

TO: CITY MANAGER 1995 NOVEMBER 29

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING OUR FILE: 17.908

SUBJECT: **WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE ENTRY TO METROTOWN CENTRE**

PURPOSE: To provide information on wheelchair accessibility of Metrotown Centre.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Keith E. Falconar at #103 - 4960 Bennett Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 2G9 and to Mr. Bill Rempel, Shopping Centre Manager, Metrotown Centre, 4800 Kingsway, Suite 400, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4J2.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 1995 November 27, Council received a letter from Mr. Keith E. Falconar regarding poor wheelchair access to Metrotown Centre due to a lack of automatic doors. Mr. Falconar is particularly concerned about the shopping centre entrance on Bennett Street. With the letter was a note informing Council that a staff report on the issue would be forthcoming.

2.0 WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY TO METROTOWN CENTRE

The Metrotown shopping centres are generally very accessible to persons with disabilities. However, the Metrotown Access Review, completed in 1994, did identify a number of outstanding barriers to access. Since that time, staff have had regular discussions with the management of the shopping centers about addressing the problem areas. Since 1994, many barriers to access have been removed, and others will be addressed as resources permit.

At present, as the *attached* Appendix 1 details, there is one set of automatic doors providing access into Metrotown Centre proper. Another five sets of automatic doors are located at the exterior entrances to the Bay and Zellers.

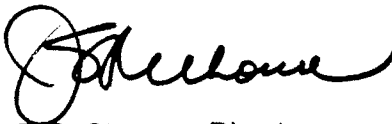
Mr. Bill Rempel, Shopping Centre Manager at Metrotown Centre, advises that funds for two additional sets of automatic doors into the shopping centre proper have been approved for Metrotown Centre's 1996 budget. One set will be located at the Bennett Street entrance about which Mr. Falconar is concerned, and the other on the Kingsway frontage of the Bay wing. Mr. Rempel has written to Mr. Falconar to advise him of Metrotown Centre's intention to install the two additional sets of automatic doors in early 1996. He has also brought to Mr. Falconar's attention the additional existing sets of automatic doors providing access to the shopping centre. Mr. Falconar has acknowledged Mr. Rempel's letter in writing and expressed his gratitude.

3.0 CONCLUSION

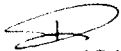
It would appear that Mr. Falconar's concerns about the lack of automatic doors from Bennett Street into Metrotown Centre will be addressed by shopping centre management in early 1996. In the meantime, Mr. Falconar has been advised by Metrotown Centre of additional wheelchair accessible entrances to the shopping centre. The map attached as Appendix 1 should assist Mr. Falconar to easily locate these entrances.

Staff will continue to liaise with the management of the Metrotown shopping centres about remaining barriers to access.

It is recommended that a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Keith Falconer and Mr. Bill Rempel.



D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING & BUILDING



JS/db

Attachment

