

CARD #14

MUNICIPAL COMMITMENTS

- Oct 2014 – City WR initial study into process RR
- Oct 2015 – City Surrey directive Alignment Study
- Jan 2016 – City Surrey study into Economics RR
- 2016 – both Cities budget for Alignment Study

DETAIL SCRIPT FOR #14

MUNICIPAL COMMITMENTS

October 2014 – The City of White Rock tabled an initial study into the relocation of the BNSF rail line away from the current waterfront location. This study was prepared by Mary-Jane Bennett, lawyer and transportation consultant/journalist. For her background, see comments in the Index line of this website under 'About'. The report has a strong emphasis on SAFETY and the ultimate application to the TSB under the Rail Relocation and Crossing Act. For the report, see Ref #1.

October 2015 – The City of Surrey Council authorized staff to initiate discussions with the City of White Rock and the Province of BC to develop a cost-sharing agreement for the technical study and consultation work required to identify a single preferred rail relocation alignment [alignment study] and to report back before proceeding. For the report, see Ref #3.

January 2016 – The City of Surrey tabled a report by Mary-Jane Bennett, lawyer and transportation consultant/journalist. While the report touched on some prior reporting, its main focus was on ECONOMIC issues/opportunities and partner cost-sharing; For the report, see Ref #4.

May 2016 – The City of White Rock tabled a major report by then Mayor Wayne Baldwin, sent to Transportation Ministries of BC [Todd Stone] and Federal [Marc Garneau] plus 18 other stakeholders. The report has a strong emphasis on SAFETY. The key phrase important for all to remember is “We are absolutely convinced that this not a question of if a disaster will occur but a question of when it will occur”. For the report, see Ref #5.

During 2016 – The City of White Rock budgeted \$75,000 for the alignment study and the City of Surrey budgeted \$225,000 for the alignment study.

November 2019 – we recently met with both mayors in a private setting, and both remain enthusiastic about pursuing this initiative in both the short to medium term perspectives.

January 2020 – we will meet again as agreed by all.