

September 20, 2017

Briefing Note: Hjorth Road Elementary
Impact of Light Rail Transit and the 105 Avenue Corridor Project

It is no secret that there is the crucial need and a community desire for improvements to transportation infrastructure in our rapidly growing city. The City of Surrey has been trying to implement a comprehensive transportation plan for the city for several years and these plans include the 105 Avenue Corridor Project and Light Rail Transit (LRT). Led by TransLink, the planning processes have spanned 25 years. Extensive information on the planning and current presentations can be found on the [City's website](#). For the school district, we welcome improved transit in the region, but our priority is the impact on our schools. Specifically, we wanted to take this opportunity to comment on the potential impact on Hjorth Road Elementary school.

Currently, there is no agreement between the City and the School District on any construction or alterations to our site. This briefing note outlines our concerns and our requests so the City is aware of the impact on our school and the public is aware of our ongoing conversations with the City.

The LRT project includes a connector that intersects the school property and the creation of a LRT station next to the school.



Over the past five years and beginning in the spring of 2017, through several meetings with staff from the City of Surrey, we received detailed information about the impact of the plans on Hjorth Road

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Elementary. Our Board has communicated several concerns and we are working closely with both staff and the council and Mayor on how our concerns can be addressed. Specifically, our concerns are that:

- the proposal includes placing a road through the playfield of the school. This would render the playfield, which is central to the operation of the school, unusable;
- the proposal also includes the creation of an LRT station at the intersection of 104 and 148 which is directly in front of the school. The station will require space along the 104 Avenue frontage of the school and will be a point of significant traffic, creating noise and safety issues for our students.
- the removal of the field is to create a through road on the north side of the school as a means to reduce the traffic load on 104 Avenue resulting from the LRT expansion. The subsequent creation of a road will mean that the school will be bounded on all four sides by roads. The increase in noise and traffic creates both practical and safety concerns for the school.

To address these concerns, we have asked the city for the following things:

1. That the city create short-term options for a replacement field for the school. The replacement field must be in place before any construction commences on the existing school property and the new field must provide the same levels of access and supervision that we currently have in place.
2. That also, in the short term, the city work collaboratively with the Board of Education to identify and transfer ownership to the district of an appropriate replacement site that meets current standards for an elementary school; and
3. That the city provide the district sufficient funding to build a replacement school meeting current standards and of an equivalent size.

Hjorth Road Elementary school is central to our community. We realize and appreciate that the creation of a robust transportation system is in the best interest of Surrey, but we need to ensure that our community school remains viable and safe. Having access to a viable playfield on-site is essential to the operation of a school and again, should the project proceed, the field needs to be in place before any construction commences on school property.

Our meetings with the City of Surrey have been pro-active, supportive and collaborative. We look forward to working together in the time ahead so that we can together create a rich and vibrant city that serves our children well.

Sincerely,



Jordan Tinney
Superintendent of Schools/CEO

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Surrey Schools – Superintendent's Department 14033 92nd Avenue, Surrey, B.C. V3V 0B7
Tel: (604) 595-6308 Fax: (604) 595-6309 www.surreyschools.ca