To: Mayor and Council

From: Corporate Services Department

Date: February 1, 2018

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
Issues Update

The following recommendations have been endorsed by the City Manager.

- **RECOMMENDATION:**

  THAT a letter be sent to Vancouver Fraser Port Authority to reiterate Delta’s concerns regarding the Deltaport Truck Staging Facility, particularly with respect to the mitigation of visual impacts and proper servicing of the facility.

- **PURPOSE:**

  The purpose of this report is to provide an update on various Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) projects and initiatives in Delta.

- **BACKGROUND:**

  Staff meets regularly with VFPA to discuss a variety of port-related issues that impact Delta. Regularly scheduled meetings include the Port Community Liaison Committee and the Delta-VFPA Staff Liaison Committee.

- **DISCUSSION:**

  **Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project**
  The Review Panel for the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 (RBT2) Project is still reviewing the Environmental Impact Statement and has issued information requests to numerous government agencies and organizations, including 10 to VFPA. The most recent information request was issued on December 19, 2017 and contains 28 items that require responses from the port. Once the Review Panel is satisfied that there is sufficient information available, panel hearings will be scheduled.

  **Westshore Terminals Shoreline Protection Repairs**
  Westshore Terminals is proposing to repair shoreline protection along the east and south side of the terminal. This requires re-installation of rip rap in areas where it has been displaced due to wave action and is no longer at its original design height. Rip rap is essential for the protection of marine infrastructure and to protect slopes from erosion. The installation work is anticipated
to take up to five days to complete and will be completed before the end of February 2018. The works are anticipated to have minimal impacts to the community, and will take place during normal working hours, with flexibility to work on Sundays or holidays to accommodate vessel traffic. The project permit was issued by VFPA in November 2017.

**ECHO Program Vessel Slowdown Trial**
The Enhancing Cetacean Habitat and Observation (ECHO) Program is a VFPA-led initiative aimed at better understanding and managing the impact of shipping activities on at-risk whales throughout the southern coast of British Columbia. The ECHO Program’s Vessel Slowdown Trial concluded on October 6, 2017. The overall average vessel participation rate was 60 per cent. The data is currently being assessed and the full results of the trial will be available in early 2018.

**Tsawwassen Container Examination Facility (TCEF)**
Construction of the main warehouse at the TCEF is substantially complete. Construction of the Canadian Border Services Agency imaging facility next to this is anticipated to start in May 2018.

**Deltaport Truck Staging Facility**
The earthworks and preload works were completed at the end of December 2017. Construction work is expected to begin during Spring 2018 and be completed by mid-2019. There are two ongoing issues:

- **Water supply:** the original project proposal included a water main connection to service fire hydrants and washrooms at the facility. However, due to budgetary constraints, this part of the project has been de-scoped and water is no longer being provided at the facility. This means that the permanent washroom facility originally proposed will be replaced with portable toilets, and there will be no fire hydrants at the site (the initial plan included 4 hydrants). Staff was only recently informed of this change.

  Following a site meeting, Delta Fire and Emergency Services confirmed that, although it would be preferable to have fire hydrants from an emergency response perspective, they are not critical provided that emergency vehicles have 24/7 access to the site.

- **Visual mitigation:** although the truck facility is located in a transportation corridor (the intersection of Highway 17 and Deltaport Way), the surrounding landscape is predominantly flat, agricultural land and Delta has voiced concerns regarding the visual impacts of the 10 acre asphalted parking area.

  VFPA has provided some computer-generated visualizations which show how the facility could look from different perspectives; however, the visualizations were not adequate to determine where specific mitigation measures would be required. There have been a number of meetings with VFPA and Ministry of Transportation staff to discuss landscaping options; however, no formal plan of action has been agreed upon to date.
This is a long-term facility which will accommodate up to 140 parked trucks and a Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement facility. From the outset, the expectation was that the facility would be properly serviced and landscaped to soften the visual effect. Staff is recommending that a letter be sent to VFPA reiterating Delta's concerns about the visual impacts of the facility and expressing concern about the lack of water supply and proposal to use portable toilets at the facility.

**Deltaport Shore Power**

Construction is on schedule for completion in late spring/early summer: civil infrastructure work is 90% complete, and the installation of high voltage shore connection cables is complete. VFPA will make a formal announcement once the project is complete.

**Local Channel Dredging**

Recent channel surveys show significant sediment accumulation at the entrances to many of the local channels around Ladner. Staff are in discussion with VFPA and the Ladner Sediment Group to determine how to proceed. This will be the subject of a separate report to Council in the next few weeks.

**Emergency Access - Closure of Elevator Road**

Staff has been in discussion with VFPA regarding the issue of emergency access to Fraser Surrey Docks and surrounding industrial areas. This has been a long-standing issue of concern since the opening of Highway 17 in 2013 which closed access to Elevator Road, requiring emergency vehicles to use the Tannery Road interchange to access the Alaska Way and Gunderson Slough industrial areas. As a result, emergency response times to this area have increased significantly. A meeting is being scheduled to take steps to resolve this issue.

Invitations have been sent to VFPA, MoTI, City of Surrey, BNSF, Fraser Surrey Docks, Fraser Grain Terminal and BHP Billiton. Staff will keep Council apprised of this issue.

**Implications:**

Financial Implications – there are no financial implications.

**CONCLUSION:**

An update on various Vancouver Fraser Port Authority projects and initiatives is provided for Council's information.

Sean McGill  
Director of Corporate Services

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