

Affairs Minister taking a look at Fraser Valley transit plan

Municipal Affairs Minister Jim Lorimer has promised to examine a new public transportation proposal calling for a bus-on-railway-tracks-network.

The scheme, proposed by Richmond's Ald. Harold Steeves and Dr. Ray Rodgers of White Rock, was presented to the minister at a meeting Thursday.

Ald. Steeves said Mr. Lorimer will add the suggestion to his study on public transportation now

being made by his department.

According to Ald. Steeves, the bus-on-tracks-transit-network would follow existing rail lines, making a loop through New Westminster, Surrey, Richmond and back to Vancouver.

The proposal calls for a light, rapid-transit system using silent operating equipment.

Mr. Steeves suggested the route could follow a path through the Arbutus corridor,

cross Richmond, through past Delta as far as White Rock with a return through Surrey and New Westminster to Burnaby-Kingsway and downtown.

In addition, Dr. Rodgers has proposed a spur line that would extend the service through Crescent Beach to White Rock. The line would end just short of the beaches near Duprez St.

Mr. Steeves also suggested that if the CPR and CN rail lines could be connected in Richmond a secondary loop could be constructed to service the entire municipality.

"In effect you could serve every home in Richmond within a half mile of the line," he said.

Mr. Steeves said the scheme requires the co-operation of the CPR, CN, Burlington Northern and B.C. Hydro lines. He said one stumbling block could be the crossing of the Fraser River near the Deas Tunnel.

But he noted, previous rapid transit proposals have been of a radial type, with downtown Vancouver at the centre of the spokes, and with a further assumption of heavy equipment in most cases. The Steeves-Rodgers emphasis is for a loop with light equipment.

Mr. Rodgers said a White Rock spur using existing Burlington Northern Railway lines would provide commuter service for the South Surrey region and make it possible for weekend beach trippers to come from all parts of the region.

Schedule 2 to the Minutes of the Regular meeting of Richmond City Council held on Monday, January 25, 2015.

White Rock-Vancouver rail loop to get study

Municipal Affairs Minister James Lorimer has agreed to include a rail loop service between Vancouver and White Rock in a Lower Mainland public transit study, Richmond MLA Harold Steeves said Friday.

White Rock, loop back through North Surrey to New Westminster and then through Burnaby on Kingsway back to the downtown area.

Steeves said he would like to see a sub-loop covering Richmond, where he is an alderman. Steeves said he made the proposal in a meeting this week with Lorimer in an attempt to expand the study of Lower Mainland transit beyond bus systems into use of rails.

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