

Subject: FW: Notice of Motion- Translink - Report Councillor Crist

Date: Thu, 6 Nov 2003 10:42:45 -0800

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <cagebc@yahoo.com>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Ernie Crist

> Sent: November 6, 2003 10:39 AM

> To: Nathalie Valdes

> Subject: Notice of Motion- Translink - Report Councillor Crist

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> Motion

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> That Council formulate a policy in public as a matter of the highest priority outlining the conditions under which the District will support Translink's 10 year \$ 4 billion proposed regional transportation plan and further

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> that this position be conveyed to the North Shore Representative of Translink, North Van City Mayor Sharp and our representative to the GVRD District Mayor Don Bell respectively, in time for the vote to take place in December and January at the relevant Translink and GVRD meetings when the vote to adopt the proposed plan is scheduled to take place and further

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> that the conditions for support, in addition to the benefits for the improvements for North Shore public transportation and road improvements already outlined in the 10 year plan, contain the following additional demands.

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> 1) A commitment to build one additional Sea bus crossing facility from the Deep Cove - Maplewood Area of North Vancouver to Vancouver by no later than 2008

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> 2) A commitment to add one additional Sea bus to the Lonsdale Key - Vancouver line by no later than 2005

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> 3) A commitment that, notwithstanding any additional sources of taxation and surcharges, to finance the proposed \$ 4 billion expansion plan will not include any increase in fares and further that

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> 4) A commitment for a Rapid Transit expansion and link up plan between Vancouver and the North Shore (Light Rail or related system) indicating both the type and the corridors where such a future expansion will take place be readied by no later than 2006

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> Rationale;

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> Incredible as it may, seem but on the eve of one of the most important decisions made by Translink and the GVRD during the coming months of December and January which in turn will impact not only the purse of every resident in the District of North Vancouver but also their quality of life as a result of a proposed \$ 4 billion regional transportation expansion program, no Council debate on this crucial subject has ever taken place via an agenda item in the District. There has been an absolute abdication of even a semblance of leadership.

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> There have been several if not numerous visits and representations including public meetings especially by Translink officials on the proposed 10 year Regional Transportation Plan but, unlike other municipalities throughout the region where this item has been discussed in Council and a Council position has been formulated, there has never been a single Agenda item set aside for such a debate by District Council. Compare this do nothing scenario with the papers which have been published by most of the other jurisdictions to be on this subject to be take to the respective meetings and even a blind man can see that the District suffers from a deadly leadership malaise.

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> The logical outcome of this issue is therefore both predicable as it is transparent. Representatives of Translink come to the North Shore outlining their proposals both to the public and elected local officials. Elected representatives and or even the public

have an opportunity to make comments and ask questions (which are politely answered) but there has never been an actual debate or subsequent position by District Council so our representative may act in accordance with such a decision when it comes to a vote in the respective jurisdiction. Even joint meetings between the City and the District Council have been mere information meetings where elected officials were INFORMED as to what is in the plans.

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> Subsequently, nothing will happen in terms of leadership other than the representatives such as Mayor Sharpe and Don Bell voting in favor of the proposal. This means that the Mayor of the District can safely vote according to his own sentiments notwithstanding that the community and/or the Council might take a different position.>

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> Councillor Crist has on several occasions submitted resolutions on such issues so they may be addressed in Council and by Council so as to provide some kind of leadership only to be denied even the right to introduce and explain such motions unless they are seconded by a member of District Council all of whom are guided by their collective civic party bias; never mind debating such issues and or instructing the Mayor to follow a Council determined position.


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> At the same time, the implications for every citizen in the District are staggering. Not only will Mayor Sharp vote on a plan costing the taxpayer of the region, including North Shore residents, \$ 4 billion without receiving any substantial benefits but it will also impact their quality of life to a degree that is staggering.

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> While some of the benefits contained in the Regional plan are laudable, considering the magnitude of the commitment including the cost to North Shore taxpayers, those benefits are mere tokens. Even the commitment for a third Sea Bus is vague with projected implementation not taking place until 2009. Altogether left out is any kind of commitment for an additional Sea Bus crossing from any other point on the North Shore to Vancouver such as Deep Cove, Maplewood or Ambleside which would radically change the transportation complexion - not to speak of a long term plan indicating future rapid transit corridors which is crucial for the long term planning of any community.

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> However, the key issue is that the North Shore representatives to both Translink and the GVRD will vote on this crucial matter without any meaningful democratic mandate - certainly not from District Councillors, not to speak of the people of the District. What is more, when Councillor Cist made attempts to address this issue by submitting motions to that effect, all such attempts were nixed.

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> There is still an opportunity to at least to have such a District Council debate now and set some conditions for approval of this plan for the benefit of North Shore residents.

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