



CITY OF VANCOUVER

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: February 28, 2008
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Meeting Date: March 11, 2008

TO: Standing Committee on Transportation and Traffic

FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Cyclist Pushbuttons for Existing Pedestrian Signals, 2008 Program

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the installation of cyclist buttons at 29 selected pedestrian-activated signals as described in this report at a total cost of \$382,500; sources of funding are to be as follows:

- \$156,000 anticipated contribution from the TransLink 2008 Bicycle Infrastructure Capital Cost Sharing Program; and
- \$226,500 from the existing Engineering Capital Budget, A2E Bicycle Network.

COUNCIL POLICY

The Vancouver Transportation Plan emphasizes the need to promote bicycling by providing more facilities for cyclists, including connections to neighbourhood centres, and identifies cycling as a high transportation priority, second only to walking.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to install cyclist pushbuttons at selected existing pedestrian signals.

BACKGROUND

The City has been retrofitting existing pedestrian-activated signals throughout Vancouver with cyclist pushbuttons placed close to the curb so that cyclists can easily activate the signals. They have been a feature of Vancouver's local street bikeways since the early 1990s. In a 1999 survey of Vancouver bikeway users, this feature was the second-most popular after traffic calming. Since the City began installing cyclist pushbuttons, and since pedestrian-activated signals on existing bikeways have all been retrofitted, staff have received requests from the public for more cyclist buttons at locations that are not on designated bikeways.

Many pedestrian-activated signals installed in the late 1990s and all pedestrian-activated signals installed since 1999 have included cyclist buttons. However, many older pedestrian-activated signals typically do not have cyclist buttons unless they are located on a designated bikeway.

Cyclist pushbuttons located off of designated bikeways improve neighbourhood accessibility by bicycle and help to reduce some of the perceived barriers to cycling for local needs and short trips.

DISCUSSION

There are presently 66 pedestrian-activated signals throughout the City that do not have cyclist pushbuttons. The City's goal is to complete the retrofit of all remaining locations within the next few years.

Staff have identified 29 locations as the top priorities for cyclist buttons in 2008. These are generally located along key commercial corridors, near secondary and elementary schools, and near Olympic and Paralympic competition and practice venues. One is located on a future local street bikeway, and one is an upgrade to an existing signal on a local street bikeway and greenway. These locations have been prioritized to support cycling within neighbourhood commercial areas, to and from schools, and to and from Olympic and Paralympic facilities.

A list of recommended locations is provided in Appendix A. Staff will report back through future programs on the remaining locations for cyclist pushbuttons.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost of installing cyclist buttons at 29 intersections is estimated at \$382,500. Funding in the amount of \$156,000 is anticipated from TransLink's 2008 Bicycle Infrastructure Capital Cost Sharing Program. It is recommended that funding for the remaining \$226,500 for this project be provided as follows:

- i) \$22,500 from the 2006 Engineering Capital Budget CC1EA2EDX/30009522,
- ii) \$30,167 from the 2006 Engineering Capital Budget CC1EA2EX1/30008839, and
- iii) \$173,833 of unallocated funding from the 2000-2002 A2E close-outs to be transferred from CC1EA2EX1/30009145 to the order stated above.

Funding has also been requested from ICBC to further offset the City's share of these costs.

CONCLUSION

Installation of cyclist pushbuttons at existing pedestrian-activated signals is a cost-effective way to enhance opportunities for cycling around the City and should encourage more citizens to choose cycling for transportation around their neighbourhoods, to and from schools, and to and from Olympic and Paralympic facilities.

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LOCATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR CYCLIST PUSHBUTTONS

Alder St at Broadway
Birch St at Broadway
Cambie St at 20th Ave
Camosun St at 10th Ave
Carnarvon St at 41st Ave
Commercial Dr at Napier St
Cypress St at 49th Ave
Fraser St at 43rd Ave
Joyce St at 41st Ave
Killarney St at 49th Ave
Knight St at 29th Ave
Oak St at 54th Ave
Manitoba St at 49th Ave
McKinnon St at Kingsway
Nanaimo St at Cambridge St
Penticton St at Broadway
Prince Edward St at Broadway
Princess Ave at Hastings St
Renfrew St at 5th Ave
Renfrew St at 17th Ave
Rupert St at Kerr St
Rupert St at Wellington Ave
Selkirk St at 41st Ave
St. Catherines St at Broadway
Trimble St at 4th Ave
Trimble St at 10th Ave
Victoria Dr at 4th Ave
Victoria Dr at 26th Ave
Victoria Dr at 38th Ave