

**LOWER MAINLAND TREATY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

May 25, 2005

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the **Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC) Executive Committee** scheduled 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25, 2005, in the 2nd Floor Café East Boardroom, GVRD Offices, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C.

ATTENDANCE:		
JURISDICTION:	LMTAC ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE:	LMTAC STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:
Greater Vancouver RD	Mayor Ralph Drew (Chair)	Marino Piombini
Maple Ridge, District of	Councillor Candace Gordon (Vice Chair) (arrived 4:29 p.m.)	
Bowen Island, Municipality of	Mayor Lisa Barrett	
Squamish, District of	Councillor Corinne Lonsdale	
Squamish Lillooet RD	Director John Turner	
Sunshine Coast RD	Director Barry Janyk	
Surrey, City of	Councillor Penny Priddy (arrived 4:27 p.m.)	
West Vancouver, District of	Councillor Jean Ferguson	
GUEST:		
Bob Paddon	Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority (TransLink)	
LMTAC STAFF ATTENDANCE:		
Kirstie Pirie	LMTAC Manager	
Regan Schlecker	Aboriginal Affairs Analyst	
PREPARATION OF MINUTES:		
Carrie Peacock	Recording Secretary, Raincoast Ventures	

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Drew confirmed a quorum was in attendance and called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Attendees participated in a round of introductions, for the benefit of the guest in attendance.

1. AGENDA FOR ADOPTION

1.1 May 25, 2005

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the LMTAC Executive Committee scheduled May 25, 2005, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

No items were presented.

3. DELEGATION

- a) *On-table document titled "Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Parking Tax Bylaw No. ____, 2005, A Bylaw Respecting Parking Tax", labeled "Draft – For Internal Discussion Purposes";*
- b) *On-table memorandum from the RAAC Property Tax Sub-Committee, regarding "Proposed TransLink Property Tax on Parking Areas", dated February 23, 2005;*
- c) *On-table memorandum from the Municipal Advisory Group on Parking Area/Stall Tax regarding "Report on Phase I of the Municipal Advisory Group's Work – Parking Tax Exemptions and Measurement of Parking Area", dated January 2005;*

- d) *On-table memorandum to the GVTA Board of Directors regarding "Parking Tax Bylaw", dated May 12, 2005; and*
- e) *On-table TransLink brochures titled "Parking Tax – The Facts" and "Parking Tax – Questions and Answers".*

Bob Paddon, Vice President, Corporate and Public Affairs, Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority (TransLink), provided background information relative to the parking tax and its implementation. Comments were offered regarding revenues required to finance an expansion plan which TransLink would be implementing for the road and transit system over the next three years. He added that increased transit fares, increased property taxes, and the new parking tax would support the 2005-2007 transportation improvements. A lengthy consultation process regarding the parking tax, which included the participation of various representatives of the business sector, was referenced.

4:27 p.m.

Councillor Priddy arrived at the meeting.

It was noted that a decision was made that the tax would be implemented in a manner whereby consideration would be given to those currently exempt from property taxes (i.e. municipalities, universities, churches, provincial and federally owned lands, and First Nations lands). Mr. Paddon added that to take advantage of the exclusions, lands needed to be owned and occupied by the exempted party. It was noted that any business that currently had parking areas and paid property taxes, would be required to pay the parking tax.

4:29 p.m.

Vice-Chair Gordon arrived at the meeting.

The meeting was advised that following an assessment process, applicable property owners would be informed if their land would be taxed, based on a rate which would be determined by the end of the year. He added that a bylaw had been developed, which included a process for the tax's implementation, and further suggested that a maximum rate of approximately \$1 per square metre was anticipated. Mr. Paddon acknowledged the intended implementation of the tax on January 1, 2006, for which payment would be due by the end of the first quarter of 2006.

Chair Drew acknowledged his understanding that businesses on the north side of the Park Royal Shopping Centre would be required to pay the parking tax, while businesses on the south side of the shopping centre (situated on First Nations land) would not be required to pay the parking tax.

Mr. Paddon acknowledged that the assessment process would confirm a property's exemption to the tax, and referenced intentions to contact exempt property owners to pursue discussions relative to grants in lieu. He added that although municipal properties were exempt, further consideration was required relative to the City of Vancouver' parking lot company (Easy Park).

Chair Drew suggested GVTA contact First Nations and other exempt commercial property owners in the region regarding the inequities created by the exemption, and also supported an exemption from the parking tax, for municipal and school properties.

In response to members' suggestions, Mr. Paddon noted that there were difficulties with imposing parking taxes on all parking areas despite their ownership, due to existing provincial exemptions. He further acknowledged discussions held in consideration of a differential rate (based on accessibility to transportation) noting that implementation of such an approach, would be extremely difficult. Mr. Paddon added that provincial or regional parks would likely be exempt from the parking tax, and acknowledged anticipated discussions with B.C. Ferries relative to the applicability of the parking tax for their parking areas.

Members suggested that some developers could dedicate a significant portion of their future parking lots to tax exempt parties, in order to avoid the parking tax, and could also look to First Nations lands for future development for the same reason.

Chair Drew recognized a need for a level playing field within the region relative to parking taxes, and encouraged GVTA to consider that all stakeholders in the region shared responsibilities relative to transportation projects. Members acknowledged that First Nations should be on a level playing field with the rest of the region.

It was noted that exempt property owners would likely attract development if they were exempt from the parking tax, and that developers would soon recognize that it would be advantageous to develop on First Nations land and such development could have unintended consequences for the GVRD's Sustainable Regional Initiative. Chair Drew suggested that if GVTA's attempts to engage First Nations in discussions were unsuccessful, representations to the provincial and federal governments should be considered to address the inequities which could potentially skew development within the region. The need to address First Nations' integration into the GVTA and GVRD was acknowledged.

Vice-Chair Gordon added that treaty settlement lands would no longer be under federal jurisdiction. It was noted that many non-Aboriginal residents lived on reserve, and did not contribute to regional taxes. Mr. Paddon acknowledged that significant consideration had not yet been given to residential properties that were not paying property taxes.

A member clarified that the south side of the Park Royal Shopping Centre did not pay property taxes or GST, and would likely be exempt from parking taxes. Anticipated political repercussions from constituents when they realized (through the parking tax process) which parties had been exempt from paying taxes, were acknowledged. The GVTA's prompt pursuit of discussions with the Squamish First Nation was suggested.

Mr. Paddon thanked participants for their comments, and agreed to report back to the committee after the summer, to provide an update regarding the GVTA's progress.

Request for Action

The LMTAC Chair to a draft letter for review by the Executive Committee, addressed to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to send thanks for presentations at the May 11, 2005 LMTAC Information Session and acknowledge LMTAC's concerns identified at the session.

4. REPORTS

No reports were received.

5. STANDING REPORTS

5.1 Negotiation Table Reports

5.1a) Katzie

No items were presented.

5.1b) Musqueam

No items were presented.

5.1c) Squamish

No items were presented.

5.1d) Tsawwassen

No items were presented.

- 5.1e) **Tsleil-Waututh**
No items were presented.
- 5.1f) **Other**
No items were presented.
- 5.2 **Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG)**
No items were presented.
6. **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- 6.1 **Finance and Administration Sub-Committee (FASC)**
No items were presented.
7. **CHAIR AND STAFF REPORTS**
- 7.1 **Chair's Report**
No items were presented.
- 7.2 **Staff's Report**
No items were presented.
8. **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS**
- 8.1 **UBCM**
No items were presented.
- 8.2 **FCM**
No items were presented.
- 8.3 **LMMA**
No items were presented.
9. **OTHER BUSINESS**
No items were presented.
10. **INFORMATION**
No items were presented.
11. **NEXT MEETING**
As indicated on the Agenda, the next meeting of the LMTAC Executive Committee was scheduled June 1, 2005.
12. **CONCLUSION**
It was MOVED and SECONDED
THAT the Regular Meeting of the LMTAC Executive Committee held May 25, 2005 be concluded.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Time: 5:12 p.m.)