

**Date:** April 17, 2025

**Location:** Online

**Time:** 7-9 pm

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Chair:** Laura Kwong (Chair, Qayqayt)

**Minute Taker:** Heather Kamitakahara (Secretary, Connaught)

**DPAC Executive:** Shawn Sorensen (Vice-chair, Qayqayt) Regrets, Krista Macaulay (Treasurer, Tweedsmuir), Cyrus Sy (MAL, NWSS DPAC Rep), Sue Kenny (MAL, QMS) Regrets, Alison Ytsma (MAL, Qayqayt)

**Guests:** Superintendent Mark Davidson (Regrets), Trustee Maya Russell (Regrets), Lacey Hirtle, City of New Westminster

**DPAC Reps:** Heather K (Connaught), Laura K (Qayqayt), Natalie T (Herbert Spencer), Temitope A (FRMS), Shawn R (Howay), Michelle S (Hume), Paul R, Angelina R (Hume), Don D (QMS), Carline A (Tweedsmuir), Joa H (Skwo:wech), Cyrus S (NWSS), Manisha Rajora (EGMS)

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Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Time	Item	Owner
7:04	<b>Welcome, Call to Order &amp; Territory Acknowledgement, Attendance</b>	Laura
	<b>Adoption of April 2025 Agenda</b> MOTION TO APPROVE by Laura SECOND by Joana <b>CARRIED</b>	Laura
	<b>Approval of February 2025 Meeting Minutes</b> MOTION TO APPROVE Laura K SECONDED by Krista <b>CARRIED</b>	Laura
7:08	<p><b>Special Guest - Lacey Hirtle from City of New Westminster</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Active Transportation Network Plan</li> <li>● Reframed exhibit at the Anvil Centre - shared photo re land acknowledgement, and recommended seeing the exhibit.</li> <li>● Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is the active transportation network plan?</li> <li>○ Why focus on active transportation?</li> <li>○ Timeline</li> <li>○ Information Gather</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Active Transportation Network Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adopted in 2022.</li> <li>○ 2 pieces to the plan:</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Lacey Hurdle

- Identified 26 core network corridors.
    - 20+ supporting network corridors.
    - By the time the full network is in place, everyone would live within 400 m of a safe and accessible corridor.
- Building a more walkable and bike-friendly New Westminster
  - Master Transportation Plan - 2015
    - Transportation hierarchy
  - Neighbourhood Transportation Plans
    - Measures and improvements to address specific issues within a neighbourhood/area
  - 2023-2026 Council Strategic Priorities
    - People-centred economy and the safe movement of people
  - City's Seven Bold ...
- Importance of active transportation
  - Investing in a safer, healthier and more connected community
    - Public health
      - 64% of residents commute by car and are missing those health benefits
    - Economy
      - Owning a care costs an average of \$10,000 per year vs. \$350 for biking or nothing for walking.
      - Money saved can be spent on the local economy.
    - climate
      - Replacing one daily trip with an active mode can cut out 0.5 tonnes of CO2 annually.
- Benefits of connected AT corridors
  - Safety
    - People-centred approach of our system.
    - As we invest in active transportation, focusing on slowing vehicle speeds to make the environment feel more comfortable.
    - Investing in safer crossings at intersections.
    - When we invest in active modes we can use delineation to physically separate people who are biking from cars.
    - Dedicating space to make Multi-use pathways.
    - Making it easier to navigate within the city.
  - Equity
    - Not everyone has access to a car or a vehicle.
    - When we invest in active transportation, it is more inclusive for all.
- Timeline
  - Approved by Council in 2022.
  - In June 2023, the City hired a consultant who began designing the first bundle of core routes.
  - June 2024, launched public engagement.

- December 2024, another round of public engagement for Seventh Street.
- May 2025, construction begins for Year 1 Core Network Routes, and public consultation for Year 2 Core Network Routes.
- Fall 2025, public engagement continues and begin process for Year 3 routes.
- Year 1 Core Network Routes
  - Core network routes trying to get built this year.
- Year 2 Core Network Routes
  - Will be coming out to public engagement
  - Metro Vancouver is doing water main work on 13th Street, which was Year 3 but that is already underway because of the work with Metro Van.
- Education and Promotion
  - We want residents to understand.
  - We will be promoting throughout 2025.
  - Want people to understand the benefits of investing in AT.
  - Want people to understand the core routes and secondary routes, and the impacts of changing the streetscape.
  - When we have shifted our priorities to focus on walking and cycling, it means that other modes have to give way. The big piece is the trade-offs and we want to have open conversations about that.

Questions:

- Joana - Is a cyclist and also uses a car. Multi-user. One thing that has sometimes influenced my decision is bike parking at the location. Regular bike racks do not work for long-tails. Love the network support, but can we start prioritizing wider bike parking areas, and undercover would be very helpful also.
- Lacey - very sensitive to the bike parking comment. Knows the challenges. Appreciate you sharing that. We want people to have comfortable end of trip facilities.
- Joana - comment from parent. Safe routes to school should be provided.
- Allison - Seconds the bike parking issue. Is there thought to make the biking safer for kids. Any thoughts about that?
- Lacey - one of the goals is to make people of all ages and abilities feel comfortable. We are very mindful of that as we are working on the designs.
- Natalie - A lot of the uptown routes has 30 km an hour speed limits. Find that the 30 km an hour routes seem to almost give push-back from drivers. Confused about the permanent 30 km /hour zones.
- Lacey - It is definitely something that as we move toward Vision Zero we are looking at what our partner cities are doing, and what does that look like. A lot of the work is to make people feel safer, such as with curb

humps and other measures that make drivers feel like they should drive as a slower pace.

- Don - how does this fit into the age friendly plans at the City?
- Lacey - learning a lot about the different strategies the city has. Appreciate you bringing that up because it is important, how we integrate that and design for all ages and abilities. As staff we are trying to get connected with people who have training in different areas.
- Paul - A dad with 3 young kids and an e-bike. One particular connection which is tricky - going from TACC to Queens Park. Wanted to hi-light that as a concern. 7th Ave is difficult with the rough pavement. Bike Parking - there are certain parts where work has been done, such as on East Columbia, that wasn't put up and isn't bolted down. Some bike racks are not bolted down. Security things are frustrating. At Skwo:wech - bike program has just started.
- Krista - With Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary. Have been asking for pedestrian crossing infrastructure. Can you speak to the priority of cross-walk locations?
- Lacey - there is a lot of capital funding put toward the AT network right now. The focus is on getting that network built out. That is the reality for the project. Am recording the information received, and that will be passed along. The other piece is the Vision Zero work and the safe systems work. Looking at using new data sources etc. Feel free to leverage writing capacity to Council to get on their radar with issues that are important.
- Laura - Council has been receptive to our advocacy. It's a good reminder that we are effective that way.
- Laura - wondering about changing developer incentives. A lot of comprehensive developments going in. Pushing for increased bike parking ratios. In residential area parking, bicycle parking could be part of the requirement. That could have a big impact.
- Laura - driver education and behaviour. The City gets a lot of push-back from drivers. Understand how challenging the conversations are. Live near the 7th street corridor. Went to the public engagement, and was accosted by people in there because she was in favour. There is so much backlash. That gets directed at the City and staff. At the same time, driver education is exhausting. Sometimes question biking with child in the city, when drivers are making us feel unsafe, even on a quiet residential space.
- Lacey - trying to root education in the idea that we are all residents of the City and we have a people-centred approach. We want people who are driving to choose other modes as well. Trying really hard to not shy away from this difficult conversation, especially when it comes to parking. I hear what you are saying. Yes, we deal with angry citizens often. We are trying to be really mindful about how we convey the message about the work that we are doing.
- Cyrus - on the public education piece, has the City considered putting signage along different areas where work is being done so people can

	<p>see why the project is being done? Sometimes the feedback I get is that it seems like a random project and they don't see how it fits into a bigger plan. Some people especially residents, they are probably going to see that sign more often than they go to the city website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lacey - whenever we do a project in conjunction with translink etc and we have a requirement to put up signage. Appreciate the comment. That is something we are trying to get better at.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Superintendent Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sent regrets.</li> </ul> <p><b>Board of Education Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sent regrets.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mark Davidson</b></p> <p><b>Maya Russell</b></p>
<p><b>8:00</b></p>	<p><b>Standing Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Chair Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SOGI sub-committee - working on bathroom signage. There is going to be new bathroom signage to every school in New West. Have finalized language that goes on the signs. The purpose is to clarify that the bathrooms are for everybody.</li> <li>○ Intersex progress pride flags have been ordered and hopefully will be displayed in every school in the coming weeks.</li> <li>○ Thank you to everyone who came out to the rally. It was impactful.</li> <li>○ Our AGM is in May. DPAC positions are open. Encourage people to get involved.</li> <li>○ BCCPAC resolution was submitted and accepted. Working on ordinary resolutions. If interested in working on resolutions, the ones Laura is interested in submitting is advocating for the use of Square again. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Square and other transaction providers - need to authenticate every user, and they are doing it with tax numbers. So you can't use it with a business tax number.</li> <li>■ If your personal name is tied to it, is the one who is taking the risk.</li> <li>■ If you are a registered society, that is different.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Going to meet next Monday night - a bunch of DPACs around the province. It is a working meeting, so come to work.</li> <li>○ There is definitely a liability gap for PACs and DPACs. If you host a school event, you're protected because of District's insurance. But if not, there is a gap. Asking BCCPAC to do something, to come up with a policy to see if there is something to be done.</li> <li>○ Resolution we tried to submit, trying again - every school and district should have free access to good drinking water. With</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Laura</b></p>

	<p>climate change and water scarcity, might be time to resubmit that resolution again.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Two resolutions around capacity related stuff. Reaffirming an areas standards review. Another around not planning for the use of modulars as replacements for building new schools.</li> <li>○ If interested, send Laura and email and she will invite you to Monday’s meeting.</li> <li>○ Don’t recommend becoming a society because you need your own insurance.</li> <li>○ DPAC sits in the District Coordinating Committee. Meeting next week, and will see a preview of the budget. Hearing from other districts, everybody is facing cuts. Things like StrongStart programs, gifted programs, EAs, custodians, bussing etc. Wherever districts can make cuts, they are making cuts. That will be reduced EAs. We will share with you what happens there. Fully expecting cuts. We have our list that we put together with our asks back in March, and we will keep pushing on those asks.</li> <li>○ Cyrus has been looking into the tech situation and we have decided to go over to Google Meet and Google Business account for a Google site. The cost is very similar to what currently paying with Zoom license and the Wordpress. With Google Meet, can run 2 concurrent meetings. Also the website will have more bandwidth.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Treasurer’s Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Operating account at \$4,950.</li> <li>○ Gaming account at \$3711.98. Does not include money allocated to online exploitation workshop. Also have to make some reimbursements for BCCPAC and new Google business license.</li> <li>○ Part of what we have allocated in Gaming budget is that every school gets an equal amount for parent education. We typically don’t get 12 requests so we tend to up. Have gotten a few requests. If school has done parent education (not child education), we can refund you.</li> <li>○ Made a google form - if you want to fill out the google form you can, or just email Krista. Get reimbursements in as soon as possible. Have to have the invoice.</li> <li>○ Next year the amount will go down.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Krista</b></p>
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8:30	<p><b>School Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FRMS (Temitope) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Drama on May 27.</li> <li>○ Spring Band concert June 10.</li> <li>○ Fundraising: Little Miss Coffee (successful), Fun Box, Rocky Point Ice Cream.</li> <li>○ New logo out.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Herbert Spencer (Natalie) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fundraising going well.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Queen Elizabeth (Harinder) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> <li>● EGMS (Manisha) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fundraising - Meridian meats fundraiser. Purdys fundraiser. Parent education night with Dr. Candace Murray. She's a registered psychologist and is very passionate about ADHD and works with a lot of children who face challenges because of ADHD. This talk is geared at middle schoolers. It will be in person at Glenbrook and on Zoom for those who can't come in person.</li> <li>○ Finally got a copy of the inclusion calendar. It took a really long time to get. Very impressed with Howay that has this calendar posted on their website.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Hume Park (Angelina) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Soaps and scones fundraiser. The kids loved it.</li> <li>○ Have been trying to encourage not to raise money at the school but from the community.</li> <li>○ We had a PAC meeting and people are very worried about capacity. Most people don't know who to contact about that. Lots of advocacy work going on.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Lord Kelvin (Eryne) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Skwo:wech (Joana) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Had an extremely successful Readathon. The whole school was really into it.</li> <li>○ Bake sales, freezie sales, fun lunches, Movie night, Neufelt summer BBQ fundraiser, Kernels popcorn. Looking at sponsoring seed kits for the incoming Kindergarteners.</li> <li>○ Bike Bus. So far it has run for 2 or 3 weeks and it starts at TACC and rides up to Skwowech and potentially another route coming.</li> <li>○ Hub has reached out to see if we are interested in partnering with them.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● QMS (Don) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fundraisers, fun event coming up.</li> <li>○ Musical Chairs fundraiser coming up. That's competition all through the school.</li> <li>○ Queensborough community dance and fundraiser on May 9th. Silent auction that goes along with that. Toyota Car Dealership -</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	DPAC Reps
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	<p>Toyota is going to sponsor Sports Day and all the food. She cut a cheque for \$1,500.00. Excited about that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Live band at the dance. For all ages. \$15 for adults and under 15 years old are \$5.00.</li> <li>○ Pancake breakfast program on Wednesdays and Fridays.</li> <li>● Connaught (Heather K) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Having a Connaught Kids Garage Sale on May 2nd.</li> <li>○ Grit workshop on May 12th - emotional resilience and brain health.</li> <li>○ Other fundraisers: Bake sales, Fun Box Bouncy Park fundraiser, Cockney Kids fundraiser, Summer Jam (replacing the Carnival)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Howay (Shawn) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Created by Kids” fundraiser. That was really successful.</li> <li>○ Purdys easter fundraiser.</li> <li>○ Staff appreciation lunch.</li> <li>○ Growing Smiles coming up.</li> <li>○ Dance on May 2nd.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Tweedsmuir (Krista) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Busy, doing lots of fun things. Movie night coming up. Carnival coming up.</li> <li>○ Saleema Noon is coming. Because of budget cuts, only coming to Grades 4 and 5 not to K-3.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Qayqayt (Laura) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hons fun lunch - first time - will let you know how it goes.</li> <li>○ With Readathon funds, purchased outdoor learning kits. so that teachers are taking kids out of the school and do outdoor learning, it makes it easier to get outside.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● NWSS (Cyrus S) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Haven’t had our PAC meeting yet. Spirit wear distribution every year. A constant struggle is that we get a lot of orders but people don’t pick up their gear. It ends up being a lot of work.</li> <li>○ The PAC puts a significant amount in budget to school bursaries. Committee to review all the applications and finalize the award winners for the bursaries. With pressures on fundraising, that is always a bit of a challenge for us. PAC is pushing to continue that.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Correspondence - none</li> </ul>	

<p>8:50</p>	<p><b>Old Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Update on Capacity Advocacy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Conversations in Victoria. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ a full day with 2 main meetings - Minister of Education and Minister of Infrastructure.</li> <li>■ Minister of Education - Lisa Beare and staffers, and New West group. IT was mentioned that a delegation that cohesive was never seen before. Had 30 minutes. Maya Russell gave overarching issues we want to talk about. Vice Chair Sluis gave numbers. Each of partners gave anecdotes and stories and perspectives for how this is impacting. It was effective. The outcome with Min. Beare, not as optimistic. Trying to read between the lines, was more defensive. She didn't really ask any questions. Not very optimistic that advocacy was received with the intent to action it in any way. Don't think we are going to see any funding increases. (That is Laura's interpretation.</li> <li>■ Minister of Infrastructure - Bowinn Mah. All about capital requests and how we need schools. Much more optimistic of that discussion. Verbally confirmed that we would see funding for Simcoe, land acquisition for another middle school and the modular.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ The one good outcome from both meetings, was we got to put our faces to our names. Now they have faces to our names so when we continue to send letters and advocate, it sticks a little more.</li> <li>○ Still no capital funding announcement but did get the verbal confirmation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>New Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● None</li> </ul>	<p>Laura Kwong</p>
<p>9:20</p>	<p><b>Adjournment:</b> 9:20pm - MOTION by Laura, SECOND by Heather, <b>CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting:</b> AGM on May 15, 2025 at Fraser River Middle School and Online</p>	