



SUBJECT: ACQUISITION OF TRAM #1207 FOR PERMANENT DISPLAY AT BURNABY VILLAGE MUSEUM

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Commission request Council's concurrence to acquire Tram #1207 through an outright unconditional donation.
2. THAT Commission request Council's approval in principle to finance moving, temporary storage, construction of a housing and display track, and funding of operations and interpretive staffing.
3. THAT making the tram fully operational be deferred for future consideration.

REPORT

On 1995 June 24 Burnaby Village Museum staff escorted Mr. B. Cole, Mr. R. Thrash and B.C. Transit representatives on a tour of the Museum site. The purpose was to provide Messrs.. Thrash and Cole with an opportunity to see the features of the facilities and to further discuss the possibility of bringing Tram #1207 to Burnaby. As owners, the gentlemen also toured other sites in the Lower Mainland to help find a new home in Canada for the refurbished tram.

Tram #1207 has been refurbished by B.C. Transit as a special corporate initiative and a use agreement with the owners has expired. The tram is not fully restored to be operable, but it would make an excellent display.

Messrs.. Thrash and Cole have now put forward several questions which are presented below with staff analysis. The purpose of this report is to determine the readiness of Commission and Council to proceed to the next stage of discussion and to illustrate to the owners the process to be followed with the City of Burnaby.

KEY QUESTIONS

The developmental history of Burnaby clearly involves trams, and therefore having a refurbished tram on display excellently suits the museum's theme and would provide another exciting visitor attraction. The terms and conditions of acquiring Tram #1207 are important to provide Burnaby with permanent custody of the tram before an investment is made in its presentation.

1. When could Burnaby take possession of the tram?

If a satisfactory agreement is signed and a suitable temporary storage located, Burnaby could take possession of the tram within the next six months. This would be contingent upon the Commission and Council identifying the funds needed to build a tram shelter (rough estimate \$300,000) and to operate and staff the new display (rough estimate \$50,000 annually). It is understood that B.C. Transit could help finance the cost of moving the tram from its Port Coquitlam garage (rough estimate \$17,000).

2. Could Burnaby store the tram?

It is possible that the Texaco Building at Barnet Marine Park could house the tram (rough estimate \$12,000). Staff would have to assess the environmental and security conditions first. If not it would have to be housed at the Museum and in some way "cocooned" (rough estimate \$50,000).

3. How soon could Burnaby build a tram shelter and display the tram?

Capital projects follow clear procedures in the City of Burnaby. If the agreements were in place by 1995 September, and funds committed, an architect would be engaged to site and design the tram shelter. If approvals were granted and funds in place by May 1996, it is possible that the facility could be ready by January 1997 at the Museum site. It would be reasonable to suggest that the display could be opened for the public by Spring 1997 and display could follow capital budget approval (May) by a minimum of 12 months.

4. When could Burnaby have the tram operating?

The owners would prefer to have the tram in operation in the near future. B.C. Transit reports that it would require up to \$440,000 to complete the restoration work to a state where it could operate (This includes one kilometer of overhead/track). In addition, a significant investment would be needed to design and construct a tram line either on site or anywhere from City Hall to Deer Lake Beach. The large expense implies the need for a public capital campaign. It would therefore be unlikely that the City of Burnaby could commit at all in advance that the tram would be operational, and if it were to own it that it could be several years away.

5. What is Burnaby's response to a lease agreement with the owners?

Messrs. Thrash and Cole have proposed a lease agreement rather than an outright donation of the tram. The initial period would be 10 years consisting of a five year lease renewable at least once. If development plans were proceeding well, the owners would consider donating the tram later.

The City of Burnaby would not likely commit any significant resources to construct a tram shelter if the status of the tram itself was in question. Therefore it would be preferable that the owners in good faith donate the tram at the outset and allow the City of Burnaby to confidently make it a working investment.

It may be possible that another tram could be located, but Tram #1207 is in the best restored condition of those known to exist. B.C. Transit does own another partially restored tram, now located in Victoria.

#### SUMMARY

1. Move/Temporary Storage:

Take possession if Council agrees to fund the project and tram is offered unconditionally. Possession estimated six months from now. Store tram at Texaco building or cocoon it at the Museum.  
(Up to \$67,000 may be needed by 1995 November from 1995 Capital contingency.)

2. Build/Display:

Public display would be a year after budget approval. Budget approval at the discretion of Council.  
(Up to \$300,000 in 1996 Capital budget for construction; \$50,000 in 1997 Operating budget and annually for staff/maintenance.)

3. Fully Operational:

A fully operating tram line would likely be several years away.  
(Approximately \$440,000 in Capital funds for track/power in a future year.)

4. A renewable lease would not be acceptable as unconditional donation is preferred.

CONCLUSION

Acquiring Tram #1207 through an outright donation and constructing a tram shelter and short display track would be the best approach.

Completion of restoration and installation of a longer operating track could be considered into the future.

In order to continue with discussions it is recommended that Commission and Council consider the contents of this report and provide further direction.

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