



# Corporation of the City of **NEW WESTMINSTER**

*A vibrant, compassionate, sustainable city that includes everyone.*

## **CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

### **MINUTES**

**Monday, October 18, 2021, 12:00 p.m.**

**Council Chamber**

**City Hall**

#### **PRESENT:**

Mayor Jonathan Cote  
Councillor Chinu Das  
Councillor Patrick Johnstone  
Councillor Jamie McEvoy  
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa  
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr  
Councillor Mary Trentadue

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Ms. Lisa Spitale	Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Jacque Killawee	City Clerk
Ms. Emilie Adin	Director of Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Mike Anderson	Acting Manager of Transportation
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering Services
Ms. Lorraine Lyle	Senior Manager, Financial Services
Ms. Lynn Roxburgh	Acting Supervisor of Climate Action and Land Use Planning
Ms. Meredith Seeton	Policy Planner, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Ms. Harji Varn	Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance
Ms. Nicole Ludwig	Assistant City Clerk

#### **GUESTS:**

Ms. Caitlin Cooper	Project Manager, Regional Transportation Strategy, TransLink
Mr. Jerry Dobrovolny	Chief Administrative Officer, Metro Vancouver
Ms. Heather McNeill	General Manager of Regional Planning and Housing Services, Metro Vancouver

## 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

## 2. **PRESENTATIONS**

### 2.1 **Metro 2050 Regional Growth Strategy**

#### a. **Metro 2050 PowerPoint Presentation**

Sav Dhaliwal, Board Chair, introduced the team from Metro Vancouver and acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the unceded territories of over 10 First Nations.

Jerry Dobrovolsky, Commissioner/Chief Administrative Officer, and Heather McNell, General Manager of Regional Planning and Housing Services, all from Metro Vancouver, provided a presentation on Metro 2050 Draft, an update to the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS).

Mayor Cote advised that Council would hold a workshop for a formal response to the RGS update, however this is a good opportunity to raise general comments.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- Concern about the recommendation of only 15% affordable rentals, and what ideas are being used to ensure they are truly affordable;
- All individual municipalities will need to implement the requisite policies and update them regularly;
- Goals are consistent with the aspirational goals of the 2040 plan; and,
- Growth estimates were remarkably accurate.

In response to questions, Mr. Dobrovolsky and Ms. McNell provided the following information:

- While some municipalities are already building affordable housing, others have not started; the 15% target was provided for the latter;
- Affordable housing is 120% of median income, and no more than 30% of gross household income;
- It is challenging to develop affordable housing, especially around transit centres; staff are investigating policy levers to correct for affordable housing around transit;

- Census data will give a clearer picture of the distribution of growth around the region; and,
- Staff have reached out to the players involved in the Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP) and the Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program (BIEAP); however, many several First Nations have taken on stewardship roles, and a resolution may take some time;

Mayor Cote thanked the representatives from Metro Vancouver for their presentation, noting that the City is committed to strong regional planning

Emilie Adin, Director of Climate Action, Planning and Development advised that staff will provide background information and formal recommendations to Council in the near future.

## **2.2 Transport 2050, Caitlin Cooper**

### **a. Transport 2050 PowerPoint Presentation**

Caitlin Cooper, Project Manager, Regional Transportation Strategy, TransLink, provided a presentation on Transport 2050, a shared strategy which provides the 30-year blueprint for regional transportation projects, policies and programs.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- New Westminster is still getting a lot of through traffic and not necessarily seeing the benefits of transit-centred housing;
- There is a need to make it safer and more convenient to get to stations, along with more secure storage at stations;
- There is a need to continue to invest in sidewalks, road improvements and active transportation infrastructure, that connects to job-generating spaces in industrial zones and other areas; and,
- Would like to see road pricing as part of the conversation around regional transportation.

In response to Council comments, Mayor Cote advised that road pricing is included, but not yet a firm commitment and encouraged Council members to read the document in its entirety. He also noted that as the process and planning for the TransLink plan goes ahead, Engineering Services will need to update the City's Transportation Plan.

3. **END OF THE MEETING**

The meeting ended at 12:56 p.m.

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Jonathan Cote  
MAYOR

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Jacque Killawee  
CITY CLERK