



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: July 4, 2005
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TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: Participation in Research

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve participation in two research projects as described in this report at a total cost of \$10,000, to be funded from existing budgets.

COUNCIL POLICY

Council has established budgets for the purposes covered by these projects, traffic safety and structure maintenance.

DISCUSSION

As one of the ten largest cities in Canada, Vancouver is a member of the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC). TAC conducts research and develops national standards on a wide range of transportation subjects, from overall planning to detailed design. Projects are funded on a collaborative basis by members of the Association.

Examples of projects the City has recently participated in include development of a standard for marking of bicycle lanes and a study on safety in work zones. At this time, participation is sought in two projects that are of interest to the City. The first project is to update guidelines on Accessible Pedestrian Signals. The City is an established leader in Accessible Signals, having the largest number of audible signals in Canada and innovating new devices such as tactile push buttons. It is important to remain current on new methods and guidelines in order to provide the best service to the public. The second project is a best-

practise guide on waterproofing membranes for structures. Although less visible for the public, waterproofing membranes are of vital importance in maintaining infrastructure and ensuring the long-term viability of our street and pedestrian bridges.

Both of these projects fit within the mandate of existing budgets established by Council. By contributing a nominal \$5,000 to each project, the City will benefit from research worth at least \$160,000, will be entitled to representation on the steering committees, and will demonstrate ongoing leadership in a national forum. This participation is recommended.

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