

**Subject: FYI: RAV, GVRD, Translink, City of Vancouver**

**Date:** Thu, 24 Jun 2004 19:23:26 +0100 (BST)

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

**To:** Mayor and Council <clerks@corp.delta.bc.ca>, Mayor and Council <council@district.north-van.bc.ca>, Mayor and Council <dwmccallum@city.surrey.bc.ca>, Mayor and Council <howard.carley@anmore.com>, Mayor and Council <info@cnv.org>, Mayor and Council <joe.trasolini@cityofportmoody.com>, Mayor and Council <mayor&councilinfo@tol.bc.ca>, Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@city.langley.bc.ca>, Mayor and Council <postmaster@city.burnaby.bc.ca>, Mayor and Council <postmaster@city.new-westminster.bc.ca>, Mayor and Council <rwood@district.west-van.bc.ca>, Mayor and Council <vincentk@city.port-coquitlam.bc.ca>, Mayor and Council <wbaldwin@city.whiterock.bc.ca>, Mayor Jon Kingsbury and Council <mayor\_council@coquitlam.ca>, Mayor Kathy Morse and Council <mayorandcouncil@mapleridge.org>, Mayor Lisa Barrett and Council <bim@bimbc.ca>, Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Council <mayorandcouncillors@city.richmond.bc.ca>

**CC:** fonvca@fonvca.org

24 June 2004

Mayor Larry Campbell:

I have received a request to forward to you the message shown below. I am happy to do so and will also take the opportunity to add some words of my own....

What gives you, Mayor McCallum and local business "leaders" the right to keep returning the RAV issue to the table until members of the TransLink Board who have twice voted "No" give you the answer you want? By what devious means are you persuading them to change their votes?

What do you feel passes for democracy in this country? Here we have local politicians who, once chosen to sit on council, pick their own preferences for regional committee positions and then tell the people who pay the bills what projects are good for them. Just who do you think you are?

When we have complained that GVRD, TransLink et al are "unelected and unaccountable" you tell us 'we **are** elected, we were elected in November XXXX.' OK, so you're elected; so that must mean you are required to obey the Local Government Act/Community Charter, right?

Can you explain, then, why it is that those of us who must pay the bills for Vancouver's expensive tastes were not **ALL** given a say on the RAV project - either by a **full-disclosure** counter-petition **required** by the legislation - or, more preferably, by the referendum which the legislation allows in place of the counter-petition?

Why is it that UBC faculty and students were given a vote on the U-Pass - but we are to be kept quiet and top up the taxes to pay for TransLink debt? Why is it that Port Moody residents were given a say on the proposed route through their community, but not us who must pay the bills for your RAV? Why **is** it that Vancouver citizens can vote on 2010, but we just pay the bills?

All I will allow myself further at this point is to echo the sentiments in the letter below: **If you and your business "leaders" [read those who will benefit from property development along the RAV line] want to go ahead with RAV, fine; you pay for it. Leave our names off the invoice. It would be interesting to see what the "leaders" think of RAVCO's business plan then.**

Liz James, Chair  
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Date: Wed, 23 Jun 2004 18:19:53 -0700  
From: Pacific P  
Subject: RAV, GVRD, Translink  
To: kevin.falcon.mla@leg.bc.ca  
CC: Gordon Hogg

Mr. Falcon:

I am very disturbed by remarks that Larry Campbell, the Mayor of Vancouver, has made about the decision to scrap the RAV line:

- admonishing the Provincial Government for not appointing three more councillors that would have approved the line
- admonishing you now for giving consideration to double-spanning the Port Mann and upgrading the Langley to Vancouver section of Hwy 1.

These remarks strike at the very core of what is wrong with Regional Governance in this province - lack of representation and accountability.

**First**, the RAV line was a Translink decision. The board of Translink is appointed to act in the larger capacity of the GVRD regardless of the municipal affiliations. What is wrong with a councillor from Vancouver thinking about more than parochial little Kitsilano coffee houses? It is an enormous challenge for Translink board members, who are being paid \$100 to attend meetings, to give themselves over to this regional objective as well as being responsible to their municipal constituency. Continuing to appoint, rather than elect a Translink Board continues to contribute to electoral schizophrenia. Although I would like to see appointment to this board, and other GVRD boards, to be decided by election and plebiscite and not political appointment I find that Mr. Campbell's remarks to be autocratic and dictatorial - no doubt reflecting his previous employment as a dis-affected and over-paid civil servant.

**Second**, I applaud your interest in double-spanning the Port Mann bridge and improving the access to Vancouver. Such a proposal is long overdue. Several years ago BCAA conducted an interview with a civil servant in the GVRD who indicated that it was strategically important *not* to improve the Hwy 1 access to Vancouver via the Port Mann Bridge in order to encourage car-pooling and public transit. However, **as part of your government's interest in improving the Hwy 1 access to Vancouver please consider upgrades to public transit along this corridor.** An elected Translink board would go a long way toward giving this project much deserved accountability.

**Vancouver - shut up.** I would suggest that if Vancouver is really interested in RAV to transport the pampered Peter Pan athletes and 2010 Lookie-Loos it can do so by taxing its own residents and not the rest of the province. Better yet, Vancouver might appeal to the special interest groups that have agitated for the 2010 Olympics to provide their own money themselves. I am tired of seeing special interest groups hose the government for money to promote their own narrow interests. Long after the 2010 Olympics have disappeared, those of us in the rest of BC are still going to need to get to the Lower Mainland and it isn't going to be via RAV. There is a large population north and east of Vancouver that is very tired of hearing the GVRD-Vancouver bleat about being a "World Class City" and somehow deserving the wealth of King Solomon for its little civic amusements.

**Whose money is it anyway?** In the end, all of these projects are funded by the tax-payers of BC and not just parochial little Vancouver. I have not heard of any wealthy civic-minded person willing to generously provide money for this project. The Mayor of Vancouver does **not** speak for me on the RAV project yet I could end up bearing the cost through inflated property taxes, gas taxes, and who knows what else. Surely, as a property owner and taxpayer I should be consulted by election and plebiscite concerning such larger expenditures.

PS. I was unable to find an EMail address for Larry Campbell. Please forward my remarks to Mayor Campbell and highlighted the third point of my commentary.

Rob

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