

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION

ITEM 8
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 21
COUNCIL MEETING 91/03/25

SUBJECT: STATUS OF WHEELCHAIR ACCESS FROM EATON CENTRE
TO THE METROTOWN SKYTRAIN STATION

PURPOSE: To advise Council on the status of efforts to provide access for wheelchair persons between Eaton Centre and the Metrotown SkyTrain Station.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT BC Rapid Transit Company be requested to proceed expeditiously with proposed expansion of the Metrotown SkyTrain Station.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Mr. F. Heiden, #311 - 5868 Olive Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 2P4.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

At its regular meeting of 1991 March 04 Council received correspondence from Mr. F. Heiden, #311-5868 Olive Avenue, Burnaby. One of the matters raised by Mr. Heiden was the lack of wheelchair access via the passarelle between Eaton Centre and the Metrotown SkyTrain station. Arising from the discussion on this correspondence, Council asked staff to report on the status of measures to provide wheelchair access to the SkyTrain station.

This report is written in response to the direction of Council.

2.0 WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

2.1 Current Situation

Currently wheelchair access between Eaton Centre and the Metrotown SkyTrain Station requires the wheelchair user to cross Central Boulevard at grade to the elevator located at the west end of the SkyTrain station and then via the elevator to the SkyTrain station platform.

The other access between Eaton Centre and the SkyTrain station is via the passarelle over Central Boulevard to the east end of the station. This access however is not wheelchair accessible as the passarelle on the station side leads to a mezzanine level with escalators up to the station platform and stairs to ground level and thus no wheelchair access to the platform.

2.2 Proposed Access

On previous occasions staff have discussed the problem of wheelchair access to Metrotown Station with BC Rapid Transit Company. One option which was considered was to provide an external elevator from the station mezzanine level to grade level for wheelchair users to descend to grade level and access the elevator at sidewalk level on the west side of the station. BC Transit however has not supported this proposal and would rather provide wheelchair accessibility in the context of overall expansion to the Metrotown Station.

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Under BC Transit's approach wheelchair access would be provided by extending the station platform on the west side and accommodating a new passarelle planned to connect the courtyard level of Station Square. On the station side, this passarelle would connect directly with the existing elevators which lift wheelchair users from a newly constructed mezzanine level to the platform level. Wheelchair access from the mezzanine level at Eaton's Centre and Station Square would only be provided in conjunction with expansion of the Metrotown SkyTrain station and construction of a new passarelle from Station Square.

3.0 REQUIRED ACTIONS

Provision of wheelchair access requires coordinated action by BC Transit and the developer of Station Square.

BC Transit expects to undertake expansion of the Metrotown Station primarily in response to a chronic over-capacity condition but is not prepared to commit to a precise timing for these improvements. Development of the new passarelle could occur in conjunction with a possible Phase II development of Station Square. Given that both of these developments are dependent on actions taken by others, it is the view of staff that the Municipality's role in this instance is limited to a coordinating capacity. It is therefore recommended that Council advise BC Transit of its concern with expediting the station expansion. With initiation of either the station expansion or the subsequent phases of the Station Square development, it would then be appropriate for the Municipality to help facilitate the provision of wheelchair access.



A.L. Parr
DIRECTOR PLANNING &
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RG/mm

cc: Director Engineering