

TO: CITY MANAGER 2004 July 15

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 71000 20

SUBJECT: CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER - PROPOSED OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN AMENDMENT BYLAW 6909, 2004

PURPOSE: To provide comment on Bylaw 6909, an amendment to the City of New Westminister's Official Community Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the City of New Westminister be requested to reconsider their decision to remove the Stormont-McBride Connector from their Official Community Plan.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to John Hopkins, Planner, City of New Westminister Planning Department; Ken Cameron, Manager of Policy and Planning, Greater Vancouver Regional District; and Ken Hardy, Director of Communications, TransLink.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

A letter from the New Westminister Planning Department, dated 2004 June 10 was received by the Manager's Office seeking comment on Bylaw 6909, 2004 outlining an amendment to the City of New Westminister's Official Community Plan (OCP). The letter stated that the purpose of the amendment is to undertake a number of housekeeping and minor policy changes to ensure the plan remains accurate. This report responds to New Westminister's request for comment on their proposed amendment.

2.0 PROPOSED CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER OCP AMENDMENT

On 2004 June 7, New Westminister City Council gave first reading to Bylaw No. 6909, 2004 and endorsed its referral to adjoining municipalities for comment, as per Section 879 of the Local Government Act.

The proposed amendments generally involve minor housekeeping changes including name changes for various provincial ministries and non governmental organizations, updating statistics used in the 1998 OCP with more current figures and acknowledging the completion of selected projects, such as the Millennium SkyTrain line. Some examples of the more

specific aspects of the proposed OCP amendment include referencing identified growth management options for the city, such as the Woodlands Site and the Columbia Street Historical District; encouraging green buildings and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification; and, establishing a policy to facilitate private public partnerships (P3s) where opportunities exist for mutual benefits for the public and private sector. The proposed minor policy changes and housekeeping amendments such as those noted do not conflict with the policies and goals contained in Burnaby's OCP.

3.0 RELATIONSHIP TO BURNABY

While the proposed housekeeping amendments do not affect the planning policies of the City Burnaby, a review of the proposed transportation amendments reveals one issue of concern that should be brought to the attention of the City of New Westminster for reconsideration. The OCP amendment proposes the removal of the Stormont-McBride Connector from the OCP and all maps, as it is considered to have negative impact on New Westminster. The Stormont-McBride Connector (cut and cover) is an integral component of the Burnaby Transportation Plan and Burnaby OCP and provides for an important future regional transportation connection. As such, it is recommended that the City of New Westminster be requested to reconsider their decision to remove the Stormont-McBride Connector from their OCP.

4.0 CONCLUSION

This report responds to the City of New Westminster's request for comment on a proposed amendment to its OCP. The proposed amendment for the most part does not conflict with the goals and policies contained in Burnaby's OCP with the exception of the deleted reference to the Stormont-McBride Connector.

It is recommended that the City of New Westminster be requested to reconsider their decision to remove the Stormont-McBride Connector from their Official Community Plan and that a copy of this report be forwarded to the City of New Westminster Planning Department, the Greater Vancouver Regional District and TransLink.



J.S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

JBS/sa

cc: Director Engineering