

P.O. Box 3336, Vancouver, BC, V6B 3Y3, (604) 254-9411

Mayor Sullivan and Council 453 West 12th Avenue Vancouver BC V5Y IV4

December 15, 2005

Dear Mayor Sullivan and Council;

Re: Burrard Bridge Motions

We appeal to Council to amend or defer the second of two proposed motions regarding Burrard Bridge. That motion calls for City staff to expedite and finalise plans for outward widening of the bridge sidewalks. Those plans call for the construction of bulky cantilevered, 'outrigger' structures that will seriously deface the architecture of the bridge and destroy its heritage character. To do so would be extremely unfortunate for our city and its image.

Burrard Bridge is Downtown Vancouver's ceremonial entrance, a landmark structure, a triumph of civic architecture and one of the finest pieces of Art Deco in Canada. We consider the proposed alterations to Burrard Bridge to be one of the most important heritage and urban design issues in recent years.

We are not opposed to enhancing pedestrian and bicycle crossings of False Creek, and would whole-heartedly support options that achieve this objective in a way that does not sacrifice heritage. A number of alternative options - eliminated by the previous Council – merit further consideration, for example:

- 'Under-slung' pedestrian and cyclist crossing on either side of the Bridge at the truss level below the existing sidewalk. This solution was one of several displayed by City staff and engineering consultants at the last public open house. The option is already partially developed, and with minimal delay could be finalised for public input along with the other options.
- Dedicated crossing for pedestrians and cyclists
- Granville Bridge modifications (previously recommended by City staff).

In summary, it is absolutely crucial that Council consider other options for Burrard Bridge before committing to an unnecessary act of desecration. We urge Council to either:

- a) defer consideration of the second motion to a later date, and/or
- b) amend the second motion to request City staff to expeditiously bring forward additional options for enhancing pedestrian and cyclist crossings.

Sincerely.

Donald Luxton, President

Cc Gerry McGeough, Heritage Planner
Larry Beasley, Director, Central Area Planning
Richard Goodacre, Executive Director, Heritage Society of BC