

Subject: FW: North Van Bus Depot

Date: Wed, 5 Oct 2005 21:59:56 -0700

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

To: <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Passed on to you courtesy, Ernie Crist.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ryan White [mailto:ryan_whitel3@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2005 9:51 PM

To: DNVCouncil

Subject: North Van Bus Depot

Dear Councillors,

While I'm not one to normally involve myself in municipal politics, the recent developments surrounding the relocation of the North Vancouver Bus Depot have pressed me into action. As I am sure you are well aware, the North Shore is home to substandard bus service relative to our financial contributions to TransLink. Politics aside, one of the major contributing factors to this lack of service is the inadequate bus depot facility and lack of overnight bus parking capacity on the North Shore. This has been a long stemming problem that has plagued any discussion around increased service and better resourcing.

On numerous occasions TransLink has promised to take immediate action and provide for the transit needs of the North Shore in a manner commensurate to our financial contribution to the regional transit collection scheme.

However, as you are surely aware, each and every one of these promises and initiatives has collapsed due to two problems. First, there are inadequate facilities to accommodate increased buses and late-night shift scheduling.

Second, the option of shuttling buses from Burnaby and Vancouver, in order to address this issue, is stymied by the bus drivers union who refuse to cooperate. The union and bus drivers have several issues with this stop-gap measure, most of which are valid. For example, they contend it takes a substantial amount of time to move the buses back and forth from Vancouver to the North Shore that the actual time the bus is put into service is significantly reduced to the point of being pointless. As a result, the service issue has been constantly pushed to the back burner for years, with promises that it'll be addressed in the future when an appropriate facility is located.

Enter the current solution. A perfect location, with ample space, in an industrial area that will meet TransLink's needs and move the transit agenda forward. Hence, improved service, more buses and late-night service and a facility that meet the requirements of the bus drivers union. In essence, a win-win situation.

At this point I get confused. It appears a handful of special interest groups and NIMBY's have hijacked the agenda and threatened to jeopardize the entire solution. This, I do not understand? I can understand individuals wanting their concerns heard by Council and their own best interests served, but the confusing part is that it appears Council is actually considering taking action that will veto the initiative by refusing to amend the zoning bylaw. While this action would definitely serve the interests of a handful of NIMBY's, it in no way serves the best interests of the remaining residents of the North Shore.

How does this make sense to people like Muri, Nixon and Holmes? Do they think the North Shore, with its aging population and greater dependence on transit, does not need better service? Are they content to another six years of hunting for a solution while the residents of the North Shore contend with substandard service? Has Ernie Christ been right all along, and the district in run by a bunch of incompetent, myopic, buffoons that can't see their own nose in front of them? I'm beginning


to wonder. I can guarantee one thing. While there may be a vocal minority that you have to contend with for the immediate future, there is a substantial district population waiting in the wings for this issue to be resolved once and for all. Most municipal issues quickly fade from voter's memory. However, when those same voters are reminded every day of the incompetence of a few politicians while they're waiting in the rain for hours for a bus to arrive, they usually don't forget - especially at voting time.

Ryan White

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