

westvancouver

PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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August 13, 2009

File: 2620.10

(27)

Rob Sleath, Chair
Heather McCain, Vice Chair
Access Transit
Users' Advisory Committee
1600-4720 Kingsway
Burnaby BC V5H 4N2

Dear Mr. Sleath and Ms. McCain,

RE: Increase in Accessible Bus Stops in West Vancouver

Thank you for your letter of July 23, 2009 to Mayor and Council regarding accessible bus stops in West Vancouver. Your correspondence was referred to me for response.

As noted in your letter, the TRRIP program provides an excellent opportunity to cost share between the District and Translink on important improvements to transit accessibility in our community. The District of West Vancouver has benefited from this program in the past and will continue to pursue these opportunities. Thank you for taking the initiative to highlight the annual notification for this program. Our Engineering staff are aware of this opportunity and will be applying for funding if it is available.

Infrastructure improvements to support bus stop accessibility are supported by the District's recently updated "Access and Inclusion" policy (attached). This policy was developed by our community based "Measuring Up Working Group" and was presented to Council on July 20, 2009. It outlines the District's commitment to "implementing, maintaining and enhancing accessibility for all by demonstrating a leadership role in meeting the needs of all community members for whom accessibility is a concern." The updated policy was unanimously adopted by Council and we look forward to implementing the policy directions through a wide range of District initiatives.

On another note, we had the pleasure of having Peter Hill and Peggy Hunt attend the Measuring Up Working Group's July 20 presentation to Council. Peter Hill provided us with copies of the "Access Transit" booklet, and we would like to extend our appreciation for this excellent, well developed and presented resource.

Accessibility initiatives are further supported by the District's "Blueprint for Social Responsibility and Change." The "Blueprint" was endorsed by Council in 2008 to advance community well being through leadership and innovation in social responsibility. We have enclosed a copy of this document for your interest as well. It is also available on our District website at:

<http://www.westvancouver.ca/Government/Level3.aspx?id=17170>

Thank you for your commitment to enhancing accessibility in communities across the Province. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like further information. I can be reached by phone at (604) 921-3404 or email lsexsmith@westvancouver.ca.

Sincerely,



Leanne Sexsmith
Acting Director, Parks and Community Services
Community Planner – Social Services

Attachments:

- District of West Vancouver Access and Inclusion Policy (July 2009)
- District of West Vancouver Blueprint for Social Responsibility and Change (2008)

copy: Mayor and Council

Anne Mooi, Director, Parks and Community Services
Ray Fung, Director, Engineering and Transportation
Brent Dozzi, Manager, Roads and Transportation

July 23, 2009

3210-01
(1)

Mayor Goldsmith-Jones and Council
750 - 17th Street
West Vancouver BC
V7V 3T3

Dear Mayor Goldsmith-Jones and Council:

Re: Increase in Accessible Bus Stops in West Vancouver

We are writing this letter on behalf of TransLink's Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee (UAC). The UAC is comprised of 19 members from the disability community who advise TransLink on all plans and projects that TransLink funds.

In June 2008, TransLink reached the milestone of having achieved a 100% wheelchair and scooter accessible transit fleet (Bus, SkyTrain, West Coast Express Trains and Community Shuttle) throughout Metro Vancouver. Although a very significant milestone, it is somewhat diminished by the fact that less than 53% of the region's bus stops are designated accessible and able to accommodate the loading and unloading of passengers who use wheelchairs or scooters.

As of June 2009, the District of West Vancouver had 244 bus stops with 68 (28%) being designated accessible. We are writing this letter to request your Council's support in developing a plan that will convert as many West Vancouver bus stops into accessible stops as soon as possible and an assurance that any new bus stops in West Vancouver meet accessibility standards as they are planned and constructed.

Coast Mountain Bus Company's (CMBC) expenditures on bus stop improvements are based on a 50/50 cost sharing arrangement with the municipalities. The annual amount spent in each community is dependent on the financial commitments provided by the municipalities. CMBC provides municipalities with funding for bus stop improvements through the Transit Related Road Infrastructure Program (TRRIP).

Municipal staff are sent notification at the beginning of each August for the following program year to alert them to the opportunity to cost share in potential TRRIP improvements. On behalf of the Users' Advisory Committee, we urge West Vancouver Council to direct your staff to participate in this cost sharing program as a means of improving the opportunities for people with disabilities to more fully participate in your community with independence and personal dignity.

We would like to thank you in advance for considering this important issue on behalf of all persons with disabilities in Metro Vancouver. If you would like to discuss further, we would welcome a call from your office or that of your staff. We have also attached a list of UAC members and their contact details, for your information.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Sleath
Chair, Users' Advisory Committee



Heather McCain
Vice Chair, Users' Advisory Committee

Enclosure (1)

CC: Tom Prendergast, CEO, TransLink
Dale Parker, Chair and the TransLink Board

2009 Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee Members

Adrienne Boothroyd	Burnaby	()
Peggy Casey	Vancouver	()
Bruce Chown	Vancouver	()
Al Cleaver	Surrey	()
Spencer Dixon	Vancouver	()
Jo Hawley	White Rock	()
Pam Horton	North Vancouver	()
Laurie Hill	Burnaby	()
Craig Langston	Burnaby	()
Laura Mackenrot	Richmond	()
Heather McCain	Vancouver	()
Linda McGowan	New Westminster	()
Richard Marion	Coquitlam	()
John Neumann	North Vancouver	()
Wendy St. Marie	Vancouver	()
Rob Sleath	Richmond	()
Merle Smith	Coquitlam	()
Henry Stuiwe	Surrey	()
Emese Szucs	Vancouver	()

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