

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

Minutes of the **PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** Meeting
Monday, January 23, 2006 at 7:52 pm
Central Saanich Municipal Council Chamber

PRESENT: Councillor Alastair Bryson, Chair
Mayor Jack Mar
Councillors: Garrison, Graham, King, Mason and Thompson
Gary C. Nason, Administrator
Trish Flanders, Municipal Clerk
Hope V. Burns, Director of Planning and Building Services
Nirmal Bhattacharya, Municipal Engineer
Roland Rocheleau, Senior Engineering Technologist

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

134.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KING
 NO SECONDER
 *That the Agenda for the Public Works & Transportation Committee Meeting held
 on January 23, 2006 be approved as circulated.*
 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Brentwood Traffic Corridor Revitalization Project

The Municipal Engineer, Mr. Nirmal Bhattacharya, gave a detailed presentation of the current status and updated projected costs of the Brentwood Traffic Corridor Revitalization project. During his presentation, he gave an overview of the detailed cost estimates for the various components of the project, and indicated the sources of grants and other funding including the possibility of utilizing the Federal Gas Tax Revenues, and responded to several questions from members of Council.

Mr. Bhattacharya briefly described the process which has been undertaken to date with respect to the development of the Brentwood Design Guidelines in 2002, the presentation of the preliminary design drawings at two Public Open Houses in 2004, and the Infrastructure Grant Application which received approval in 2005. Mr. Bhattacharya proceeded to give an overview of the various scenarios to fund the project (excluding the West Saanich Road Watermain Project), namely:

- 1) proceed without a BC Hydro Beautification Grant from Accumulated Reserves which would leave a budget shortfall of \$749,000;
- 2) proceed with a BC Hydro Beautification Grant in the amount of \$330,000, which would leave a budget shortfall of \$419,000; or
- 3) proceed with running BC Hydro Conduits only, which would leave a budget shortfall of \$349,000.

Mr. Bhattacharya indicated that BC Hydro has confirmed that the District could make application for future Beautification Grants to cover 1/3 of the estimated shortfall of \$400,000 (2006 dollars) if the project were to proceed with the installation of conduits only.

A very lengthy discussion took place in regards to the various funding scenarios for the Brentwood Bay Traffic Corridor Revitalization Project, including the possibility of reducing the size of the project, and establishing a Local Service Area with a counter petition opportunity as a means of recovering costs from the benefiting property owners.

The Director of Financial Services distributed a spreadsheet depicting the financial status of the General and Water Funds Accumulated Reserves from 1998 to 2004, and responded to several questions from members of Council in regards to the current status of the District's Reserve Funds as well as the projected tax increases to fund this project.

At this time, the Chair opened the floor for comments from the public in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Grant Rogers, 8080 McPhail Road, advised that he is anticipating developing a \$25 million commercial/residential project in the subject area, and spoke in support of the revitalization of this section of West Saanich Road.

Mr. Ron Kubek, 1085 Clarke Road, requested that Council reconsider the suggestion that the local business community pay for a portion of the budget shortfall, as local businesses already pay high taxes in Central Saanich.

Ms. Robin Ross, Lucille Drive, encouraged Council to proceed with the project as this particular section of West Saanich Road is in need of revitalization, and advised that several other development proposals are waiting to come forward pending Council's decision on this matter.

Ms. Eleanor Richardson, 1046 Holly Park Road, advised of her support for this project.

Ms. Ginny Alger, 1189 Damelart Way, advised that a tremendous amount of work and time has been invested into this project with strong support expressed by the local residents, and she encouraged Council to move forward on this initiative.

Ms. Elizabeth Chambers, 901 Verdier Avenue, advised that she would prefer to see the business community provide some financial commitment before Council proceeds with the revitalization of this section of West Saanich Road.

Mr. Len King, 307 – 7865 Patterson Road, advised that he is not opposed to this particular revitalization project, however he expressed concern that other areas of the municipality which are in need of various improvements seem to have been forgotten due to the attention that Council has given to the Brentwood Bay Traffic Corridor Revitalization Project.

Ms. Jan Carroll, 204 – 7865 Patterson Road, agreed with the comments from Mr. Len King and advised that the sidewalk behind Thrifty Foods is not passable at times and can be very hazardous to the local senior citizens. In this regard, she encouraged Council to consider allocating funding for neighbourhood improvements in other areas in the municipality.

Mr. Michael Hadfield, 7372 Ridgedown Court, advised that he is the property manager of several units in the Brentwood Bay area and stated that Council should convey a strong commitment to the project before seeking financial obligations from other parties.

During the course of extensive discussions, the following motions were put forth:

135.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MASON
 NO SECONDER

That It Be Recommended To Council:

That the District proceed with the Brentwood Bay Traffic Corridor Revitalization Project, and that to reduce the budget shortfall the District not proceed with the full electrical undergrounding, but install conduits for future Hydro, Telus and Shaw cable and look into other appropriate grants at a future date, and further that Staff bring back a report at the soonest possible date, with options for funding the remainder of the shortfall from a combination of the Federal Gas Tax revenues and the shifting of other less pressing projects.

BEFORE THE QUESTION WAS CALLED, it was

136.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR THOMPSON
 NO SECONDER

That the foregoing motion be tabled pending further discussion by Council.

CARRIED

OPPOSED: COUNCILLOR MASON

A very lengthy discussion in regards to proposed next step options and funding scenarios ensued.

**** DEFEATED ****

137.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MASON
NO SECONDER
That Resolution No. 135.06 be now lifted from the table.

MOTION DEFEATED

OPPOSED: MAYOR MAR, COUNCILLORS BRYSON, GARRISON, GRAHAM,
KING AND THOMPSON

138.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MASON
NO SECONDER
That It Be Recommended To Council:

That the District proceed with all components of the Brentwood Bay Traffic Corridor Revitalization Project as originally proposed.

BEFORE THE QUESTION WAS CALLED, it was

AMENDMENT

139.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR THOMPSON
NO SECONDER
That It Be Recommended To Council:

That the foregoing motion be amended to delete the words "That the District proceed" and substitute the following therefor "That Council support in principle proceeding", with the complete motion to now read "That Council support in principle proceeding with all components of the Brentwood Bay Traffic Corridor Revitalization Project as originally proposed."

THE QUESTION WAS CALLED ON THE AMENDMENT
THE AMENDMENT CARRIED
OPPOSED: MAYOR MAR, COUNCILLOR BRYSON

THE QUESTION WAS CALLED ON THE MAIN MOTION, AS AMENDED
THE MAIN MOTION, AS AMENDED CARRIED
OPPOSED: MAYOR MAR, COUNCILLOR BRYSON

140.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR GRAHAM
NO SECONDER
That It Be Recommended To Council:

That Staff be requested to provide a further informational report to Council in regards to:

- 1. the details and mechanics of establishing a possible Local Service Area Bylaw with a counter petition opportunity, as a means of recovering from benefiting property owners in the area a portion of the costs for the Brentwood Bay Traffic Corridor Revitalization Project;*
- 2. the possible recovery from the benefiting property owners of up to one-third of the costs of the Street Electrical, Landscaping/Furniture, and BC Hydro, Telus and Shaw Undergrounding through the Local Service Area Bylaw;*
- 3. the possible levying of the Local Service Area charge or rate on the assessed value of the land only, excluding improvements; and*
- 4. consideration also be given by Council to basing the costs to be recovered pursuant to 2) above on the original 2005 Budget estimates as opposed to the latest Class A cost estimates for the project.*

- 141.06 **AMENDMENT**
MOVED BY COUNCILLOR GRAHAM
NO SECONDER
That It Be Recommended To Council:

That the foregoing motion be amended by adding the following:

"5) and further that the potential 'benefiting area' for the Local Service Area Bylaw to be those properties located adjacent and contiguous to the proposed works as well as those properties located kitty-corner to the proposed works at the intersections of Verdier Avenue & West Saanich Road and Wallace Drive & West Saanich Road."

THE QUESTION WAS THEN CALLED ON THE AMENDMENT
THE AMENDMENT CARRIED
OPPOSED: COUNCILLORS MASON AND THOMPSON

THE QUESTION WAS THEN CALLED ON THE MAIN MOTION, AS AMENDED
THE MAIN MOTION, AS AMENDED, CARRIED
OPPOSED: COUNCILLORS MASON AND THOMPSON

- 142.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR THOMPSON
NO SECONDER
That It Be Recommended To Council:

That the afore-noted informational report from Staff referenced in Resolution Nos. 140.06 and 141.06 be based on two project scenarios, namely, proceeding with all components of the project as originally proposed, and secondly, proceeding with all components of the project but with the installation of the BC Hydro conduits only which would result in an approximate \$400,000 reduction in the overall cost of the project

CARRIED
OPPOSED: MAYOR MAR, COUNCILLORS BRYSON AND GARRISON

Motion to Extend Meeting Past 10:30 pm

- 143.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR THOMPSON
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR KING
That the Public Works & Transportation Committee Meeting held on January 23, 2006 be authorized to extend past 10:30 pm.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 144.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR THOMPSON
NO SECONDER
That It Be Recommended To Council:

That the afore-noted informational report from Staff referenced in Resolution Nos. 140.06, 141.06 and 142.06 also include other potential financing options for the project as deemed feasible by Staff.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion, the Public Works & Transportation Committee Meeting held on January 23, 2006 adjourned 10:36 pm.

Councillor Alastair Bryson, Chair

Recorded By: Trish Flanders
Municipal Clerk