



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Public Works and Transportation Committee **DATE:** August 23, 2001
FROM: Gordon Chan, P. Eng. **FILE:** 6500-01
 Manager, Transportation
**RE: FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON PROPOSED AIRPORT PRIORITY / HIGH
 OCCUPANCY VEHICLE (HOV) LANE ON RUSS BAKER WAY
 – RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council continue to endorse the provision of a northbound airport priority / high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane on Russ Baker Way between Hudson Avenue and the Arthur Laing Bridge on a trial basis for a period of nine months to one year for use by vehicles destined for the airport or with three occupants or more, as proposed by the Vancouver International Airport Authority (YVR), subject to the following commitments by YVR:
 - (a) That a non-permanent barrier delineation, to be reviewed by City staff before installation, is used between the general traffic lane and the proposed HPV/HOV lane; and
 - (b) That the proposed HPV/HOV lane be implemented in conjunction with but not before the completion of the Airport Connector project.
2. That staff report to the Public Works and Transportation Committee on the outcome of the trial implementation of the above proposed airport priority / HOV lane.

Gordon Chan

for Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
Manager, Transportation

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	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

At the June 11, 2001 Regular Council meeting, Council was presented with a report that outlined a proposal by the Vancouver International Airport Authority (YVR) to introduce an airport priority/high occupancy vehicle lane on Russ Baker Way. The proposal is intended to improve access from the south terminal to the main terminal of the airport, particularly during weekday peak periods. The proposed changes also include a northbound "queue jumper" at the south end of the Arthur Laing Bridge to accommodate the recently introduced #98 B-Line bus service.

This report summarizes the results of the public open house recently held by YVR on the Airport Connector Project and the above proposed airport priority / HOV lane.

ANALYSIS

1. Public Consultation Process

A public open house regarding the Airport Connector Project and the Russ Baker Way airport priority / HOV lane was held on Wednesday, August 22, 2001 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the East Concourse of the International Terminal Building at the Vancouver International Airport. YVR provided public notification of the open house by placing advertisements in the Sunday, August 19, 2001 editions of the *Richmond News* and the *Richmond Review* (Attachment 1). Invitations were also hand-delivered to all surrounding businesses and residences and notice of the open house was posted on YVR's web site.

The information session focussed on the:

- scheduled opening of the new bridge across Moray Channel;
- traffic pattern changes associated with the opening of the new bridge;
- landscape plan resulted from the new road improvements;
- road improvements for cyclists; and
- airport priority / HOV lane on Russ Baker Way.

Copies of a general plan of the Airport Connector Project and comment sheets were also given out at the open house (Attachment 2). Staff were present during the whole 5-hour duration of the open house to observe comments from the public.

2. Open House Results

Total attendance at the open house is estimated at 100 people over the entire 5-hour period. This level of attendance is similar to that of past open houses held for the Airport Connector Project. Staff believe that the relatively low turnout at the open house was partly due to the vacation season, rainy weather and its remote location (i.e., at the airport rather than a more central location within Richmond), even though YVR provided vouchers for free parking. Out of the total 67 participants who signed in, 57 were indicated as Richmond residents.

All of the questions raised at the open house related to the new opening and operation of the new bridge and the changes in traffic patterns associated with the couplet system. No concerns were raised regarding the proposed airport priority / HOV lane on Russ Baker Way and no comment sheets have been received at time of preparation of this report. Given these results, staff recommend that YVR proceed with the implementation of the proposed priority lane on a trial basis of nine months to one year. Staff and YVR will monitor the traffic impacts and report back on the performance results at the completion of the trial period.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None to the City. The proposed airport priority / HOV lane is being implemented by YVR as part of the Airport Connector Project.

CONCLUSION

No concerns were raised with respect to the proposed airport priority / HOV lane on Russ Baker Way at the August 22, 2001 public information open house held by the Vancouver International Airport Authority at the airport. The public interest at the open house centred on the changed traffic patterns associated the new bridge. Given these results, staff therefore recommend that Council continue to endorse the implementation of the priority lane on a trial basis of nine months to one year. Staff and YVR will monitor its operation and will report back on the performance results at the end of the trial period.



Joan Caravan
Transportation Planner

JC:jc

AIRPORT CONNECTOR PROJECT OPEN HOUSE

AUGUST 22, 2001

3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**International Terminal Building
East Concourse**

**Vancouver International Airport Authority invites you to attend a
public information open house regarding the
Airport Connector Project
and
Russ Baker Way Priority Lane.**

The information session will focus on the following:

- The opening of the new bridge crossing the Morey Channel
- The traffic pattern changes with the opening of the bridge
- Airport Priority Laning on Russ Baker Way

Airport Connector Project representatives will be in attendance to answer your questions relating to the project.

Parking vouchers will be provided.

The new bridge will be open to traffic ahead of schedule on
August 29, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: 604-273-3724
Email: airportcp@radiant.net**



www.yvr.ca

**Airport Connector Project
Public Open House
Comment Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime telephone # _____

August 22, 2001 – Vancouver International Airport, International Terminal, East Concourse

Comments or Questions?

When completed, please hand to one of the Project Team staff at this event, or mail/fax to:

Airport Connector Project, Vancouver International Airport
P.O. Box 23750, APO Richmond, B.C. V7B 1Y7
FAX: 276-6565 Attention: John Lenahan, Project Manager

For more information call the Airport Connector Project Information Line: 273-3724

