT: NORTH BURNABY TRANSIT AREA PLAN

PURPOSE: 1. To authorize the transit service changes in Phase I of the North Burnaby Transit Area Plan and direct staff to proceed with the minor street and bus stop improvements necessary to implement the Transit Area Plan.
2. To communicate Council authorization of Phase I of the North Burnaby Transit Area Plan to BC Transit.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council approve the letter in Attachment A in response to the correspondence from Mr. J. Mills, BC Transit.
2. THAT Council authorize the transit service changes in Phase I of the North Burnaby Transit Area Plan.
3. THAT staff be authorized to proceed with the street and bus stop improvements necessary to implement the Phase I service changes.

R E P O R T

At its regular meeting of 1989 May 29, Council approved a submission to the Vancouver Regional Transit Commission on the North Burnaby Transit Area Plan. The submission set five conditions for Council approval of the North Burnaby Transit Area Plan. These conditions and the BC Transit response are summarized in the following:

Conditions

- (i) to develop proposals for more direct express bus services from North Burnaby to Vancouver for inclusion in the Annual Service Plan for 1990/91 or 1991/92
- (ii) in cooperation with Burnaby staff, to conduct a study of the costs and benefits of the trolley overhead extension from Boundary Road via Lougheed Highway to Brentwood Town Centre

- (iii) in conjunction with Burnaby staff, to assess the transit routing and road measures required to provide improved transit access to the Deer Lake Cultural/Arts Centre
- (iv) to consider a revision to the fare zone boundary to coincide with the municipal boundary along North Road except to include the Lougheed Mall Transit Exchange
- (v) to develop a more responsive process to address transit issues in the municipality.

BC Transit Response

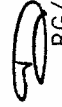
In response to Council's position, BC Transit provided a letter dated 1989 June 12 that appeared on the Council agenda of 1989 June 19. The summarized position of BC Transit in relation to the five points is as follows:

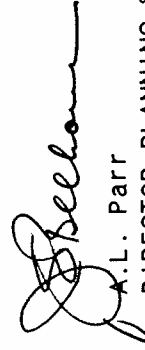
- (i) Conflicts with "municipally oriented" transportation concept.
- (ii) Should be dropped from further consideration.
- (iii) Prepared to undertake further review.
- (iv) Should be dealt with as a separate request.
- (v) Will be holding further public meetings on Phases II and III and a six month review process.

As indicated in the correspondence, the BC Transit response to these conditions in most cases does not directly commit BC Transit to address these issues but leaves open the opportunity for continued discussion.

In dealing with the current situation, it would appear to be advisable at this stage to propose a process for resolution of these issues. As the letter from BC Transit invites Council's participation in the transit planning process, it is recommended that Council suggest to BC Transit that these issues be referred to the Transportation Committee for further consideration. It is therefore recommended that Council authorize the Phase I service changes subject to further review of transit issues by the Transportation Committee in conjunction with BC Transit staff. Preliminary discussions with BC Transit have indicated an agreement with this approach.

The Transportation Committee could provide an appropriate forum for discussion of current and future transit issues including the implementation of the Phase I changes and future phases of the North Burnaby Transit Area Plan.

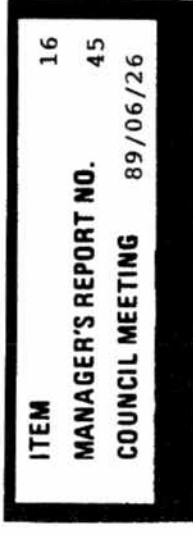

RG/mcb
Attach:


A.L. Parr
DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION

cc: Acting Director Engineering

1989 June 20

Mayor D.A.S. Lanskaill
Chairman
Vancouver Regional Transit Commission
11th Floor - 1200 West 73rd Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
V6P 6M2



Dear Mayor Lanskaill:

Re: North Burnaby Transit Area Plan

Council received a letter from the Vice-President, Planning, BC Transit, dated 1989 June 12 in response to the Municipality's submission to the Vancouver Regional Transit Commission on the North Burnaby Transit Area Plan.

In its submission, Council expressed its overall support for the proposals for bus route changes in the Transit Area Plan. The submission however also indicated that Council approval to implement the Phase I service changes was subject to BC Transit's agreement to five conditions. The response to these conditions appears to be generally neutral with the exception of our request for a study of the costs and benefits of the Broadway/Lougheed trolley extension. In view of this response, Council wishes to clarify the direction we wish to pursue on each of these issues in the future.

(i) Express Transit Services to Vancouver

Our proposal for more direct express bus services from North Burnaby to downtown Vancouver was intended to address the problem of high transference required to use existing express bus services from North Burnaby. The under utilization of these services relative to other municipalities suggests the need for a significant restructuring of peak hour bus services based on the introduction of a local-express routing configuration currently in place in Richmond and the North Shore for example. Bus services in these areas are designed to address both a local and regional transit function and similar services could be implemented in Burnaby in our view without significantly undermining the concept of a municipally-oriented transit system.

The previously proposed Hastings trolley extension would not meet the objective of substantially reducing transference. On the contrary more extensive use of diesel buses and ultimately the phasing out of the Hastings trolley service may be required, and therefore, we view the more direct express services as preferable to further consideration of a Hastings trolley extension.

We recognize the fleet allocation problems inherent in these proposals but feel it is important to initiate the process within the time frame of this transit area plan. Increasing commuter transit usage is especially important in the North Burnaby/Vancouver corridor as options to augment road capacity are extremely limited.

(ii) Broadway/Lougheed Trolley Extension

Council's support for this extension was based on the expected benefits to the development of Brentwood Town Centre and to the ridership of the transit system of terminating a major bus route at a growing town centre area and new off-street transit exchange rather than at Boundary Road. While these broader benefits are not fully addressed by the proposed rerouting of the #120, it is recognized that this routing change would provide better connections to the Broadway corridor. Accepting this more limited objective, we are prepared to suspend further consideration of the Broadway/Lougheed trolley extension at this time.

(iii) Deer Lake Cultural/Arts Centre

Plans for further development of the Cultural/Arts Centre will necessitate improved transit access. Options to address this issue may not require significant changes to existing transit routes serving the area. When plans for the area reach a more advanced stage, the Municipality and BC Transit will be in a better position to assess the road and transit access requirements.

(iv) North East Burnaby Fare Zone Boundary

The Municipality considers the current fare zone boundary at Gagliardi Way to be a significant cost impediment to peak period usage of the more "municipally-oriented" transit connections proposed in the Transit Area Plan. However, as suggested, we will proceed to deal with this issue separately from the specifics of the service planning process.

(v) Develop a More Responsive Process

Recognizing the importance of the transit system in meeting future transportation needs in the municipality, Council is moving toward more active involvement in improving the transit system. As part of this effort the Municipality will be developing a more clearly defined process to review transit plans and address public concerns regarding transit. It is hoped that this process may facilitate the resolution of outstanding transit issues.

We are pleased with the invitation for Council to participate in the transit planning process. To further this objective, Council would propose that the above issues be considered by the Transportation Committee of Council in conjunction with BC Transit staff. The Transportation Committee is intended as the appropriate forum in the future for the discussion of transit plans including Phases II and III of the North Burnaby Transit Area Plan.

We look forward to working with the Commission and BC Transit in addressing the future transit needs of the Municipality.

Yours truly

Douglas P. Drummond
ACTING MAYOR

cc: Mr. John F. Mills
Vice-President, Planning and Marketing
BC Transit
11th Floor - 1200 West 73rd Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V6P 6M2