



Corporate Report

NO: R165

COUNCIL DATE: JULY 9, 2007

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **July 5, 2007**
FROM: **General Manager, Engineering** FILE: **1707-053**
SUBJECT: **84 Avenue Extension: King George Highway to 140 Street
Report on Public Input - Open House # 1**

INTENT

The Engineering Department recommends that Council:

1. receive this report for information; and
2. direct staff to hold in abeyance further work on the 84th Avenue extension project pending completion of a review of potential options for the intersection of 88 Avenue and King George Highway in accordance with Council's resolution R07-1623.

BACKGROUND

On Tuesday May 29, 2007, the Engineering Department held the first open house for the 84 Avenue extension project.

Two hundred and forty-two (242) individuals registered their attendance at the open house. Guests were invited to submit feedback forms at the open house or afterwards by email, facsimile or mail. A total of two hundred and forty-three (243) feedback forms have been received to date.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK RECEIVED

One of the main items on the feedback form questioned the respondent's support of the project. Two hundred and twenty-eight (228) respondents answered the question as follows:

- 88% did **not** support the extension of 84 Avenue;
- 10% supported the extension of 84 Avenue; and
- 2% were undecided.

One hundred and eighty-seven (187) respondents indicated their address on the feedback forms. A plan indicating the survey respondents by address is attached to this report. Generally, the majority of respondents indicated an address that was in close proximity to, or in many instances on, 84 Avenue on either side of the project.

The results of this feedback contrast to random public opinion polls taken in 2000 that yielded the following general results:

- 67% of the respondents indicated unqualified support for the project;
- 13% of the respondents indicated support for the project, provided that there are no major environmental impacts; and
- 20% of the respondents did not support the project.

KEY CONCERNS

The following table indicates the top five concerns listed by survey respondents:

Issues	Key Concerns	Number of Responses
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- park ecosystem (trees, streams, etc.)- wildlife- park integrity- park user enjoyment	139
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- pedestrian and cyclist safety- school children movements- speed of vehicles- accidents	82
Project Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- project rationale- design elements- consultation process- validity of studies	74
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- congestion- volume- impacts on surrounding road network- heavy trucks	62
Neighbourhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- reduced quality of life- increased criminal activities	44

Open house feedback clearly indicates that survey respondents are concerned about the impact the proposed extension of 84 Avenue may have on the environment. An environmental study program would be needed to properly examine this issue and develop appropriate mitigation strategies.

Safety concerns are also prominent on the list. Consequently, a safety review of key intersections and areas of concern would also need to be carried out and appropriate mitigation measures developed.

A number of complaints have also been received about the project process, and specifically, the lack of sufficient advance notice of the initial public meeting. Newspaper advertisements of the open house were placed in the "NOW" newspaper on four (4) dates beginning on May 18, and continuing up to May 29, the day of the open house. Letters were also sent to approximately 2,500 residents (those with property abutting 84 Avenue and 88 Avenue directly between 128 Street and Fraser Highway). Unfortunately, the letters arrived at some homes only three (3) days in advance of the open house. Engineering has incurred criticism for this and acknowledges that the letters could have been issued sooner. In relation to any future opportunities for the public input, staff will provide written notice more in advance of future open houses.

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK

In addition to the formal feedback forms, the City has received a number of pieces of individual correspondence regarding the 84 Avenue extension project as follows:

- a petition against the 84 Avenue extension containing one hundred and eighty-nine (189) names (25 gave addresses outside of Surrey);
- nine (9) email messages;
- two (2) letters addressed to the Mayor; and
- one (1) comment returned on an original information letter.

With the exception of one (1), all of the other project feedback indicated a clear opposition to the extension of 84 Avenue between King George Highway and 140 Street.

REVIEW OF OPTIONS NECESSARY

Given the relatively high level of public concern that is being voiced with respect to the proposed 84th Avenue extension, staff recommend that further action on the 84th Avenue extension be held in abeyance pending the completion of an overall review, in accordance Council's resolution No. 07-1623 which is as follows:

“That Council request staff to review the 88 Avenue and King George Highway intersection relative to the Detroit place making model and the effect that would have on the need for the east/west connector at 84 Avenue.”

To this end staff will be engaging the Projects for Public Spaces organization (Fred Kent) in respect to the design options for the intersection in relation to place-making. Once the review of options for that intersection has been completed a further report will be forwarded to Council for consideration.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion it is recommended that Council direct staff to hold in abeyance further work on the 84th Avenue extension project pending completion of a review of potential options for the intersection of 88 Avenue and King George Highway in accordance with Council's resolution R07-1623.

Paul Ham, P.Eng
General Manager, Engineering

LD/rdd/mpr/rdd/ar

c:\users\hd5\appdata\local\microsoft\windows\temporary internet files\low\content.ie5\kni7bxu8\1062585e65684cbdafbbb4c2fe212e5a-07040857ld[1].doc
M 7/15/10 4:08 PM