



**SPECIAL PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**

**DECEMBER 1, 2016**

A Special Meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, December 1, 2016, at 4:05 pm, in Room No. 115, Town Hall Meeting Centre, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

**PRESENT:** Tom Patch, Co-Chair  
Tasia Alexis  
Peter Brown  
Cathy Browne, Vice-Chair  
Jacques Courteau  
Mary-Jo Fetterly  
Brian Gibney  
Laura Mackenrot  
Jocelyn Maffin  
Daniel Ward

**ABSENT:** Paul Gauthier, Co-Chair (Sick Leave)  
Darcie Kerr  
Leonor Vlug

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kevin Lau, Technical Liaison, Building Policy Branch

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

The Chair acknowledged that the city of Vancouver is on the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

**1. West 10th Avenue Corridor Project**

Staff from the Transportation Planning Department provided an overview of the recommended design for the West 10th Avenue bike lane in the Health Precinct and, along with representatives of Vancouver Coastal Health, responded to questions.

In discussion, the Committee expressed concerns regarding the lack of public consultation, in particular at the Blusson Pavilion, the loss of disabled parking and reduced accessibility to buildings.

MOVED by Tom Patch  
SECONDED by Peter Brown

WHEREAS:

- A. On March 31, 2016, the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (“PDAC”) adopted a motion addressing the proposed bike lane on West 10th Avenue (the “March Motion”);

The March Motion included:

- i. That the [Transportation Plan 2040](#) mandates a hierarchy of priorities – pedestrians, bicycles, transit, and cars – and that “The hierarchy is intended to help ensure that the needs and safety of each group is sequentially considered when decisions are made” (p16); and that “A special emphasis will be placed on safety for at-risk groups (for example, children, seniors and those with mobility challenges)” (p13);
  - ii. That the medical corridor from Oak to Cambie includes a significant number of important and unique medical services including the Canadian Cancer Society, the Eye Care Centre, the Mary Pack Arthritis Centre, the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre, the BC Cancer Agency, the Centre for Hip Health and Mobility, the Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Centre, and the Emergency Entrance to Vancouver General Hospital;
  - iii. That these unique medical services are not provided elsewhere, and are heavily used by vulnerable persons who are ill, injured, elderly and/or disabled;
  - iv. The proposed bicycle lane will involve over 3,000 bicycle trips each day, and current designs do not protect vulnerable pedestrians from the significant risk of injury posed by a busy bicycle path along this heavily used medical corridor;
- B. PDAC subsequently learned of plans to remove temporary parking adjacent to the Blusson Building, which will exacerbate the impact of the loss of parking on 10th Avenue and will deter people with disabilities from accessing the medical and community services that are provided in the Blusson Building;

- C. This is in addition to the removal of 82 on-street parking spaces, which will force people with disabilities to travel longer distances to access the medical services that are provided in the medical corridor. Since many persons with disabilities are unable to travel more than a minimal distance on foot, or using wheelchairs, walkers or canes, the removal of adjacent on street parking will significantly affect their ability to access needed medical services;
- D. PDAC is also concerned about the proposed addition of 51 new trees in this corridor. The space used for planting trees could be used to increase accessible parking. Similarly, the removal of more existing trees could allow for the creation of additional accessible parking spaces which are so necessary in this corridor;
- E. The proposed staging areas permitting drivers to wait up to 30 minutes do not assist persons with disabilities, because it is unreasonable to expect that medical appointments will start on time and be completed within 30 minutes;
- F. PDAC has reviewed the final designs being proposed by City staff for the 10th Avenue bike lane and notes that:
  - i. Several intersections will not have traffic signals or all-way stop signs;
  - ii. The bicycle lane is raised to the same level as the pedestrian crossings, so there is no speed bump protection for vulnerable pedestrians to cross the bicycle lane safely;
  - iii. The proposed surface parking lot, which is intended to replace the street parking, has not been confirmed and, if built, may not be “accessible parking” because the lot is on a grade and too far from some medical facilities to be used by many people with disabilities; and
- G. PDAC continues to have concerns about safety for vulnerable pedestrians and the impact of the removal of parking spaces.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, further to the March Motion, the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee urges Council to delay approving the bike lane until the Committee’s and the public’s concerns related to safety and parking are addressed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends specifically:

1. The designs incorporate speed bumps for bicycles and traffic controls at the Willow and Laurel intersections;
2. Construction on the bike lane not proceed unless and until sufficient new parking spaces that provide real accessibility to all facilities are created to replace the lost street parking;
3. The accessible parking adjacent to the Blusson Building be retained until an alternative that is acceptable to users of the building is constructed; and
4. The City and Vancouver General Hospital conclude negotiations to resolve all issues related to the bike lanes in the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Medical corridor, including the critical shortage of parking spaces for the medical corridor, and that these negotiations always include at least two members of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **Next Meeting:**

DATE: Thursday, January 12, 2017  
TIME: 5 pm  
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room  
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 5:59 pm.

\* \* \* \* \*