



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** December 3, 2003
From: Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Acting Director, Transportation **File:** 6480-03-01
Re: **EAST RICHMOND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION REQUEST FOR CONNECTION
TO WILLIAMS ROAD COMMUNITY SHUTTLE SERVICE**

Staff Recommendation

That the report on potential transit connections between the East Richmond area and the planned Williams Road community shuttle service be received for information.

Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Acting Director, Transportation
(4131)

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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER

Staff Report

Origin

Further to a request made by the East Richmond Community Association at the November 25, 2003 meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee, staff were directed to:

“review the options of connecting the proposed Williams Road shuttle service to the East Richmond area and report to the Public Works and Transportation Committee.”

This report outlines relevant existing transit services and planned local transit service improvements for 2004 and suggests options to connect the East Richmond area to the Williams Road community shuttle service.

Analysis

1. Existing Transit Services in East Cambie Area

The east Cambie area is primarily served by two transit services (see Attachment 1), both of which operate through the Richmond Exchange in the City Centre:

- #405 (Cambie/No. 5 Road) – operates from Riverside Industrial Park and No. 5 Road/Steveston Highway to Marine Drive at Knight Street in Vancouver via Richmond Centre, Lansdowne Mall, Alderbridge Way, No. 4 Road, Cambie Road, Viking Way, and Bridgeport Road. Service frequency is every 30 minutes during weekdays and hourly during weekends and weekday middays (i.e., 10:00 am to 1:00 pm).
- #410 (Railway/22nd Street Station) – operates from Steveston to the 22nd Street SkyTrain Station in New Westminster via Richmond Centre, Cambie Road, No. 6 Road, Highway 91, Westminister Highway (Hamilton area), and the Queensborough Bridge. Service frequency is every 15-20 minutes Monday through Saturday and every 30 minutes on Sundays.

2. Planned Local Transit Service Improvements for 2004

As part of its expanding Community Shuttle program, TransLink is planning to introduce two new services in Richmond in 2004 (see Attachment 1) that are relevant to the request of the East Richmond Community Association:

- Williams Road Community Shuttle – the Williams Road community shuttle will connect Steveston and Riverport via Chatham Street, No. 1 Road, Moncton Street, Railway Avenue, Williams Road, Shell Road, Steveston Highway, and Entertainment Boulevard. TransLink anticipates implementing this service in September 2004.
- Crestwood Community Shuttle – the Crestwood community shuttle will improve transit service between the City Centre and the Crestwood industrial area. TransLink will develop the specific route and service design details over the course of 2004 in consultation with various stakeholders including the City of Richmond and the local community. Per the Richmond Area Transit Plan, a preliminary routing for the service is Cook Road, Garden City Road, Westminister Highway, No. 5 Road, Cambie Road, No. 6 Road, Westminister Highway, Jacombs Road, Cambie Road, and then back to the City Centre via the same route. TransLink anticipates implementing this service in December 2004.

3. Connections between East Richmond and Destinations to be Served by the Williams Road Shuttle Service

The extension of the Williams Road shuttle to the east Cambie area is not feasible at this time as TransLink lacks sufficient resources in terms of both the additional service hours and vehicles that would be required for the extended service. The budget for the project was determined in early 2003 and there are no contingency hours or surplus community shuttle vehicles available.

The Williams Road shuttle service will serve a number of destinations including Steveston Village, South Arm Community Centre/McRoberts Secondary School, Ironwood Shopping Centre, and the Riverport Entertainment Complex. All of these destinations are currently accessible by East Cambie residents via several existing bus routes.

Additionally, east Cambie residents will be able to connect to the Williams Road shuttle service via these existing routes following implementation of the shuttle service in September 2004. Implementation of the new Crestwood shuttle service in December 2004 will also improve service within east Richmond and connections between east Richmond and the Ironwood/Riverport area of Richmond. The table below outlines potential transit connections to some of the major destinations to be served by the Williams Road shuttle.

Destination	Transit Connection Options
Steveston Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #410 – operates along Cambie Road and provides a direct connection to Steveston.
South Arm Community Centre / McRoberts School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #410 or #405 – take either service from Cambie Road to the City Centre (Richmond Exchange) and transfer to the #401. • #401 – operates along Garden City Road to Williams Road.
Ironwood Shopping Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #405 – operates along Cambie Road and provides a direct connection to No. 5 Road and Steveston Highway via the City Centre. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crestwood Shuttle – take service from Cambie Road to No. 5 Road and Westminster Highway and transfer to #405. • #405 – operates along No. 5 Road to Steveston Highway. • This option provides a more direct connection as passengers avoid travel through the City Centre.
Riverport Entertainment Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #410 or #405 – take either service from Cambie Road to the City Centre (Richmond Exchange) and transfer to the #403. • #403 – operates along No. 3 Road and Steveston Highway to Riverport. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crestwood Shuttle – take service from Cambie Road to No. 5 Road and Westminster Highway and transfer to #405. • #405 – take service along No. 5 Road to Steveston Highway and transfer to the #403 or Williams Road shuttle. • #403 or Williams Road Shuttle – operates along Steveston Highway to Riverport. • This option provides a more direct connection (though an additional transfer) as passengers avoid travel through the City Centre.

4. Consultation with East Richmond Community Association

Staff spoke with the Vice-President of the East Richmond Community Association to gain further understanding of the community's desires with respect to transit service. He indicated that improved transit service within the community is a primary concern (e.g., a transit service that loops around No. 5

No. 5 Road, Bridgeport Road, No. 6 Road, Cambie Road, Jacombs Road, Westminster Highway, and No. 5 Road). The Vice-President acknowledged staff's explanation that the extension of the Williams Road shuttle is not feasible at this time and looks forward to the upcoming public consultation to refine the routing of the planned Crestwood shuttle, which could service much of the area identified by the East Richmond Community Association.

5. Future Transit Service Planning and Improvements

TransLink is in the process of finalizing its new 3-Year Plan for 2005-2007 as well as a 10-Year Transportation Outlook for 2003-2013, both of which are anticipated to be presented to the TransLink Board for approval in principle in December 2004 with final approval of the 3-Year Plan anticipated in March 2004. It is noted that significant transit improvements may not be feasible until the latter part of the 2005-2007 cycle, as TransLink does not have any existing surplus vehicles and new vehicles for service expansion likely would not be delivered until 2006.

However, staff's recent report on the 10-Year Outlook document, endorsed by Council at its November 26, 2003 meeting, included a recommendation that Area Transit Plans be regularly updated to coincide with TransLink's three-year planning cycle. Richmond's existing Area Transit Plan covers the 2000-2004 period with the identified service improvements yet to be introduced likely to be implemented over the 2005-2007 period. Thus, the next update of the Area Transit Plan is an opportunity to identify additional local transit service improvements in the east Richmond area such as enhanced north-south connections. Staff will ensure that the East Richmond Community Association is consulted at that time to identify their specific concerns with respect to local transit service in the area.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact to the City at this time. New transit services, such as the Williams Road and Crestwood community shuttles, that may require the provision of related infrastructure (e.g., bus stop landings) would be funded from the annual Transit Plan Infrastructure Programme, which is subject to Council approval. Most capital projects related to transit passenger amenities (e.g., accessible bus stop installations) and other transit infrastructure improvements (e.g., minor road works to accommodate transit operations) are eligible for 50/50 cost-sharing between the City and TransLink.

Conclusion

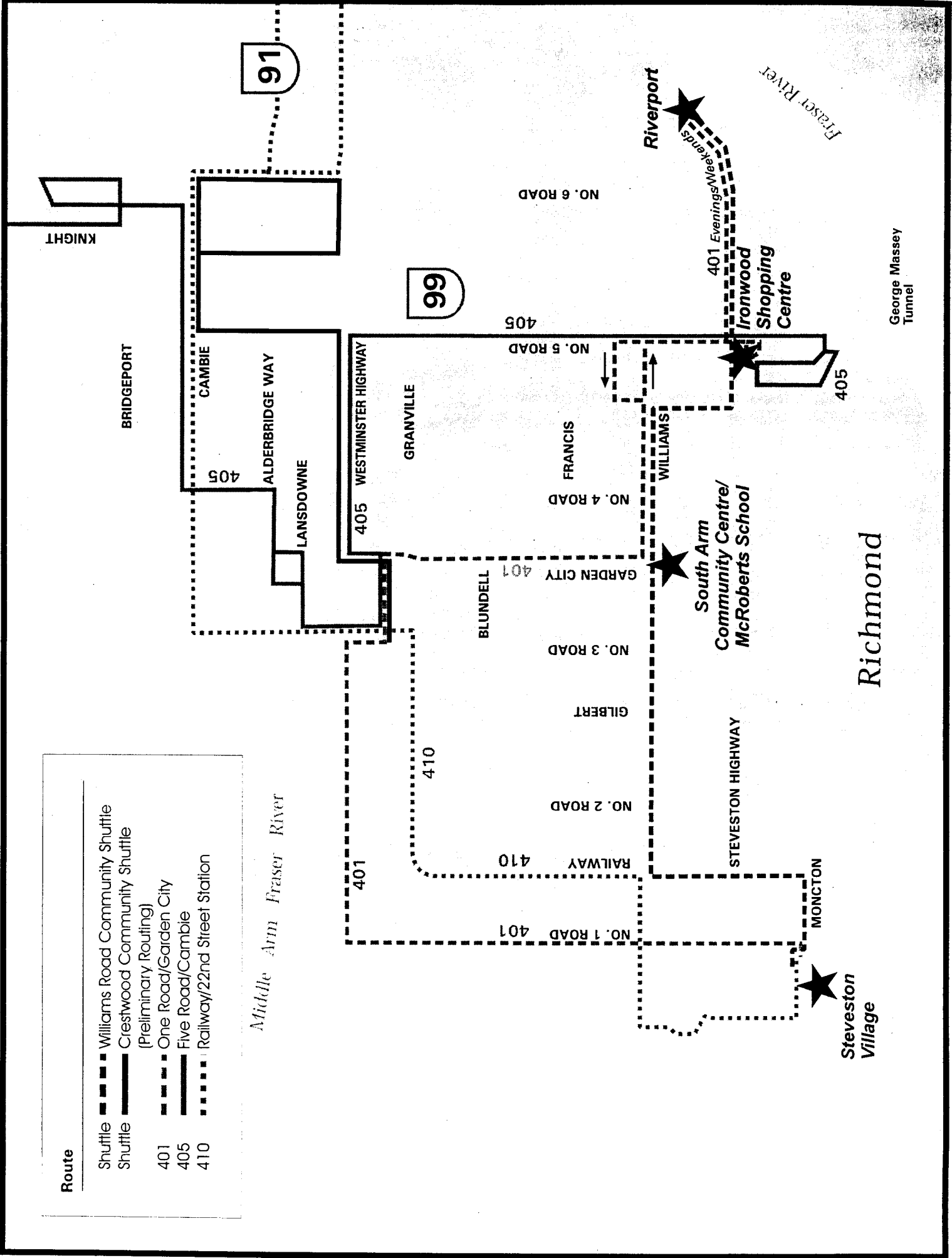
East Cambie residents can currently access all of the major destinations to be served by the planned Williams Road community shuttle via several existing bus routes. These same bus routes will also provide connections to the new shuttle service itself when it is implemented in September 2004. The new Crestwood community shuttle, planned for implementation in December 2004, will improve local transit service in the East Richmond area as well as connections to other local and regional bus routes. Finally, the future update of the Richmond Area Transit Plan will provide an opportunity for residents to identify additional transit service improvements for the East Richmond area.



Joan Caravan
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Route	
Shuttle	Williams Road Community Shuttle
Shuttle	Crestwood Community Shuttle (Preliminary Routing)
401	One Road/Garden City
405	Five Road/Cambie
410	Railway/22nd Street Station

Middle Arm Fraser River



Richmond