

Malls give Burnaby more ammunition for Lougheed Hwy. SkyTrain route

By Guido Marziali
Staff Reporter

The owners of Brentwood Mall and Lougheed Mall want to convince the public that \$550-900 million is a small price to pay for the Lougheed corridor SkyTrain extension.

The stakes are huge for Brentwood Mall, which stands to boom if SkyTrain is extended to Lougheed Mall along Lougheed Hwy. instead of bending south through New West and southeastern Burnaby. Trileia Centres,

which owns both Lougheed Mall and Brentwood Mall, is making a big pitch for the Lougheed route, and Monday sent senior vice-president George Stewart to Burnaby council armed with a massive report called Let's Do It Right.

Prepared by six consulting groups, the report admits that the Lougheed route would be far more expensive than the Cariboo or Brunette options. However, Trileia and its consultants argue that the capital cost would be more than offset by increased ridership, time savings to commuters, development potential along Lougheed Hwy., jobs created,

and lessened impact on the environment.

BC Transit cost estimates come in at \$563 million for the Lougheed route compared to just under \$300 million for either of the Cariboo or Brunette links from New Westminster to Lougheed Mall.

Unofficial estimates for the Lougheed route have ranged as high as \$900 million as uncertainty persists over whether Vancouver would insist on underground tracks from Commercial Dr. to Boundary Rd.

BC Transit is skeptical about the ridership potential of the Lougheed route, especially the report's claim that 18.6 million riders per

year would travel in the Lougheed corridor, almost double than would use the other routes.

Burnaby council didn't need much convincing.

Figures aside, Burnaby favors the Lougheed route. "We believe the Lougheed corridor in all respects to be the best position for Burnaby," Ald. Doug Drummond said in thanking Stewart for the extra ammunition Monday.

Council will request a three-way meeting between Premier Mike Harcourt, Burnaby council and Trileia Centres.

On bikes

Two-wheeled officers hit streets in April

Starting in April, the good guys in Burnaby will ride mountain bikes.

Burnaby RCMP is following the lead of Vancouver police and other departments in starting a bicycle patrol.

An enthusiastic report to council by superintendent Bruce Beaudreau lists the advantages of the bicycle patrol as speed, maneuverability and stealth.

"The bikes can move between vehicles, on grid locked city streets or down city sidewalks safely, in a way that patrol cars can not and cover 17 times the area of foot patrols," Beaudreau writes. "The bikes can jump over curbs, climb and descend stairs, be ridden through malls, vacant lots and tight hidden drug locations all at a steady speed.

"There is no engine noise to alert suspects, no sounds of approaching foot-steps, no audible warnings of the bikes approaching at all."

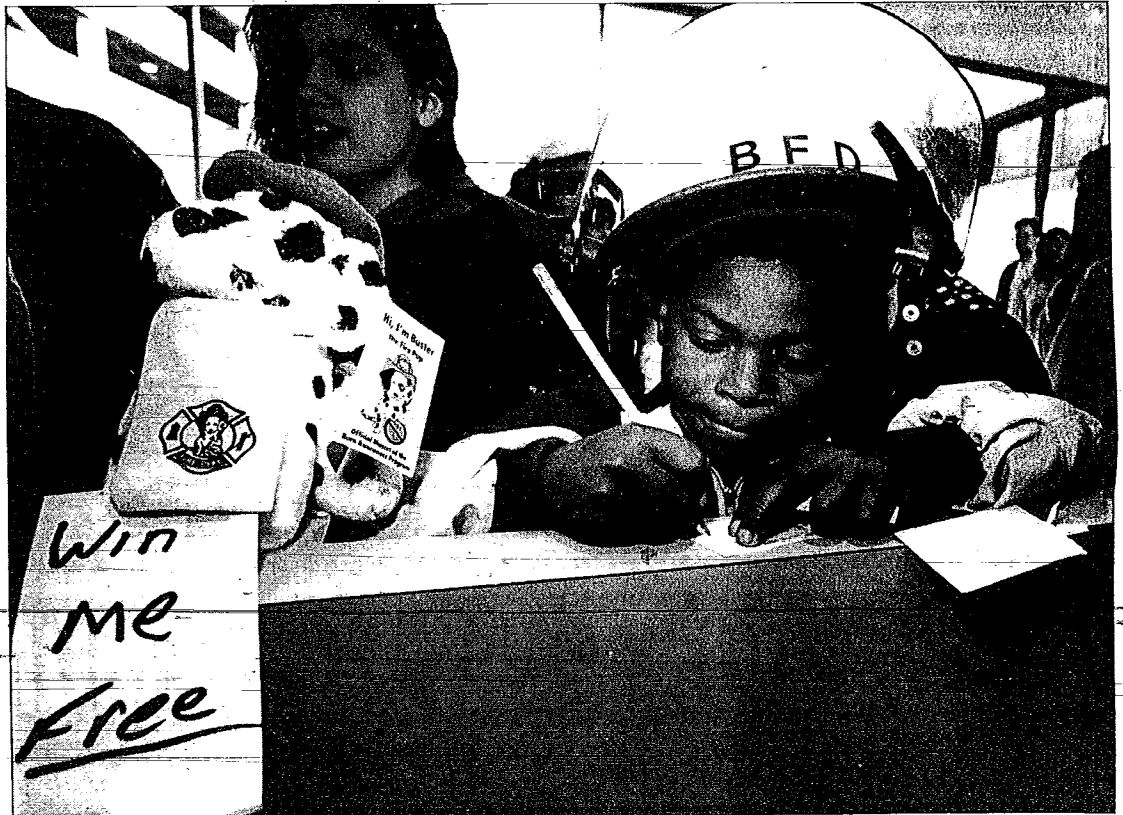
"My goodness, it sounds like a mad chase," laughed Ald. Doreen Lawson. "It's very innovative that the RCMP should introduce bicycles, because it's not very macho when you think of the RCMP."

According to Beaudreau, the program has met with "phenomenal success" wherever it has been implemented.

The 16 members sharing six bikes will mainly patrol the area around Imperial St.

"The business community on Imperial St. is very enthusiastic about this," said Ald. Doug Evans, who lives in the crime-infested area.

The first patrol will wheel out of the RCMP precinct on April Fools' Day, hoping to fool a few criminals.



Jeffrey Ayivon hopes to get lucky after filling out a Firebuster entry form at Metrotown Centre Saturday. The draw is part of a Burnaby Fire Department effort to raise \$80,000 to build a fire safety house. Firefighters are also selling pins in the fundraising effort this month. To help, call Jim Dixon (420-3215) or Gary Robinson (434-1712).

News photo by Marcus Oleniuk

IN BRIEF

Confederation Centre staying open

The protests of hundreds of seniors have persuaded the Parks and Recreation Department to retreat from its plan to close Confederation Centre on Sundays.

Confederation Centre Association president Ray Ribchester collected 690 signatures for a letter to Mayor Bill Copeland and Parks and Recreation Commission chair Dan Johnston.

"In the past five or six years, our members have raised and invested in this Centre approximately \$300,000 which we have pointed out is anything but a common occurrence," Ribchester wrote. "The \$3,500 saving [from closing on Sundays] seems insignificant by comparison."

"I believe one reason centres such as ours were built in the first place was to help maintain both physical and mental health for we seniors at as low a cost as possible and we believe they do this and very likely prevent a much greater cost later in life."

Though Parks and Recreation has rescinded the Sunday closure, it still plans to raise memberships and fees Feb. 19.

Octogenarians get one scooter back

One of two scooters stolen from an 80-year-old couple in New West last week has been returned to its rightful owner.

Two 1992 'Ranger' Scooters were stolen from the underground parking lot on Eight St. overnight Friday or Saturday morning. Police said a chain that was used to secure the two scooters was cut.

Monday morning, however, Burnaby RCMP dropped off one of the scooters they recovered to the New West police department and

Reformer Manning visits

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overflow crowd of 500, mostly Caucasian, mostly middle-aged and senior. He drew a lot of nods of agreement and a couple of laughs, but no standing ovations or shows of wild enthusiasm and only one round of applause.

It isn't easy to cheer for the Reform Party's triple platform of smaller, more efficient government, parliamentary overhaul and constitutional reform. Taxes would be lower, he promised, but so would social spending and consequently, the safety-net programs of unemployment insurance, welfare, medicare. Money for the poor would be targeted to "those who need it most," and universality would be scrapped because government can't cover "100 percent of the bills for 100 percent of the people, 100 percent of the time."

It's a bitter pill to swallow, he

social services program to the detriment of large numbers of people."

The Reform Party's opposition to official bilingualism grew out of the same pragmatic approach to governing, Manning said, explaining that defining Canada as an equal partnership between two equal "races, languages and cultures" turns into second-class citizens those 12 million Canadians who are neither of French nor English descent.

Such a definition gives "a house divided against itself," Manning argued, and only when Canada becomes a federation of equal provinces will these and other problems disappear.

Despite speaking of a new Canada which is fair to all "races, languages and cultures," Manning is dogged by critics who call him racist and

