

**Subject: Re: FW: Re GVRD Board Meeting re RAV line proposal May 28/03**

**Date:** Wed, 28 May 2003 19:27:43 +0100 (BST)

**From:** Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

**To:** Ernie Crist <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>, "Clr. Darrell Mussatto" <DMussatto@cnv.org>, "Clr. Keating" <CKeating@cnv.org>

**CC:** fonvca@fonvca.org, Carolanne Reynolds <EditorTRR@WestVan.org>, Cathy Adams <cathyadams@canada.com>, Eric Andersen <eric\_g\_andersen@hotmail.com>, Maureen Bragg <m.bragg@shaw.ca>, Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>, "Clr. M. McKeon-Holmes-Smith" <mmckeonholmes@dnv.org>, "Clr. A. Nixon" <anixon@dnv.org>, Allan Orr <allandorr@shaw.ca>, Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>, "Clr. R. Walton" <rwalton@dnv.org>

28 May 2003

Dear Clr. Crist:

Anyone who watched last night's replay of Monday's West Vancouver Council meeting, will have seen open and extensive discussion of the TransLink/RAV line allowed by Mayor Wood. Clr. Durman, Chair of GVRD Finance Committee, as far as he was able, brought Council up to date on TransLink's plans. Two extremely knowledgeable members of the public were also allowed to present their information to Council - at some length.

Although I do not believe the eventual motion will have the effect of stopping - or even slowing - TransLink's determination to proceed with this boondoggle, at least they tried.

In the District, by contrast, I am absolutely appalled that Mayor Bell's idea of 'taking the pulse of the community' through Council, consists of an email circulated at 6:16 p.m. the night before the vote is to take place at GVRD; appalled but not surprised.

Clr. Crist, I'm not sure if you and other members of Council are aware, but the package of information TransLink has made available on this issue in the past 5-days or so is over 3 inches thick - Clr. Durman waved it at the Shaw cameras.

So my interim question to you and the other councillors is: How on earth can the District Mayor - who is also Vice-Chair of GVRD - be authorized to commit his council and his community to support a project which will cost, in the short-term, a minimum of \$1.5 BILLION, merely on the basis of an email response from councillors who have woefully inadequate information?

TransLink's reluctance to release the Price, Waterhouse Coopers report, which is said to be very critical of not only the proposed P-3 component, but also of the fundamental assumptions upon which the proposal is based, was excused to Clr. Durman and others in an interesting way. I'm sure District residents will find this phraseology familiar: "Well, our lawyers have advised us that we should not release this report because to do so would have the effect of releasing competitive information."

What competitive information? Even Clr. Durman keeps using the word "SkyTrain" synonymously with "RAV", so what P.3? Only one company makes SkyTrain - Bombardier!

I plan to send out a more complete analysis of the recent and current "goings on" at TransLink and GVRD, but will likely be working on it through the weekend. In the interim, I will close by emphasizing a few important points:

- **This is one huge boondoggle which, it is already known, will cost each and every person in the GVRD at least \$1,000 - in addition to what they are already paying for the Expo Line and the "nowhere to nowhere" Millennium Line. To be fair, Clr. Durman said that the figures had been analysed to show that taxpayers would not experience any "major spikes" in taxation, the amounts would be steadily "phased in" over a period of years. [Oh, phew! I thought I'd have to pay now!]**
- **It is acknowledged that the North Shore will receive little, if any, benefit from this expenditure - unless, that is, they count the very dubious reduction in Regional congestion/air pollution. Even the "Greens" doubt this claim has any merit. Nor can the North Shore expect anything immediate in the way of other TransLink services.....they only appear in what TransLink variously describes as a 3-year, 5-year or 10-year "plan".**
- **Even TransLink staff - it is being leaked - do not support the RAV proposal. They understand it to be fundamentally flawed.**
- **The Local Government Act requires a referendum or counter-petition on municipal capital projects over a certain dollar amount. Yet the Feds and the Province - blackmailing taxpayers with promises of their own money - have given GVRD/TransLink 15 days in which to make up their minds to commit to a \$1.7 Billion project! If there is any attempt to delay approval, to allow time for a sober second thought, the Region "will be deemed to have approved it", by the BC Liberal Government. Now I'm sure you've all received that type of invoice before!**
- **This RAV/TransLink/GVRD issue is huge. It has the capacity to adversely affect the ability of any GVRD municipality increase property taxes to undertake necessary, even vital, services in their communities. If readers find that hard to believe, then consider this: The expenditures of TransLink are equal to the current total expenditures for water, sewer and recycling services combined. [Clr. Durman released that little nugget Monday night.]**

Now back to the disappearing concept of taxation with representation.....

My guess is that if a trained financial advisor like Clr. Durman, as GVRD Finance Committee Chairman, found the amount of material tough slogging over three days, Mayor Bell will have only been able to skim through it in the time available.

It is unacceptable for Mayor Bell to be at the GVRD table as this email is being written, purporting to represent the best interests of the community he was elected to serve.....If, indeed he is even doing that. Remember his comment to Council when he announced his GVRD appointment? "Well, I'm going to have to be very careful to take off my District hat when I'm at GVRD."

We'll see what happens at the GVRD vote today, but don't hold your breath. As previously stated, the weighted vote of Vancouver and Surrey make any influence by the other GVRD municipalities virtually hopeless.

I will try to prepare a comprehensive comment on various aspects of this issue ASAP and will circulate it to anyone interested.

Sincerely,

Liz James,  
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[cagebc@yahoo.com](mailto:cagebc@yahoo.com)

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From: Ernie Crist  
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2003 6:38 PM  
To: Don Bell  
Subject: GVRD Board Meeting re RAV line proposal May 28/03

Mayor Bell :

Yes, I am opposed to the RAV line. For less money we can do a lot better and, in any case, to commit to spending this horrendous amount without anything being in it for the North Shore does not appeal to me - my answer is no.

Ernie Crist

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From: Don Bell  
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2003 6:16 PM  
To: Mayor and Council - DNV  
Subject: GVRD Brd Meeting re RAV line proposal May 28/03

Council,

I am faxing a memo to Council members tonight for a final update to you all regarding the latest information I have regarding the vote tomorrow at the GVRD Board meeting re the proposed RAV line. I am inviting any of you to speak to me personally or e-mail me any final comments you wish me to consider as I vote tomorrow on this issue.

Councillor Crist, I have read your attached comments regarding the May 22 North Shore Council of Councils meeting, but I did not wish to assume this contained your specific comments on the RAV line, if you wished to do so.

Mayor Don Bell

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