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Mall unhappy with SkyTrain

By Steve Braverman
 BURNABY NOW REPORTER

Another obstacle has been placed on the tracks of the provincial government's SkyTrain extension project.

The owners of the Lougheed Mall will protest the SkyTrain planning process by refusing to sell the province a piece of land it needs for the proposed station near the east Burnaby shopping centre.

But a spokesperson for the Rapid Transit Project 2000 office says the province would simply expropriate the land if it comes to that stage.

Rick Armour, vice-president of Western Canada for 20 VIC Management Inc., the management company of the mall, says the land will be withheld mainly because of the RTPO's choice for station location near the shopping centre.

"We don't agree with the planning and a combination of various additions to the site such as SkyTrain guideway construction and bus loop relocation," Armour said. "A combination of these things means we can't use the site. They're denigrating our site."

The land in question is a triangular piece of property at the corner of Austin Road and Lougheed Highway near Sears now being used for parking.

The RTPO chose this site for a SkyTrain station against the wishes of Lougheed Mall as well as the cities

PLEASE SEE **LAND DEAL** ON PAGE 13

RETAIL NEWS



BRANDI LASANER of Burnaby was the winner of Charlie's Chocolate Factory \$125.00 Chocolate Santa draw.

Brandi is a Grade 12 student at Cariboo Hill Secondary who is planning to go to Vancouver Community College to specialize in Hotel Administration.

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Mayor offers to delay Lake City SkyTrain stop

By Steve Braverman
BURNABY NOW REPORTER

A group of concerned parents is saying "no way" to a SkyTrain station at Lake City Way.

In response to their complaints, Burnaby mayor Doug Drummond said he'd consider putting off the opening of a station at Lake City Way until 2005 if the provincial government brings SkyTrain directly into Lougheed Mall.

The way it stands now, a SkyTrain station will be built near Lougheed Mall at the corner of Austin Road and Lougheed Highway as well as Lake City Way.

Sonia Rosa, whose two children attend Seaforth elementary, opposes the Lake City Way station because it's within 500 meters of the school.

"We have an open field behind our school with a park area, and we feel that this attracts, of course, drug dealers," Rosa said. "There is no precedent for an elementary school next to SkyTrain."

She also says the students will be negatively affected by the noise of trains starting and stopping all day long.

Rosa and other parents are now petitioning the neighbourhood to delete the proposed station. The petition will be submitted to city council, which supports the Lake City Way station.

Drummond, Burnaby's representative on the TransLink board, said he'd look at constructing just the base for a SkyTrain station at Lake City Way on the condition

that the current Lougheed Mall station location is reconsidered.

"I'm totally upset with the planning of SkyTrain in Burnaby," Drummond said. "I would consider not building the station at this time if the province rights a wrong with the location of a station at Lougheed Mall. Anybody you talk to in the city will say it's a monstrous mistake to not locate SkyTrain in the mall."

The Rapid Transit Project 2000 office, the arm of the provincial government for the SkyTrain extension project, penciled in Lake City Way as the site of a future station in the original plan.

But the city of Burnaby pushed for a station to be built in the first phase of construction and received \$14 million funding for it from TransLink, the regional authority on transportation.

Drummond maintains a SkyTrain stop is eventually needed at Lake City Way where many new businesses including high tech companies are setting up shop.

"A station there... will reduce the number of cars going to Lake City Way. That area is going through a metamorphosis," he said.

As for the crime, Drummond pointed out that the city of Burnaby has undertaken a number of anti-crime initiatives including participation in a multi-jurisdictional police task force.

He says the province is also looking to install turnstiles in SkyTrain stations as well as establish a new police force exclusively for SkyTrain.

Expropriation could resolve dispute

LAND DEAL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

of Burnaby and Coquitlam. They prefer the station on the east side of the shopping centre closer to the building.

But a deal for the east-side station fell through when the owners of Lougheed Mall refused to contribute an additional

\$20 million demanded by the RTPO. As a result, the RTPO decided to go with a station at Austin and Lougheed, roughly a two minute walk away from a door to the mall.

Off-shore investors in Asia own a small piece of the property and the RTPO doesn't anticipate much trouble acquiring it. But a bulk of the prop-

erty is possessed by the Ontario Pension Board, the owner of Lougheed Mall, and it plans to make things difficult for the RTPO.

Paul Skelhorne, a communications officer for the RTPO, says the province will use its authority to expropriate the required land if that's the case.

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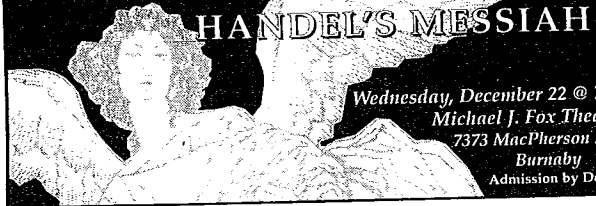
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