

ITEM 13  
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 48  
COUNCIL MEETING 90/07/23

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER  
1990 July 18  
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING &  
BUILDING INSPECTION  
Our File: 08.500

SUBJECT: PROPOSED THIRD RUNWAY AT THE VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
PURPOSE: To respond to correspondence from Transport Canada and the Lower Mainland Municipal Association concerning the proposed third runway at the Vancouver International Airport.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to S.E. Andrews, Secretary-Treasurer, Lower Mainland Municipal Association, 8550 Young Road South, Chilliwack, B.C., V2P 4P1.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

This report is written in response to the correspondence from Transport Canada and the Lower Mainland Municipal Association concerning the proposed third runway at the Vancouver International Airport.

In a letter dated 1990 July 12, the Airport General Manager urged communities, organizations, businesses and individuals to communicate to the federal Environment Assessment and Review Panel their support for the parallel runway project prior to the public hearings that are anticipated to take place in 1990 November. The letter also provided an update on the programs and studies that are underway or that have been completed for this runway proposal.

The letter (1990 July 03) from the Lower Mainland Municipal Association contained a resolution from its annual general meeting which urged municipalities and regional districts in this province to support the third runway project.

2.0 UPDATE ON THE REVIEW PROCESS

At its meeting on 1989 June 28, the GVRD Board endorsed a brief which was forwarded to the federal and provincial government and to its member municipalities. It noted the following:

- . that an efficient airport is essential for Greater Vancouver's economic future;
- . that air travel demand is growing and facilities must keep pace;
- . that development impacts must be addressed; and
- . that the public review process relating to the proposed third runway should begin at an early date.

Subsequently, in December the Environmental Assessment Review (EAR) Panel was convened by the federal government to conduct a formal public review to assess the environmental and socio-economic effects associated with the third runway project. The EAR Panel will also investigate mitigating and compensating measures to reduce the negative environmental impacts; review alternatives to the third runway; review future development plans for the airport; and examine the economic benefits and costs associated with the project.

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Public information open houses and workshops were held in various Greater Vancouver communities earlier this year. After satisfactory completion by Transport Canada of an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed runway, the EAR Panel will call for public hearings. These hearings are anticipated to begin this mid-November.

3.0 REVIEW BY THE GVRD

The GVRD Development Services Department will be coordinating the preparation of a submission to the EAR Panel from the GVRD Board. This municipality will have the opportunity, if it so wishes, to make a submission on the runway proposal either directly or through the GVRD. The Director Planning & Building Inspection is a member of the GVRD Technical Advisory Committee and Mayor Copeland is a member of the Development Services Committee, both of which would be involved in the review process.

Staff support the view that the Region would benefit from the development of a third runway from an economic perspective. However, Burnaby would not experience direct environmental impacts. As such, it is the view of staff that this municipality participate in the review process through the GVRD.

The runway proposal requires a complex and comprehensive evaluation of various economic benefits and cost, environmental and social impacts, and mitigation and compensation measures. Until these are known and reviewed through the GVRD process, an unconditional motion of support for the airport expansion is not being recommended at this time.

As warranted, staff will keep Council informed of the airport planning and review process.

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