



MOTION ON NOTICE

Multimodal Parking and Revenue Generation at New Smithe and Richards Park Site

MOVER: Commissioner Shum

SECONDER: Commissioner Wiebe

WHEREAS:

1. The 2007-2021 Downtown South Public Benefits Strategy set a target to acquire and develop the 0.8-acre site at Smithe and Richards as a park to help meet the needs of a growing population in the area, and the City of Vancouver purchased the site in 1997;
2. The site is currently used as a Park Board surface pay parking facility, operated by EasyPark, with a number of dedicated car-sharing parking spaces, and will continue to be used in this way until park construction begins;
3. Car share programs such as Car2Go, Modo, Evo, and ZipCar are becoming increasingly popular transportation options in Vancouver, particularly in the downtown core, and these programs require convenient areas in which to park cars;
4. Electric vehicles are becoming more common, increasing the need for parking spaces with electric charging infrastructure;
5. Pursuant to a motion passed by Vancouver City Council in June 2015, the Engineering Department is currently exploring the addition of new, secure bicycle parking spaces in the downtown area as well as co-location opportunities and options for partnerships that could be pursued by the City of Vancouver;
6. The Vancouver Park Board is holding a second open-house on Thursday, October 22, 2015, to discuss design options for the new park site at Smithe and Richards, with three design options being presented based on input from the first Park Board open-house held on June 27, 2015;
7. Based on the preference expressed at the Thursday, October 22, 2015, open-house, a preferred design concept will be prepared and shared with the community at a third event in early 2016;
8. Off-street surface parking spaces for vehicles are becoming rarer in the City of Vancouver as current sites become sought after for development.



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT staff report back to the Vancouver Park Board on the potential to accommodate multimodal underground parking for bicycles, car-share and other vehicles at the Smithe and Richards park site, including capital costs and potential impacts that could be associated with constructing and operating a bicycle and vehicle parking facility beneath the park, as well as the potential to generate revenue for the Park Board; and
- B. FURTHER THAT staff report on possible funding arrangements and partnerships that might be available to the Park Board to construct and operate a multimodal underground parking facility at the Smithe and Richards park site, including options that would require no capital expenditures by the Park Board or the City of Vancouver.