



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MINUTES

DECEMBER 10, 2020

A special meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 5:36 pm, via electronic means.

PRESENT: Peter Brown, Co-Chair
Tasia Alexis
Caitlin Anderson
Alfiya Battalova
Leslie Benisz
Michelle Chakraborti
Sarah Cheung*
Michael Frazer
Paul Gauthier
Laura Mackenrot, Co-Chair
Jane Vorbrodt

ABSENT: Anita Rudolph

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Michael Wiebe, Council Liaison
Paul Storer, Director, Transportation Design
Branch, Staff Liaison
Karen Liebel, Coordinator, Accessible
Services, Vancouver Public Library Liaison

**CITY CLERK'S
OFFICE:** Kathy Bengston, Committee Clerk

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting

WELCOME

The Co-Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

Leave of Absence Requests

None.

1. Motion – Broadway Subway Extension

MOVED by Michael Frazer
SECONDED by Caitlin Anderson

WHEREAS

1. The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) has identified the need for TransLink to have available starting on opening day, universally accessible gender-neutral public washrooms and paired elevators within all stations of the Millennium Broadway Extension, as outlined in the motions passed by the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee on September 7, 2017 and January 23, 2020. This last motion was passed based upon communications received from the Province to the effect that there would be operational washrooms in all six stations;
2. These concerns were outlined in further detail in a letter from the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee to Kevin Desmond, Chief Executive Officer of TransLink dated September 8, 2020;
3. In his reply to the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, dated October 30, 2020, Mr. Desmond advised that subject to funding for operating costs, only Broadway-City Hall and Arbutus stations would have space allotted for universally accessible washrooms.

4. Further, Mr. Desmond indicated that, outside of the Broadway-City Hall station, ridership forecasts did not support a commitment to paired sets of elevators, including at the crucial future Oak-Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) station which will service several important medical agencies along the West 10 Avenue Health Precinct (e.g. Vancouver General Hospital, BC Cancer Agency, The Arthritis Society, Eye Care Centre, Blusson Spinal Cord Centre);
5. Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the rationale for excluding the other stations is not forward facing, fails to both acknowledge the needs of their whole ridership, and misses the opportunity to fulfill accessible goals put forward in TransLink's Access Transit Strategy, the current development of the Provincial Accessibility Act by the BC government and the City of Vancouver's commitment to the development of an Accessible City Strategy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) write the following letters:

- A. A letter to Mayor Kennedy Stewart, requesting that he write to the Mayors' Council, identifying, as a priority, starting on opening day, the inclusion of universally accessible gender-neutral washrooms and paired sets of elevators within all six stations of the Millennium Broadway Extension;
- B. Letters to municipal disability advisory committees throughout Metro Vancouver informing them of the current situation, PDAC's concerns; and PDAC's commitment to let stakeholders and decision makers aware of how these decisions would affect persons with disabilities; and

- C. Letters to various community groups and professional associations informing them of the current situation, PDAC's concerns, and PDAC's commitment to let stakeholders and decision makers aware of how these decisions would affect persons with disabilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Caitlin Anderson
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Sarah Cheung absent for the vote)

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, January 14, 2021
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: WebEx Online

The Committee adjourned at 6:37 pm.

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