

MINUTES
PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
April 14, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Fred Haynes (Chair), Suzanne Bartel, Bill Mumford, Jordan Rockerbie, Travis Lee, John Schmuck, Andrea Mercer, Peter Rantucci

Staff: Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering, Sharon Hvozdzanski, Director of Planning; Elizabeth van Den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Travis Lee, Scott Hindle

Guests Councillor Vic Derman, Marsh Henderson (SCAN), Mei Ang, Jean Newton, Tom Newton

MINUTES

MOVED by P. Rantucci and Seconded by S. Bartel: "That the Minutes of the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting held March 10, 2016, be adopted."

CARRIED

MCKENZIE/HIGHWAY NO. 1 INTERCHANGE

R. Wickson, Gorge Tillicum Community Association, was present to discuss the McKenzie/Highway No. 1 interchange proposal, and the following was noted:

- This project began from a push from drivers and it is also political in nature; there are questions about local leadership and where the \$85 million budget came from. No one is available to speak to environmental questions.
- Questions raised include:
 - Why were only two or three designs given by the Ministry?
 - What are the travel times now and forecasted?
 - What are the environmental costs?
 - Are there other options that will achieve the same results but use less land and have less environmental impact?
 - How can pedestrian, cycling and transit options be given a higher priority?
 - How does this project reflect the goals of the Regional Growth Strategy?
- Problems to solve include traffic congestion, environmental impacts, accidents and improvements to transit, cycling and pedestrian movement.
- The options provided by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure are almost all identical, do not address many issues, and are environmentally devastating (1.4 hectares of Saanich parkland is needed for the cloverleaf).
- Mr. Wickson presented an alternative design that addresses inbound and outbound traffic, congestion, the environment, and it allows for changes in the future if needed to address Admirals/McKenzie movement.
- The Ministry plan focuses on single occupant vehicles and does not support transit or cyclist/pedestrian priorities.
- The \$85 Million earmarked for this project could be used instead for a light rail project.
- There are big changes coming in the next five years in terms of transportation;

electric vehicles and light rail are the future.

- The Ministry project will not solve the congestion problem, but shift it elsewhere.

A discussion occurred and the following comments were noted:

- The Ministry plans to start construction in the fall of 2016.
- The Ministry has engaged with Saanich staff a couple of times during the planning process.
- If the Ministry is given Cuthbert Holmes Park, then some Crown lands should be transferred to Saanich. Council will need to be approached for land acquisition.
- The Ministry doesn't seem to understand the problems with their option and, despite their public participation process, will not listen to any suggestions.
- Committee agreed it would be desirable to get the Ministry to measure the impacts of travel time, noise, and the environment for Mr. Wickson's proposal and compare this to their own proposed project.

EMBRACING A 21ST CENTURY VISION OF THE SHELBOURNE VALLEY AS VICTORIA'S UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

Mei Ang, Jean Newton and Tom Newton presented the Committee with an "Innovation District" concept for the Shelbourne Valley. Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- The Shelbourne Valley is unique with a university and a college within close proximity.
- The Shelbourne Valley has been stagnant for many years, both in job opportunities and economic development.
- Saanich could consider a more visionary approach during the redevelopment of the area.
- An "Innovation District" plan to stimulate a strong economic and social community in the valley could be developed by Saanich and key stakeholders.
- Steps to increase the University of Victoria presence in the local community could be pursued.

The Chair and the Committee thanked the speakers.

THE NATURAL CITY

Councillor Derman presented the Committee with an overview of the Natural City concept for the revitalization of the Douglas Street Corridor. The opportunity to create a world leading redevelopment project for the Douglas Corridor is possible. The guiding principles of The Natural City could be transformative for the area and the region.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2016

Councillor Haynes, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

DRAFT