



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** August 30, 2019
From: Laurie Bachynski **File:** 08-4150-01/2019-Vol 01
 Director, Corporate Business Service Solutions
Re: **Proposed Richmond Food Recovery Network Program**

Staff Recommendation

That the Chief Administrative Officer and General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services be authorized to enter into a partnering agreement with FoodMesh for the delivery of the proposed Richmond Food Recovery Network Program as outlined in the staff report from the Director, Corporate Business Service Solutions dated August 30, 2019 entitled "Proposed Richmond Food Recovery Network Program".

Laurie Bachynski
 Director, Corporate Business Service Solutions
 (604-276-4335)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 <hr/>
Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Social Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental Programs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Corporate Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

FoodMesh has submitted a proposal to the City of Richmond seeking one-time funding in the amount of \$25,000 to support the expansion of their Food Recovery Network into Richmond.

By supporting the expansion of the FoodMesh Food Recovery Network into Richmond, the City can be a leader in the development of a more sustainable local business community and agrifoods sector.

This initiative supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #2 - A Sustainable and Environmentally Conscious City:

Environmentally conscious decision-making that demonstrates leadership in implementing innovative, sustainable practices and supports the City's unique biodiversity and island ecology.

2.1. Continued leadership in addressing climate change and promoting circular economic principles.

This initiative supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #7 - A Supported Economic Sector:

Facilitate diversified economic growth through innovative and sustainable policies, practices and partnerships.

7.1. Demonstrate leadership through strategic partnerships, collaborations and exploring innovative and emerging economic practices and technical advancements.

The Food Recovery Network supports the Richmond Food Charter, endorsed by Council in 2016. The Charter outlines Richmond's values and commitments concerning the production, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of food. FoodMesh's Program complements the Charter in all aspects, most notably as follows:

Economic Development

Foster a culture that values and supports farmers and farm workers

Responsible Government

Collaborate with community groups, businesses & all levels of government to ensure a food secure future

The FoodMesh Food Recovery Network also supports goals from the Metro Vancouver Regional Food Systems Action Plan. The Council-endorsed Action Plan specifically focuses on actions that local governments have committed to in the next three to five years, as well as suggested new actions to advance a sustainable and resilient regional food system. Examples of some of the goals the Food Recovery Network support are as follows:

Goal 4: Everyone has Access to Healthy, Culturally Diverse and Affordable Food

4.1. Improve access to nutritious food among vulnerable groups

4.3. Enable non-profit organizations to recover nutritious food

Goal 5: A Food System Consistent with Ecological Health

5.2. Reduce waste in the food system

5.3. Facilitate adoption of environmentally sustainable practices

Background

The development of a Richmond Food Recovery Network has been proposed by FoodMesh, which is an incorporated, for-profit social enterprise¹. Active in other communities across the province including the Fraser Valley and Kelowna, FoodMesh's Food Recovery Network is an online exchange platform for food manufacturers, processors and retailers to divert unsold food inventory to secondary markets and away from waste streams. Edible food is connected to the highest value end use which includes meals, food production inputs, feedstock and compost.

According to a recently released technical report on food waste², 58% of all food produced in Canada is never consumed. Over half of that waste (32%) is avoidable, but is discarded because it is currently easier and cheaper to discard food than to redistribute it. Meanwhile the need for accessible food is evident as the Richmond Food Bank had 3,484 users who visited over 27,000 times in 2018 while more than 100,000 people in Canada access food banks monthly.

The introduction of a Food Recovery Network in Richmond would enable local food manufacturing, processing, and retail businesses to adopt circular economy practices and add value to what would otherwise be a waste stream in their operations. Food products that are surplus or off-spec (i.e. mislabelled or deviate from a specified recipe) would be sold to other businesses or donated to local charities and social groups. FoodMesh has developed an online business-to-business exchange portal that simplifies and digitizes the redistribution of this surplus food for companies and social groups.

¹ Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada defines a social enterprise as a revenue-generating organization whose objective is to have a social impact. It does not have a specific corporate form and can include non-profit organizations, registered charities and for-profit businesses.

² The Avoidable Crisis of Food Waste: Technical Report. <https://secondharvest.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Avoidable-Crisis-of-Food-Waste-Technical-Report-January-17-2019.pdf>

Analysis

FoodMesh is successfully operating in communities across British Columbia through partnerships with municipalities, regional districts, major businesses and community organizations. Since launching in 2016, FoodMesh has diverted over 1,400,000 kg of edible food from landfills to higher value uses. The company has already established relationships with key stakeholders in Richmond including Save-On-Foods, PriceSmart, and the Richmond Food Bank. By providing one-time financial support for this initiative, the City would enable the expansion of the Food Recovery Program in Richmond through broad engagement with local food businesses and other key stakeholders. The anticipated outcomes for the Richmond Food Recovery Network over a one year period are as follows:

- Divert 225,000 kg of food from waste streams;
- Create 300,000 meals for charity;
- Generate \$1.25 million in savings to food brands and charities; and
- Provide 50,000 kg of feed to local hobby farmers.

FoodMesh Proposal

FoodMesh proposes to expand its Food Recovery Network to Richmond for a one-time cost to the City of \$25,000. This funding would be used to educate and engage the private sector to join this online food exchange portal, with the goal of diverting 225,000 kg of food from waste streams to the highest end use. By supporting this initiative, the City would be encouraging sustainable growth of the agrifoods sector while encouraging the adoption of circular economy practices, as well as achieving additional environmental and social goals. The proposed partnering agreement terms are outlined in Attachment 1.

Aside from funding, the City's involvement in the development of the Richmond Food Recovery Network would be limited to communication support and strategic input from staff. Specifically, the City would provide the following:

- a) Communications support with a joint press release
- b) Digital and Social Marketing support via City channels for community engagement
- c) Provision of a staff member from the Economic Development Department to liaise with for City events, marketing and reporting
- d) Recommendations for potential businesses/charities/farmers to participate

It is anticipated that this program will be self-sustaining after one year and no additional financial resources will be sought from the City. Table 1 includes a summary of the deliverables to be completed by FoodMesh.

Table 1: Summary of FoodMesh Program Deliverables

Communication Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Press release x 1• Webinars x 2• Community events x 2• Social media coverage (monthly)• Blog post - spotlight a Richmond business• Co-host project completion celebration (2020)• Richmond Recovery Network website
Network Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attract 30 Richmond food businesses, charities and farmers to agree to divert not dispose their surplus via the exchange platform.• Train and provide ongoing technical support for users.• Semi-dedicated account manager to ensure listings find a local home (charity or buyer)
Network Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 225,000 kg food diverted from waste streams• 300,00 meals created• \$1.25 million in savings to food brands and charities• 50,000 KG to local hobby farmers (feed savings)• Year-end sustainability report

Next Steps

Based on input from the Law and Purchasing departments, the next steps are as follows:

1. Publish a Notice of Intent to Contract

A Notice of Intent to Contract will be published on BC Bid for a duration of two weeks to provide notification that the City plans to enter into a partnering agreement with FoodMesh. This will provide the opportunity for any comparable companies to come forward with a similar proposal, though staff are not aware of any entities that could deliver the program as described.

2. Enter into a Partnering Agreement

The City would enter into a partnering agreement with FoodMesh for a one-year term in order for the company to deliver the Richmond Food Recovery Network Program on behalf of the City. Notice would be provided in accordance with Section 94 of the *Community Charter*. The key business terms that would form this agreement are found in Attachment 1.

Financial Impact

A one-time cost to the City of \$25,000 is required to implement the Richmond Food Recovery Network Program. This will be jointly funded from operating budgets of the Economic Development, Sustainability, Community Social Development, and Environmental Programs departments.

Conclusion

Staff are seeking approval to enter into a partnering agreement for a one-year term with FoodMesh in order to implement the Richmond Food Recovery Network Program. By supporting this initiative, the City would be encouraging sustainable growth of the agrifoods sector while encouraging the adoption of circular economy practices. This is a cross-departmental initiative that aligns with multiple City objectives around economic development, circular economy, food security and environmental and social sustainability.



Katie Ferland
Acting Manager, Economic Development
(604-247-4923)

KF:jt

Att. 1: Partnering Agreement Key Business Terms

FoodMesh/City Partnering Agreement Key Business Terms

Key Business Term	Details
1. Duration	Term – the agreement is for a one (1) year term with a start date of November 15, 2019.
2. FoodMesh's Role	FoodMesh shall develop a supported virtual network for Richmond food businesses, charities, farmers and waste haulers to exchange, track and measure sustainability efforts for surplus/off spec food product. This is limited to providing a technology platform and does not include transportation and other logistics.
3. Communication Package	FoodMesh shall provide to the City: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) One (1) press release b) Two (2) webinars c) Two (2) community events d) Monthly social media coverage e) One (1) blog post highlighting a Richmond business f) Co-host project completion celebration g) Richmond Recovery Network website
4. Network Results	In accordance with FoodMesh's pilot project proposal, all program targets shall be met: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Divert 225,000 KG of food from waste streams b) Create 300,000 meals c) Provide \$1.25 Million in savings to food brands and charities d) Provide 50,000 KG to local hobby farmers in feed savings e) Provide the City of Richmond with a year-end Sustainability Report
5. City Responsibilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Communications support with a joint press release b) Digital and Social Marketing support via City channels for community engagement c) Provision of a staff member from the Economic Development Department to liaise with for City events, marketing and reporting d) Recommendations for potential businesses/charities/farmers to participate
6. Compensation	The City of Richmond shall pay FoodMesh \$25,000 + applicable taxes as full payment and reimbursement for performing the services described herein the Partnering Agreement.



Special General Purposes Committee

Date: Monday, September 9, 2019

Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall

Present: Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie, Chair
Councillor Chak Au
Councillor Carol Day
Councillor Kelly Greene
Councillor Alexa Loo
Councillor Bill McNulty
Councillor Linda McPhail
Councillor Harold Steves
Councillor Michael Wolfe

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA ADDITION

It was moved and seconded
That Richmond General Hospital Acute Tower Status Update be added to the agenda as Item No. 1A.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

1. **PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION BOARD DECISIONS ON RIDE HAILING SERVICES IN THE PROVINCE**

(File Ref. No. 12-8275-02) (REDMS No. 6279337 v. 2)

Discussion ensued with regard to (i) harmonizing regulations for Transportation Network Services (TNS) vehicles with taxis, (ii) establishing accessibility requirements for TNS vehicles, and (iii) encouraging an increase of accessible vehicles in the composition of TNS vehicle fleets.

As a result of the discussion, the following **motion** was introduced:

1.

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It was moved and seconded

That the City send a letter to the Province and to the Passenger Transportation Board (PTB) to request that they address the discrepancies between taxi and Transportation Network Services (TNS) regulations, specifically as outlined in the following recommendations:

- (1) That a fleet size vehicle cap be set for TNS vehicles, except for accessible vehicles;*
- (2) That TNS vehicles and Taxis be permitted to operate across municipal boundaries;*
- (3) That TNS vehicles and Taxi rate structures should be aligned;*
- (4) That TNS vehicles and Taxis can utilize different booking structures for passenger bookings;*
- (5) That TNS vehicles and Taxis can utilize different payment structures for fare payments;*
- (6) That TNS and Taxis can display outside trade dress/vehicle identifiers as currently done, so long as company name and logo are displayed;*
- (7) That TNS vehicles have the same interior trade dress/vehicle identifier requirements as Taxis.*
- (8) That TNS vehicles and Taxis be required to share data with the Province for monitoring purposes;*
- (9) That TNS vehicles be required to install in-vehicle cameras, similar to Taxis;*
- (10) That TNS vehicles have the same accessibility requirements as Taxis, and if not possible, then have requirements as currently set out separately for Taxis and TNS vehicles;*
- (11) That Low Emission Vehicle requirements for TNS vehicles and Taxis be aligned and a per trip fee should be added to all Taxi and TNS vehicles that are not low emissions, except for accessible vehicles; and*
- (12) That TNS vehicles and Taxis have a maximum vehicle age of 10 years and 1 month, except for accessible vehicles.*

CARRIED

2. **RICHMOND GENERAL HOSPITAL ACUTE TOWER UPDATE**

(File Ref. No.)

Discussion ensued with regard to the status of the proposed Richmond General Hospital Acute Tower project.

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As a result of the discussion, the following **motion** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

That a letter be sent to the Premier and the Provincial Ministers of Health and Finance, requesting an update on the status of the Richmond General Hospital Acute Care Tower Business Plan and timeline of the Treasury Board approval.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (4:21 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Monday, September 9, 2019.

Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie
Chair

Evangel Biason
Legislative Services Coordinator