

RICHMOND HERITAGE RAILROAD SOCIETY

November 17, 2004

c/o #200-8211 Ackroyd Road
Richmond, BC
V6X 3K8

City of Richmond
The Parks & Recreation Committee of Council
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC

Dear Council Members:

**RE: PRESENTATION BY
RICHMOND HERITAGE RAILROAD SOCIETY**

May I introduce the Richmond Heritage Railroad Society (RHRS). Our Society wrote to the City Council on November 12th, 2003 to assist the City of Richmond with the vision for the design, development and operation of a heritage tram linking Steveston's many attractions.

We had stated in the letter of one year ago that we would support a public initiative or public/private partnership that would result in the completion and on-going operation of the heritage tram system.

We stated that we would find the financial contributors providing we had the support of the City and the project feasibility verified.

On November 24th, 2003, Council adopted it's support by stating to us:

1. That the formation of the community based fund raising committee for the development of tram infrastructure be encouraged, and
2. That staff prepare letters of support, on behalf of Council, for sponsorship requests and funding applications, and that the Mayor be authorized to sign such correspondence on Council's behalf.

As RHRS was encouraged by the Mayor and Council to go forward with the fund raising, RHRS was concerned that the City's preliminary estimates put the over-all cost at over \$7.5 million. Our Board, through its own preliminary analysis, believed that the cost of the rail system would be between \$4.5 million and \$5 million, which would be attractive to receive corporate contributions.

On the basis of our society's mandate to realize funds from corporate donors for the railway, the City would therefore seek to provide a suitable route in the Steveston area.

Our society now awaits your Committee's decision to provide the alignment for the future rail line.

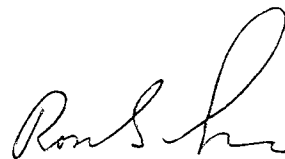
As you may know, prior to our involvement, the BC Packers redevelopment of the subject area included a tramline concept. The proposed railway rights-of-way are already owned by the City. It is not our role to argue where the tramline is to go. Our role as volunteers is to be the fund raising committee for such a rail line in the Steveston area.

In letters to the Editor of the local papers, we have previously made our case about the rail and tram concept. There has been much misinformation about the rail line and the tram. We can restate that the tram will only operate by volunteers as a tourist venue in Steveston on a pleasant weekend and holiday afternoons in the spring and summer. Any noise level would be no louder than a transit bus. It will only operate in active areas at only a fast walking pace. The electrification would be by way of a small 1/4 inch overhead trolley wire connected to a similar type of metal pole as now seen along the river walk. An option that our society could also consider is the Astoria, Oregon tram which uses a rectifier at the back of the car to avoid installing poles and trolley wire. As I walk the proposed route nearly every morning, I do not see any view obstruction that the tram or poles would create as alleged by the neighboring residents.

Our society has never proposed funding this proposal through City taxes.

We ask the City and its Committee to make its decision, based on the benefits of this heritage and tourist venue for the community of Steveston and of Richmond as a whole.

Thank you.



Richmond Heritage Railroad Society
Ron Schuss, Chair