



COUNCIL DATE: October 30, 2008

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	October 17, 2008
FROM:	General Manager, Engineering	FILE: XC:	5460-30 0410-20 (MOT)

SUBJECT: Destination Guide Signs and Tourism Signs on Provincial Highways

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council about directional and tourism-related signs on Provincial Highways within Surrey and actions being taken by staff to address the shortcomings in such signage with a view to improving the guidance offered to motorists on these Highways with respect to destinations within Surrey.

BACKGROUND

During its June 18, 2008 Regular meeting, Council raised concerns regarding the lack of Destination Guide signs and Tourism Area signs for motorists traveling through South Surrey on Highway 99. The poor condition of some of the existing signs along Provincial Highways within Surrey was also noted. Council requested that staff review the matter and provide information back to Council.

DISCUSSION

In follow-up to Council's direction, staff undertook a survey of existing guide and tourism signs along Provincial highways in Surrey. A photo inventory compiled during this survey is contained in Appendix I to this report. The survey confirmed a lack of Destination Guide and Tourism Area signs along Highway 99, Highway 91, Highway 10 and Highway 15 for locations/destinations within Surrey. The existing Destination Guide signs on Highways in Surrey place more emphasis on areas outside Surrey such as White Rock and to names of intersecting streets than to regional destinations and attractions located within the City.

Following the receipt of this report by Council, a letter will be sent to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to highlight the City's concerns, requesting that Destination Guide and Tourism signs on Provincial Highways in Surrey be reviewed. The new signs should improve the guidance given to motorists on Provincial Highways to regional centers and other significant areas of interest within Surrey. As an example, it is noted that White Rock and Crescent Beach are in close proximity to one another with the same need for Guide/Tourism signage; however, currently almost all of the Destination signage along Highway 99 makes reference to White Rock with there being only one reference to Crescent Beach on a highway sign even though Crescent Beach is a recognized popular destination for visitors. It is also noted that Surrey is such a geographically large municipality, there is a need for Highway signage to refer to specific areas/communities within the City such as South Surrey, Newton, Cloverdale, etc.

The staff survey also revealed that some of the existing signs along Provincial Highways are in poor condition and need replacement. This will also be raised at the meeting with the Ministry. Two such signs that require replacement are shown in photographs 19 and 20 of Appendix I attached to this report.

CONCLUSION

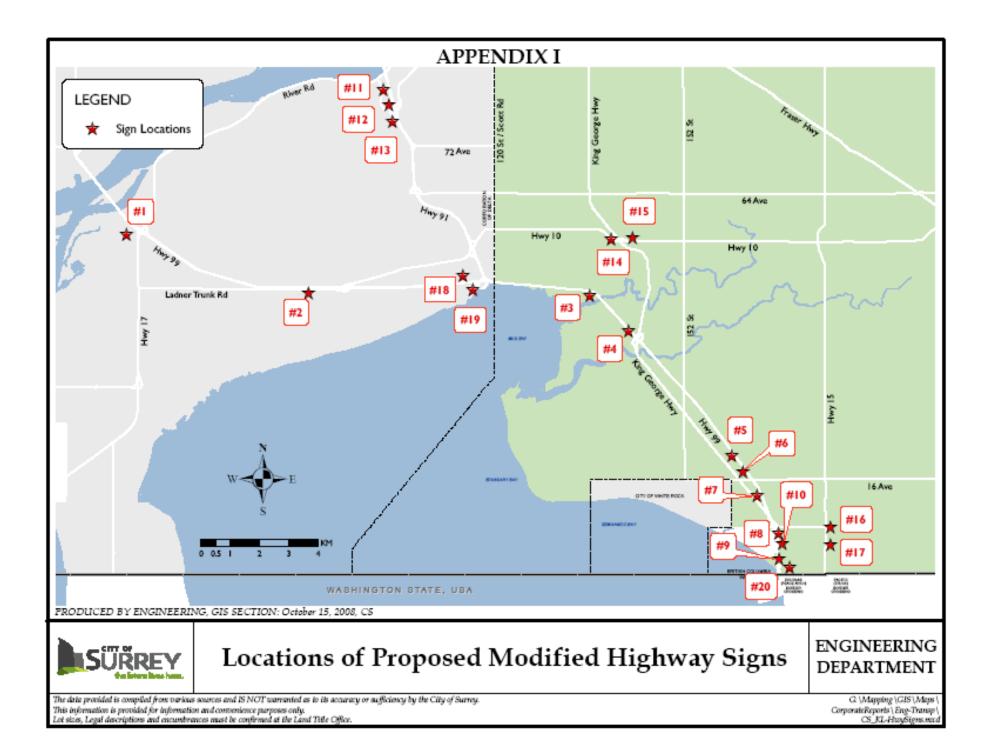
Staff will be meeting with officials of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to address the need for a change in and additions to the signage along Provincial Highways in and in the vicinity of Surrey with a view to providing better direction to motorists to significant communities and points of interest in the City.

Vincent Lalonde, P.Eng. General Manager, Engineering

JB/SP/KL/brb

Appendix I – Photo Inventory of Highway Signage

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APPENDIX I: SIGNS TO BE MODIFIED OR ADDED





SIGN 10. Hwy 99 Northbound at 2 Ave Add "South Surrey"

SIGN 11. Hwy 91 Southbound at Nordel Way Add to left sign: "Surrey City Centre"

SIGN 12. Hwy 91 Southbound at Nordel Way Add "Surrey City Centre"





SIGN 19. Hwy 99 Southbound at the Delta Border. Replace Sign.

SIGN 20. Hwy 99 Northbound at Peace Arch. Replace Sign.