

Subject: Re: BC Rail lands announcement

Date: Fri, 02 Sep 2005 00:19:13 -0700

From: Cathy Adams <cathyadams@canada.com>

To: "Barbara Sharp (Mayor)" <BSharp@cnv.org>, cathyadams@canada.com, Bill_Knight@translink.bc.ca

CC: Lisa_Muri@dnv.org, Janice_Harris@dnv.org, Jim_Cuthbert@dnv.org, Alan_Nixon@dnv.org, Ernie_crist@dnv.org, Richard_Walton@dnv.org, Maureen_McKeonHolmes@dnv.org, James_Ridge@dnv.org, Agnes_Hilsen@dnv.org, Shana_Burrows@dnv.org, Donna_Howes@dnv.org, Ross_Taylor@dnv.org, bplatts@shaw.ca, valeriem@blaze.ca, John_Miller@ultranet.ca, Hugh_Murray@shaw.ca, newsroom@northshoreoutlook.com, fonvca@fonvca.org, corrie@kost.ca, paiofknees@telus.net, allandorr@shaw.ca, m.bragg@shaw.ca, andersen@sagafc.com, rpolly@shaw.ca, ken_hardie@translink.bc.ca, Glen_Leicester@translink.bc.ca, Craig Amundsen <camundsen@cnv.org>, rwood@westvancouver.ca, lbarrett@bimbc.ca, office@village.lions-bay.bc.ca, tpeters@nsnews.com, fluba@pacpress.southam.ca

Dear Mayor Sharp

I have not yet seen the press release you refer to. I assume it will be available Friday.

I am not at all surprised that Translink is interested in the B.C.Rail property. As my letter earlier this week indicates, my concern is with the process followed by Translink to this point.

As an elected official, I would think you would respect the public process involving rezoning, including a public hearing that a council is obligated to enter into with a completely open mind, and not under duress. I remain of the opinion that this announcement presumes a lot on the part of Translink. I am frankly appalled that District council was blind sided by this news. Why were they not informed, let alone consulted, in camera? It is, after all, their jurisdiction to determine the uses permitted on the property.

As far as I am concerned, much investigation needs to be done prior to a decision being made on the ultimate use for the site. In the specific case of a bus depot being proposed, a major traffic study would need to be done. The question needs to be asked - how would buses access the site when the native band to the west closes access to the area via Capilano, Welch, etc.? What would be the impact on the neighbourhood of Norgate (where I do not live, by the way) just to the north?

(Mrs.) Cathy Adams

At 05:09 PM 8/30/2005, Barbara Sharp \ (Mayor\) wrote:

>Ms. Adams.

>If you read the 5th paragraph on the press release paragraph you should a
>statement, clearly, that a number of conditions are on the purchase of the
>lands and one of those conditions is the possibility of a rezoning by the
>District of North Va Council. That process is underway.

>

>One would think that such a significant commitment on the part of
>Translink would make north shore citizens happy given there has been so
>many complaints over the lack of infrastructure and return for north shore
>dollars.

>

>All Councils are completely aware of the need as well as the search for
>land to relocate the 3rd street depot and this site was certainly one of
>the sites that has been mentioned for a very long time.

>

>I am shocked anybody would be surprised about this.

>

>The announcement fully takes into the cosideration the ability of the
>District Council to not agree to rezone. Many of us in elected positions

>as well as a great many citizens are hopeful they will support a rezoning.

>

>These kinds of announcements are quite common but then again I guess you
>can't win. If you tell people what is happening some aren't happy. If
>you don't tell them what is happening there are some that aren't happy
>then either.

>

>At least this announcement let's North Shore residents (all across the 5
>communities) know that something is in the works for the North Shore.

>

>I personally believe this potential site is a great one.

>

>Translink was not the only party interested in this site so the bidding
>was confidential till this week while issues were worked out on the
>potential purchase and the list of conditions (aka rezoning).

>

>I am happy we are finally getting closer to a new depot over here and feel
>I have worked hard as the rep in moving that along and not having the
>money go elsewhere.

>

>This is a great news story.

>

>Mayor Barbara Sharp.

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

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>Sent: Tue Aug 30 16:40:49 2005

>Subject: BC Rail lands announcement

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>To Translink, et al

>

>The upcoming announcement of the use of the B.C. Rail lands in North
>Vancouver District for a transit depot, to be made on Friday by Mayor
>Barbara Sharp and Translink, is extremely interesting.
>As a community leader in the Lower Capilano area, I have knowledge that the
>B.C. Rail lands are not zoned for use as a transit depot. There has been
>no discussion, at least on a public level, on this issue.

>

>I would like to ask Mayor Sharp whether she, as well as the councillors and
>residents of North Vancouver City, would appreciate being told what will
>happen in their municipality, rather than consulted!

>

>I suggest that this announcement is very premature, and that it would only
>be appropriate if zoning and approval were in place.

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>Cathy Adams, President
>Lions Gate Neighbourhood Association
>
>(604) 987-8695