

**PRESENT:** Councillor Campbell, Chairperson  
Councillor Hutchinson (arrived at 1:22 p.m., and left at 1:37 p.m.)  
Councillor Lawrence  
Sharon Greyson (BIA)  
Shelly Obrien  
Komal Shaikh  
Laura Shaw

**GUEST:** Daryl Tyacke of ETA Landscape Architects

**STAFF:** D. Bottrill, Chief Administrative Officer  
K. Cooper, Director, Planning & Development Services  
B. Ambardar, Manager of Engineering  
L. Sym, Committee & FOI Clerk

**GUESTS:** 3

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. The Chairperson thanked everyone for their comments resulting from the public meetings held in the community. Feedback has been reviewed carefully by the task force, staff and the Landscape Architect. The task force will attempt to build a plan that captures everyone's priorities.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Johnston Road Reconstruction and Beautification Task Force adopts the agenda for the October 9, 2014 meeting as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

a) July 22, 2014

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Johnston Road Reconstruction and Beautification Task Force adopts the July 22, 2014 minutes as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**4. INTRODUCTION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT**

The Chairperson introduced Daryl Tyacke of ETA Landscape Architects, who has been hired to coordinate the various priorities to be incorporated into the design of Johnston Road reconstruction and beautification.

It was noted that the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) met with the White Rock Business Improvement Association on behalf of the task force, and that the task force plans to meet with the Environmental Advisory, Arts and Cultural, and Economic Investment Committees and other community groups. The Landscape Architect noted that White Rock is a unique community with a long history and a strong sense of pride. Johnston Road, being the gateway into our community, must be planned carefully, keeping in mind the interests of the business community, residents and visitors. Mr. Tyacke will be attending future task force meetings and consultations with community groups before preparing options for review.

The CAO recommended a review of the current concept plan to determine what elements require further work. Economic development is important to retain and attract more businesses.

The Director of Planning and Development Services will be reviewing the Official Community Plan (OCP) which may include a review of Johnston Road to the south to Five Corners.

**5. INDEPENDENT ARBORIST REPORT**

Staff consulted other cities such as North Vancouver, West Vancouver and Vancouver for recommendations on arborists who would be appropriate for the Johnston Road review and three arborists were interviewed and Arbor Vitae Tree Consultants was selected. Arbor Vitae Tree Consultants has 17 years experience as arborist for the City of New Westminster, followed by the last 8 years as an independent consultant familiar with trees in an urban setting.

Staff distributed a report from Arbor Vitae Tree Consultants. Out of the 32 existing trees, it was suggested that 15 trees may be retained subject to further detailed inspection. In terms of tree replacement it was noted that the new centre median is proposed to add additional trees. It was noted that replacement of trees was not part of the scope of this work, and staff will work with the landscape architect to produce a vegetation plan for the new road.

**6. TRAFFIC SAFETY REPORT**

There were two traffic studies done on Johnston Road in the past, in 2001 by ICBC & ND Lea Consultants, and in 2012 by the MMM Group. Both reports recommended removing the mid-block crosswalk and left turn lane into Central Plaza, however they did not specifically measure pedestrian and vehicle traffic at the crosswalk. The City hired Transafe Consulting, a traffic safety specialist in regard to aging populations, to review the Johnston Road proposed changes and conduct field investigation to support the proposed road concept. It was noted that six intersection accidents is considered "normal", with Johnston and North Bluff Avenue intersection and immediate surrounding averaging forty accidents per year. Transafe took pedestrian and vehicle traffic counts during a Sunday afternoon and Monday evening rush hour.

The report notes that there are a number of trip and fall accidents or near misses on Johnston Road due to the sidewalk heaving from tree roots, and the mid-block crosswalk is aging, with fading lines. Two driveways comprise the entrance to Central Plaza off of Johnston Road providing conflict with the crosswalk and vehicles. The sidewalk is full of mixed planters and posts and random fixed hazards including sight obstructions. Vehicles stopping for the traffic light commonly stop on the crosswalk impeding pedestrians crossing. Many cyclists also ride on the sidewalk instead of the roadway, and shadows from larger trees and buildings close to crosswalks affect the depth perception of an aging population.

At the southbound bus stop on Johnston Road there can be up to three buses arriving simultaneously blocking the intersection and crosswalk.

The traffic safety study recommended:

- the closure of the crosswalk and left turn lane into Central Plaza;
- moving the bus stop two properties further south on Johnston Road north of the relocated crosswalk for safety;
- improving the crosswalk with pedestrian controlled overhead flashing lights. Some parking on the west side of the street should be retained to reduce speed, and up to four parking spots will be added closer to the Kentucky Fried Chicken site.

The sidewalk will be widened as much as possible; 1.8 metres is typically required to accommodate wheelchairs and other walking aids. Fixed objects will be relocated to eliminate hazards.

Once the report is finalized, the recommendations will be shared with community groups to continue to finalize a plan for this area.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the buses can go through Central Plaza, and staff noted that buses were unable to route through the Centre for Active Living due to lack of space to maneuver.

One of the task force members advised that a poll of 35 business owners was done, and 34 of them were not in favour of moving the crosswalk, bus stop and left turn lane into Central Plaza. They favoured the retention of trees, ambience and sidewalk repair only, with no change to the median.

The representative from the White Rock BIA emphasized the importance of economic vibrancy on Johnston Road.

Staff advised that they will forward the traffic report to the task force.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting will be at the call of the Chairperson to review the report from the landscape architect.

**8. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**

The chairperson declared the meeting concluded at 2:20 p.m.



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Councillor Campbell, Chairperson

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L. Sym, Committee and FOI Clerk