



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To Community Safety - March 11, 2008

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: March 6, 2008

From: Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation

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Re: ELECTRONIC GATES IN CANADA LINE STATIONS

Staff Recommendation

That the provincial Ministry of Transportation and TransLink be requested to expedite the installation of electronic gates in all Canada Line rapid transit stations to be operational as close as possible to the opening of the Canada Line.

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

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ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Major Projects.....		Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input type="checkbox"/>
R.C.M.P.....		Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY TAG		YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
			REVIEWED BY CAO		
			YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO

Staff Report

Origin

On January 14, 2008, the Premier and the Minister of Transportation announced the *Provincial Transit Plan*. Per the Ministry's news release, the \$14 billion plan includes "increased security measures to enhance transit safety and use" and specifically identifies the installation of electronic gates and closed-circuit cameras at rapid transit stations.

This report recommends that the Ministry of Transportation and TransLink work jointly to ensure the installation of turnstiles or electronic gates in all Canada Line stations such that they are operational as close as possible to the opening day of the Canada Line for revenue service.

Analysis

1. Provincial Transit Plan

The *Provincial Transit Plan* includes a separate section entitled "Transit Rider Security," which states that the following security investments are "being evaluated":

- installation of electronic gates and closed-circuit cameras at rapid transit stations;
- launch of a smart-card system for rapid transit and buses that users can reload at vending machines or on the Internet;
- taking action against people who do not pay fares with on-the-spot fines and other measures;
- increasing security personnel in and around rapid transit stations; and
- improving safety for bus drivers.

On January 29, 2008, the provincial Minister of Transportation spoke at a Richmond Chamber of Commerce luncheon and confirmed that Canada Line rapid transit stations would have turnstiles. However, the Plan does not specify any timing for the implementation of the security investments.

CLCO staff advise that all Canada Line stations have been designed to allow space for a future controlled access system and the associated hardware and conduit has been installed for this purpose. However, CLCO has not received direction to implement electronic gates and have confirmed that if installation was to be approved, the gates would not be operational by opening day of the Canada Line due to the time required to develop the electronic security system and procure the necessary hardware.

2. Committee/Council Support for Controlled Access to the Canada Line

At the December 7, 2005 meeting of the GVTA Board, Mayor Brodie, in his position as Chair of and Richmond's representative to the TransLink Board, indicated his support for a fully gated system for the Canada Line during the Board's consideration of a TransLink staff report on controlled access for the Canada Line system.

Furthermore, the issue of security and safety along the Richmond section of the Canada Line has been discussed a number of times at various Community Safety Committees over the past several

years and Committee members have consistently stressed the need to ensure the safety of transit users on the system.

3. Benefits of Controlled Access

Transit security measures such as turnstiles or electronic gates to control access to stations can increase passenger safety and help encourage greater transit use. The *Provincial Transit Plan* cites that the British Transport Police reported a 14% fall in crime on the railway system in South London in 1998, the year after South West Trains installed gates at Wimbledon and Clapham Junction stations.

Given that:

- the Ministry of Transportation has announced as part of their *Provincial Transit Plan* that electronic gates will be installed in all rapid transit stations;
- the City of Richmond representative to TransLink and Standing Committees of Council have indicated support for transit security measures that increase neighbourhood and passenger safety; and
- the installation of controlled access features elsewhere has resulted in a decrease of criminal activity on train systems,

staff therefore recommend that the Minister of Transportation and TransLink be requested to expedite the installation of electronic gates in all Canada Line rapid transit stations such that they are operational as close as possible to the opening of the Canada Line.

Financial Impact

None to the City at this time.

Conclusion

The early provision of turnstiles or electronic gates in all of the Canada Line stations is key to ensuring the personal safety of the users of this new rapid transit line and consistent with the long-term transit-oriented development objectives of the City and the region.



Joan Caravan
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