

Presentation to General Purposes Committee Mar 20, 2017

My name is Deirdre Whalen and I live at 13631 Blundell Road Richmond. I commend City staff on their report about the City's continuing concerns regarding the Massey Tunnel replacement project. The report shows that the environmental assessment has not satisfied Richmond's concerns and as a resident of East Richmond I can certainly agree.

It is unfortunate that the federal government has given over the responsibility for environmental assessment to the provincial government in this case. The assessment therefore does not take into adequate consideration the cumulative effects on the ecosystem surrounding the provinces' proposed high level bridge project. And of course, giving the authority to the province is letting the fox guard the hen house. The staff report has done a commendable job of detailing the problems inherent in the EA in this regard.

I would like to speak to the BCEAO Table of Conditions, specifically an issue that could affect the City's responses to #29 Traffic and Access, #10 Cumulative Effects and #12 Inter-Agency Working Group.

I'm sure we have all experienced waiting to access the tunnel along with the huge number of semis trying to get through during rush hours. I checked Deltaport's website and found the port is only open during office hours and not on weekends. For a "world-class" port I was surprised to learn it was not open 24/7. Is it any wonder that semis are crowding through the tunnel while commuters are trying to get to work or home? Semis take up the space of 4 to 5 cars each so if they were able to travel at off hours, congestion would be lessened considerably.

I understand the truckers associations would prefer travelling the roads when there are no backups to consider. If they are stuck for 10, 20 minutes well, time is money. So travelling at night, on weekends and outside of rush hours would be preferable.

In relation to the BCEAO Table of Conditions, I would ask that the City consider:

- Requesting that Deltaport be added to the Inter-Agency Working Group,
- Noting that cumulative environmental effects of semis tied up in traffic should be considered, and
- Urging through Metro Vancouver that Deltaport should open for longer hours to mitigate traffic jam effects at rush hours.

Thank you,

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