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Re: Tram Relocation and Potential Operation

Mayor and Councillors
City of Richmond

The City has proposed removing the tram from its traditional route ending at the southwest end of Steveston Park, and relocating it to the north end of Britannia Shipyard where it will not be operable, and building a \$1.3 million storage building for it.

Since relocation from Steveston Park and the tram's traditional routing is contemplated, I think a broader range of options should be considered before consigning the tram to a static future off its former route. Perhaps the tram should be considered as part of the Museum & Heritage Strategy approved in June 2007?

As one option the tram could perhaps run from the future Terra Nova facilities to the Olympic Oval, connecting heritage facilities with the City downtown. This would require 3.5 km track and railbed.

Alternatively, the tram could be relocated to the Bridgeport area near the Casino. As well as the obvious tourism benefits of proximity to the Casino and hotels, this area will become the transit nexus for Vancouver, YVR, and Richmond. This location would benefit from adjacent community policing, and it is part of the former tram route. This area has access to the rail bridge into Vancouver and the Arbutus line, and there is also the potential to add 1 Km+ of track to an existing right of way to be able to connect to the existing Shell Road rail line.

With connection to the Shell Rd track the following become accessible: Burnaby south and New Westminster, the Hamilton area 1 km away, the Fraser River north arm farm area of eastern Richmond, and the existing Night Market. The Richmond Nature Park, Shell Road Park, the #5 Rd "Highway to Heaven" would be 1 km away. The Fraser River South arm farming area, the Rice Mill Rd BC Ferry docks and model airplane park, and the Finn Slough settlement are adjacent. It is only 1 Km further to the #3 Road dock and the Twin Oaks Equestrian area. From there it would in future be 1 Km track further to London Farm and then 1.5 km more track to Britannia Shipyard.

Also, 40 years ago, in 1967 Canada created a 6 car Confederation Train that evoked great national pride as it traversed the country. With the 2010 Olympics 2.5 years away could Richmond negotiate the opportunity to append the tram to passenger trains traversing the country? It may be possible to restore the tram to operating condition, outfit it with displays of our City's fishing, farming, and transportation heritage, our high tech. and cosmopolitan downtown aspirations, and our diverse ethnic makeup. Business sponsorship should be considered. It may be possible to arrange weekend stopover visits in major cities across Canada, with weekday stops in smaller towns in between, marketing the 2010 games and the Richmond Oval, and everything else in Richmond. It may also be possible to arrange the same sort of marketing trip throughout BC and the US west prior to 2010. Richmond should be marketing heritage to exactly the sort of tourist that are vacationing by rail travel.

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