

Section 2 Council Correspondence 2017.11.16

Oct. 27, 2017

Mayor Derek Corrigan
Members of City Council
City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

Dear Mayor Corrigan and Members of City Council,

The Heights business district is home to approximately 330 businesses, 2,000 employees, and an economy that generates at least \$127 million annually¹. We are a vibrant, multi-cultural community and neighbourhood shopping district at a turning point in our history.

Our mostly one-storey and two-storey buildings are gradually being replaced by four-storey mixed use buildings, following the 1992 Hastings Official Community Plan.

While the realization of the OCP is resulting in a re-investment in our community, attractive new places to live and do business in, and more diverse housing choices, there is one important element missing. There are no electric vehicle charging stations anywhere.

Large-scale developments are installing charging stations elsewhere in our City. Thus, Brentwood Town Centre, to the south of us, will become very attractive to e-Vehicle drivers who wish to charge their cars while shopping, or who want to purchase a new condominium home that will allow their vehicles to charge overnight. The Heights, however, is not currently poised to offer either of these options for electric vehicle owners.

Guess where the public will want to shop or purchase a condo 5 to 10 years from now, and well into the future?

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects that by 2040, as much as 90 per cent of private vehicles will be electric.² Canada's electric vehicle purchases in First Quarter 2017 increased by 68 per cent over the same period the year before. Our society – and our transportation choices – are on the cusp of a massive change.

The Heights Board members – representing a wide cross section of social demographics and business categories - have discussed our district's prospects for attracting residents and shoppers, now and in the future. Notably, we look at the next generational shift in society leaders; that is, Millennials, whose generation has now entered their family-raising years, and whose values influence their more eco-sensitive consumer choices.

Copied to:

Sustainable City Advisory Committee (2018.02.06)

Dir. Engineering

With this in mind, on behalf of our Board of Directors, we wish to ask City Council to consider the following policies to help Urban Villages in Burnaby ride the electric wave well into the future.

1 – Mandate that all future developments require eCharging Stations in Residential and Commercial buildings. Regardless of development size, the City should anticipate the needs of future shoppers and condo purchasers by requiring the installation of charging stations, or slow-charge plug-ins in resident parking stalls. Developers of mixed-use buildings should also provide some electric vehicle parking for the patrons of its commercial tenants. The City might also require that developers install “rough in” electrical wiring that could be developed and activated in the future as consumer demand for electrical vehicles increases.

2 – Consider installing solar-powered eCharging Stations in future and/or current City parking lots. As the City prepares to develop the remaining (currently purchased but undeveloped) 2-hour parking lots in the Heights (or look for ways to enhance or improve the existing ones), consider installing a few revenue-generating solar-powered charging stations, as found elsewhere in Burnaby, such as at BCIT.

3 – Install three to six revenue-generating paid eCharging Stations along Hastings as a Pilot project. Charging stations on Hastings Street could allow e-vehicles to “charge while they park.” This could not only generate revenue for the City, but based on the success of these parking/charging stations, the City could then acquire data to help it make decisions for other parts of our City as well. pp

In keeping with the City of Burnaby’s Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) Plan, which I was honoured to be a part of helping establish, we believe these policy considerations align well with the City’s own vision. In the Plan’s Section 5.5 (MOVE: Transportation), the City recommends supporting and encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles in Burnaby.³

2040 may seem far away, yet for a city, a quarter century passes in the blink of an eye. The future is coming. We in the Urban Village of Burnaby Heights want to participate in it, and benefit from it, fully and equally with other shopping areas and Town Centres of Burnaby. Thank you for the consideration of this important prospect for our community.

Sincerely,



Isabel Kolic
Executive Director

C: Heidi Dueck, President, HMA Board of Directors
C: Leon Gous, Director of Engineering, City of Burnaby

Sources:

1. Based on 2015 HMA research, in turn based on 2013 Statistics Canada data, excluding data from Safeway, McDonald’s Restaurant and Happy Honda.
2. “Riding the Energy Transition: Oil Beyond 2040”, by R. Cherif, F. Hasanov, and A. Pande. International Monetary Fund. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2017/05/22/Riding-the-Energy-Transition-Oil-Beyond-2040-44932>
3. Section 5, p. 24. “City of Burnaby’s Environmental Sustainability Strategy: A Plan for a Green Future”. Nov 7, 2016.