



REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject: Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization Initiative

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From: Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

Date: January 28, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT City Council decline the request from the Surrey Board of Trade to participate in the Fraser River Revitalization Project Working Group at this time; and
2. THAT City Council decline the request from the Surrey Board of Trade to contribute financially toward the Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization project budget.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to report back to City Council on the request from the Surrey Board of Trade to participate in the Fraser River Revitalization Project Working Group as well as contribute funding toward the project budget.

POLICY:

Not applicable.

COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

At the Regular Meeting of Council on January 25, 2021, the Surrey Board of Trade presented the proposed Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization Initiative ("Initiative").

The Initiative is intended to be a "large-scale revitalization strategy in partnership with municipalities, senior governments, industry, business community, and key decision-makers to achieve a new standard of economic vitality and livability" with the intent of attracting, recruiting and retaining workforce talent, creating a vibrant innovation

district hub, and supporting the development of new social, community and cultural destinations along the Fraser River waterfront.

The Initiative intends to develop collaboration and alignment for economic growth and recovery by developing partnerships with First Nations, private sector, tourism, education, healthcare, industry, municipal and regional governments with the goal to bring municipalities, real estate development, and industry together to create an overall vision and create alignment on a Fraser River Revitalization Strategy to successfully advance this initiative for economic growth and recovery. The intended deliverables include:

- Vision for Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization
- Established Working Group
- Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization Strategy
- Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization Roadmap

The Surrey Board of Trade noted that there are a number of supporters involved to date, including the cities of Surrey, New Westminister, Maple Ridge, the Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce, the Surrey Board of Trade, and Fraser Surrey Docks.

The Initiative will start in February 2021, and seeks to be completed by July 2021. The Surrey Board of Trade is requesting the City to consider the following:

1. Representation in the Working Group.
2. Funding contribution towards the project budget to deliver the Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization Strategy and Roadmap which is in the range of \$250,000 - \$300,000.

As the municipal boundary of the City does not border the Fraser River, the City has not developed a vision and policy along the Fraser River. However, the City, as a member of Metro Vancouver, participates on different committees and working groups to develop various strategies and programs that provide a vision and policy for the region, including along the Fraser River (see Attachment 2 for further details):

- *Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future (Metro 2040)*
- Regional Industrial Lands Strategy, Regional Industrial Lands Inventory, and supportive research
- Regional Parks Plan, Acquisition Strategy and Regional Greenways Plan
- Regional Prosperity Service

It is recognized that any initiative along the Fraser River corridor will have both a regional and local impact. While the goals of the Initiative are supportable, it is preferable for the City to participate in this type of initiative through Metro

Vancouver's various committees and working groups so that we are in alignment with the region's vision and policy along the Fraser River. The City continues to focus on implementing the recommendations from the Nexus of Community Plan and we are at the final stage of developing a new Official Community Plan, Zoning Bylaw and the Nicomekl River District Neighbourhood Plan in advance of the anticipated arrival of the SkyTrain; therefore, the City will be concentrating on implementing the community building strategies and policies from these plans. It is, therefore, recommended that the request from the Surrey Board of Trade to participate in the Fraser River Revitalization Project Working Group be declined at this time.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The Surrey Board of Trade is requesting a funding contribution toward the project budget to deliver the Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization Strategy and Roadmap, which is in the range of \$250,000 - \$300,000. There is no allocation in the City's 2021 Financial Plan for this type of initiative. As noted earlier, it is preferable for the City to participate in this type of initiative through Metro Vancouver's various committees and working groups so that we are in alignment with the regional vision and policy along the Fraser River. Therefore, it is recommended that the request from the Surrey Board of Trade to contribute financially toward the Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization project budget be declined.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That Council supports staff participation on the Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization Initiative and make a financial contribution toward the project.
2. That Council supports staff participation on the Fraser River Waterfront Revitalization Initiative but decline the request to financially contribute toward the project.

Respectfully Submitted,



Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

1. Surrey Board of Trade – Economic Recovery Through Fraser River Revitalization Initiative
2. Metro Vancouver’s Regional Strategies and Programs along the Fraser River