TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1991 July 03
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING INSPECTION Our File: 08.230.2
SUBJECT: PROPOSED SKYTRAIN EXTENSION TO LOUGHEED TOWN CENTRE VIA BC HYDRO RIGHT-OF-WAY THROUGH ROBERT BURNABY PARK

PURPOSE: To address enquiries from the East Burnaby Ratepayers' Association to Council regarding the proposed use of the BC Hydro right-of-way through Robert Burnaby Park for an extension of SkyTrain to Lougheed Town Centre.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. H. Elder, East Burnaby Ratepayers' Association.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

At the regular Council Meeting held on 1991 May 27, Council received a presentation from the East Burnaby Ratepayers' Association requesting that the Provincial Government halt consideration of a SkyTrain extension until after the forthcoming Provincial election.

Arising from the discussion the delegation expressed concern that BC Transit had indicated an ability to use the B.C. Hydro right-of-way which traverses Robert Burnaby Park for the proposed SkyTrain extension.

Arising from these concerns Council adopted the following resolution:

"THAT Municipal staff prepare a report in response to the concerns of the delegation relative to the use by BC Transit of the B.C. Hydro right-of-way which traverses Robert Burnaby Park for the proposed SkyTrain extension."

This report is written in response to this direction of Council.

2.0 SKYTRAIN ROUTE OPTION

As shown in Figure 1, a route option currently being considered for a SkyTrain extension to Lougheed Town Centre in the Edmonds/Cariboo corridor involves a route via Griffiths and a B.C. Hydro power transmission corridor paralleling Imperial Street through Robert Burnaby Park. The line would then continue east over Highway 1 to the Stormont Interchange and via Government Road to Lougheed Town Centre. Use of the B.C. Hydro right-of-way for rapid transit would involve a SkyTrain alignment through parkland approved for dedication in the 1990 November referendum.
3.0 CURRENT STATUS OF ROBERT BURNABY PARK

3.1 Parks Dedication

Robert Burnaby Park was included in the Parks Dedication Bylaw Referendum which was approved by a large majority of the electorate in 1990 November. The dedication is intended to ensure that the Park will be preserved by the Municipality in perpetuity for park purposes only.

3.2 B.C. Hydro Right-of-Way

A B.C. Hydro transmission line as shown on the right-of-way in Figure 2 attached currently extends above ground from Canada Way adjacent to Lakeview School east through Robert Burnaby Park across Highway 1 and runs parallel to Highway 1 on the south side. The section of right-of-way for this transmission line between Canada Way and Robert Burnaby Park at Lakefield Drive is owned by B.C. Hydro. With regard to the section of the transmission line through the Park, B.C. Hydro and Power Authority holds a registered right-of-way (Plan 10855). This right-of-way is restricted to the transmission of power and a telephone line. In this respect the right-of-way agreement does not give B.C. Hydro the authority to use the right-of-way for the purpose of rail transportation, including a SkyTrain extension.

3.3 BC Transit Use of the Right-of-Way

As the current right-of-way agreement does not include the use of the B.C. Hydro right-of-way for rail transportation purposes, BC Transit, under the terms of the agreement, could not use the right-of-way for a SkyTrain extension.

Development of the B.C. Hydro right-of-way as a rapid transit corridor would therefore require that BC Transit obtain a right-of-way from the Municipality.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The B.C. Hydro right-of-way through Robert Burnaby Park is one of the route options being considered by BC Transit for an extension of SkyTrain in the Cariboo/Edmonds corridor. The terms of the current right-of-way agreement between the Municipality and B.C. Hydro do not include use of the right-of-way for rail transportation purposes. Use of the B.C. Hydro power transmission corridor through Robert Burnaby Park would therefore require that BC Transit acquire a right-of-way from the Municipality for rail transportation purposes.

A.L. Parr
DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING INSPECTION

RG/mm
Attach:

cc: Municipal Solicitor
Director Recreation & Cultural Services