

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
GEORGE MASSEY CROSSING TASK FORCE**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) George Massey Crossing Task Force held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 in the 28th Floor Board Room, 4730 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair, Board Chair Sav Dhaliwal, Metro Vancouver Board
Chief Ken Baird, Tsawwassen
Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Richmond
Mayor Jonathan Coté, TransLink Mayors Council on Regional Transportation
Mayor Jack Froese, Langley Township
Mayor George Harvie, Delta
Mayor Val van den Broek, Langley City
Mayor Darryl Walker, White Rock

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mayor Doug McCallum, Surrey
Mayor Kennedy Stewart, Vancouver

STAFF PRESENT:

Heather McNell, Acting General Manager, Planning and Environment
Janis Knaupp, Legislative Services Coordinator, Board and Information Services

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 October 2, 2019 Regular Meeting Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the George Massey Crossing Task Force:

- a) amend the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for October 2, 2019 by adding Item 3.1 Roderick Louis; and
- b) adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 July 24, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the George Massey Crossing Task Force adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held July 24, 2019 as circulated.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1 Roderick Louis

Roderick Louis spoke to Item 5.1 of the agenda and expressed concerns about the Province of BC's request for Metro Vancouver to recommend an option to replace the George Massey Tunnel without presenting costs and details regarding life expectancy.

The delegation requested the Task Force receive the staff report for information and:

- request the Ministry of Transportation provide cost estimates for retaining and disposing of the existing tunnel and short-listed options, and engineering and consultant reports to support the short-listed options; and
- send a letter to the Minister of Transportation requesting a physical inspection of the existing tunnel be conducted, by an objective arms-length engineering firm, to assess the expected life expectancy of the existing tunnel.

On-table executive summary and presentation material are retained with the October 2, 2019 agenda.

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Lina Halwani, Director Planning, Major Project Director, George Massey Crossing, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and Pam Ryan, Engagement Advisor, George Massey Crossing Project, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Lina Halwani, Pam Ryan, and Joost Meyboom informed members about results of the technical evaluation of the short-listed options regarding the George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project highlighting milestones, stakeholder consultation and considerations, technology and alignment with project goals for each of the six short-listed options.

In response to questions, the project team informed members about:

- higher operating and maintenance costs associated with an immersed tube or tunnel option compared to a bridge option
- efforts to examine the lifespan of the existing tunnel and upgrade costs
- no consideration being given to HOV use in transit designated lanes to date
- traffic pattern modeling associated with short-listed options
- benchmarking efforts to date to project costs for short-listed options
- impacts and considerations associated with each short-listed option

Members discussed various impacts associated with bridge and tunnel options and emphasized the need for rapid transit improvements and consideration of transportation needs of the entire corridor to address broader transportation issues.

Presentation material titled “George Massey Crossing Project Phase 2: Crossing Options” is retained with the October 2, 2019 agenda.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 George Massey Crossing Project – Results of Technical Evaluation on the Six Short Listed Options

Report dated September 24, 2019 from Heather McNell, Director of Regional Planning and Electoral Area Services, providing an update on the Province’s George Massey Crossing Project technical evaluation on the short listed options for the George Massey Crossing.

Members discussed:

- the process for recommending a preferred option to the Province for consideration of public consultation
- risks and costs with the existing tunnel and deep-bored tunnel option
- benefits of and preference for an immersed-tube tunnel option and the need for a detailed cost-impact analysis of this option
- development of efficient rapid transit along the Hwy 99 corridor
- securing a long-term provincial commitment for dedicated transit lanes

Main Motion

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the MVRD Board:

- a) receive for information the report titled “George Massey Crossing Project – Results of Technical Evaluation on the Six Short Listed Options” dated September 24, 2019; and
- b) based on the Province’s technical analysis, endorse a new eight-lane immersed-tube tunnel with multi-use pathway as the preferred option for the George Massey Crossing for the purposes of public engagement.

Members discussed the need for transit improvements throughout the entire corridor.

Amendment to Main Motion

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the George Massey Crossing Task Force amend the Main Motion, at the end of the motion, by adding the following:

- “c) request the Province to develop further plans to improve the transit corridor, along the entire Highway 99 corridor, to improve transit speed, reliability and capacity.”

CARRIED

Concern was expressed about negative impacts from a tunnel option on the Fraser River and Salish Sea.

Question on the Main Motion as Amended

Question was called on the Main Motion as amended and it was

CARRIED

The Main Motion as amended now reads as follows:

That the MVRD Board:

- a) receive for information the report titled “George Massey Crossing Project – Results of Technical Evaluation on the Six Short Listed Options” dated September 24, 2019;*
- b) based on the Province’s technical analysis, endorse a new eight-lane immersed-tube tunnel with multi-use pathway as the preferred option for the George Massey Crossing for the purposes of public engagement; and*
- c) request the Province to develop further plans to improve the transit corridor, along the entire Highway 99 corridor, to improve transit speed, reliability and capacity.*

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

No items presented.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

No items presented.

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS

No items presented.

9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

No items presented.

10. ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the George Massey Crossing Task Force conclude its regular meeting of October 2, 2019.

CARRIED

(Time: 2:28 p.m.)

Janis Knaupp,
Legislative Services Coordinator

Sav Dhaliwal, Chair