

NO: R221

COUNCIL DATE: November 30, 2009

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **November 27, 2009**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering**

PROJECT FILE: **1709-901**

SUBJECT: **20 Avenue Corridor and Overpass of Highway 99**

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council:

1. Adopt an amendment to Map No. R91 as contained in the Subdivision and Development By-law No. 8830 such that the 20 Avenue corridor between King George Highway and 164 Street is designated as an “arterial road” and shows an overpass at the 20 Avenue crossing of Highway 99; and
2. Stipulate an ultimate road allowance width of 30m for the section of 20 Avenue as referenced in 1. to accommodate needed surface and underground works, which will include among other things, a multi-use pathway.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to:

- inform Council of the results of the public consultation that has been completed in relation to the installation of an overpass of 20 Avenue across Highway 99 (Hwy. 99); and
- obtain Council approval for 20 Avenue to cross Highway 99 by means of an overpass and to be designated as an arterial road between King George Boulevard and 164 Street and for the protection of an appropriate width of road allowance for this section of 20 Avenue.

BACKGROUND

Surrey is expected to experience rapid growth over the decades to come at an average rate of about 10,000 per year. In the next 30 years, it is projected that the population of South Surrey will increase by 60% from 74,000 to 120,000, with much of the growth occurring in the Grandview Heights community to the east of Highway 99. This growth will naturally bring with it new transportation demands throughout the South Surrey area. Traffic modelling indicates that Hwy. 99 will increasingly become an east/west barrier for travel between the Semiahmoo Peninsula and Grandview Heights. Currently 8 Avenue, 16 Avenue, 24 Avenue and 32 Avenue cross Highway 99.

More specifically, the traffic modelling has shown that by 2031:

- AM and PM peak hour traffic volume on each of 16 Avenue and 24 Avenue will more than double; and
- Total daily traffic volumes at these crossings of Highway 99 will increase from the current total daily volume of about 20,000 vehicles to over 50,000 vehicles.

Studies have demonstrated that the widening of the existing crossings at 16 and 24 Avenues to 6-lanes will not be sufficient to satisfy this increased demand.

DISCUSSION

Based on development projections and consequential mobility and community connectivity needs, it has been determined that a 20 Avenue crossing of Hwy. 99 is critical to provide the additional capacity that is needed to support growth in the South Surrey area. A plan view and renderings of the 20 Avenue overpass are attached as Appendix I.

Based on development projections, it is expected that the 20 Avenue overpass should be constructed in around the 10 year horizon. On this basis, it is important that this new crossing be identified in City transportation plans as the basis for protecting a sufficient width of road allowance as development of the area continues.

Given the criticality of the 20 Avenue crossing of Highway 99 to support the transportation needs of the South Surrey area, the Engineering Department initiated a public consultation process related to the 20 Avenue overpass at Hwy. 99 with a view to better understanding any concerns that the local community may have. The consultation process included:

- The mailing out of 7000 notification letters to local South Surrey residents/businesses with each letter containing a survey/comment sheet that could be filled out and returned to the City;
- Advertisements in the local newspapers (The Now and Peace Arch News);
- The holding of a Public Open House on September 29, 2009 at Earl Marriot Secondary School at which information was displayed (See Appendix I) staff made a presentation and were available to respond to questions;
- The establishment of a dedicated City information webpage through which interested individuals had the opportunity to fill in and return an on-line comment sheet/survey; and
- Responding to inquiries that were received from interested individuals by mail, telephone, e-mails and fax.

Public Feedback

In total, the City received 622 completed survey/comment sheets. This represented 8.9% of the 7000 addresses to which letters were originally sent. Responses were analyzed and grouped into three categories, being 'Support' (for the overpass), 'Neutral' and 'Opposing'.

The level of support for the overpass of 20 Avenue at Highway 99 as tabulated from the comment sheets that were returned is documented in the following table:

	On-line Survey	Open House, Letter/Fax Responses	Total
Support	70%	44%	57%
Neutral	3%	5%	4%
Opposed	26%	51%	39%
Total	100%	100%	100%

In aggregate, approximately 57% of the respondents support the proposed overpass while 39% oppose it.

Community Concerns

The open house and feedback forms provided an opportunity for individuals to communicate concerns and thoughts about the proposed overpass. The comments, which all related to the lands and development to the west of Hwy. 99, are summarized below:

- The increased traffic along 20 Avenue will impact the liveability of residents living adjacent to 20 Avenue;
- Increased traffic will compromise pedestrian safety;
- The widening of 16 Avenue and 24 Avenue and the installation of freeway ramps at these locations should be undertaken prior to constructing the 20 Avenue overpass;
- The existing difficulty in accessing development off 20 Avenue to the west of Highway 99 will become worse;
- There will be direct impacts to properties adjacent to 20 Avenue; and
- There will be a negative effect on the value of properties.

Potential Options to Mitigate Concerns

The above listed concerns can be addressed or mitigated through the following actions:

- With respect to nuisance concerns: landscaping and fencing treatments and sidewalk/pathway enhancements can be installed;
- Property access concerns can be addressed through the provision of a 2-way left turn lane along sections of 20 Avenue;
- Consideration will be given to widening 16 Avenue and 24 Avenue and constructing new freeway ramps prior to the installation of the 20 Avenue overpass; and
- The overpass approaches would be staged with the first stage being 2 lane approaches, which would act to meter traffic more evenly between the various South Surrey crossings of Highway 99.

Other Investigations

The public open house also provided local residents with an opportunity to discuss existing transportation challenges in the area with Engineering transportation staff. The Engineering Department is investigating with a view to resolving the following local issues that were raised by residents through the 20 Avenue overpass public consultation process:

- Speeding on Cranley Drive and 160 Street;
- The need for improved traffic control at the intersection of 20 Avenue/156 Street;
- Concerns with the safety and operation of the intersection of 160 Street and King George Boulevard; and
- The need for a northbound left turn opportunity from King George Boulevard to 20 Avenue.

Further Public Consultation

As noted previously in this report, it is expected that the 20 Avenue overpass will need to be constructed in about 10 years time. During the detailed design process that will occur prior to its construction, staff will undertake further public consultation with the community with a view to addressing the concerns that have been identified by the community.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

As the City grows and higher density urban communities are developed the City has a responsibility to provide residents with mobility and viable alternatives to the use of private vehicles, which is consistent with the City's Sustainability Charter.

The 20 Avenue overpass will allow for reduced trip lengths and improved transit service in South Surrey and will promote walking and cycling. The region will benefit from reduced GHG emissions due to the reduced trip lengths and reduced congestion/emissions at the existing 16 Avenue and 24 Avenue crossings of Highway 99.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- Adopt an amendment to Map No. R91 as contained in the Subdivision and Development By-law No. 8830 such that the 20 Avenue corridor between King George Highway and 164 Street is designated as an “arterial road” and shows an overpass at the 20 Avenue crossing of Highway 99; and
- Stipulate an ultimate road allowance width of 30m for the section of 20 Avenue as referenced in 1. to accommodate needed surface and underground works, which will include among other things, a multi-use pathway.

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JB/MD/brb/jkb

Appendix I - Open House Exhibits

Open House Exhibits

Location Plan



Overpass Renderings

