



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: June 26, 2012
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: July 24, 2012

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: Licence Agreement for 'Welcome to Vancouver' Sign on Grandview Highway

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council authorize the City to enter into a licence agreement with Brandon Investments Limited ("**Brandon**") to allow the City to relocate and place a 'Welcome to Vancouver' sign on property owned by Brandon at 3695 Grandview Highway, legally described as PID: 003-388-221, Lot 4, Blocks B and C, South ½ of Section 39, Town of Hastings, Suburban Lands Plan 9384 (the "**Property**"), which licence agreement will include an indemnity by the City in favour of Brandon and will otherwise be on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of Engineering Services and the Director of Legal Services.
- B. THAT Council authorize the General Manager of Engineering Services to execute the licence agreement and any other documents that may be required to effect Recommendation A.

REPORT SUMMARY

Recent design and survey work for construction approved under the 2012 Arterial Projects Program on Grandview Highway near Boundary Road has identified a conflict between the location of a planned sidewalk and the existing 'Welcome to Vancouver' sign (the "**Sign**") that is already located on the Property. To retain both the desired sidewalk design and the Sign, staff propose to have the Sign relocated to a new location on the Property, and recommend that authority be given to enter into a licence agreement for the Sign, as has been requested by Brandon. This licence agreement will include an indemnity by the City in favour of Brandon.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council approval is generally required for the City to grant an indemnity. In June 2008, Council authorized a similar licence agreement for the 'Welcome to Vancouver' sign located on private property at 2203 Skeena Street (RTS 7454).

In October 2007, Council approved the following geometric roadway modifications (RTS 6746), subject to approval of their final costs:

- i. The addition of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) queue jumper lanes on Grandview Highway;
- ii. The construction of left turn bays to allow left turns from Grandview Highway to Boundary Road; and,
- iii. Closure of the median on Boundary Road at 11th Avenue to improve safety near the Highway 1 off ramp at Boundary Road.

In February 2012, final costs for the above roadway modifications were approved by Council as part of the 2012 City's Capital Budget approval for the Transportation Arterial Projects Program (RTS 9454).

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends the approval of Recommendations A and B.

REPORT

Background/Context

For several years in advance of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics and Paralympics, 'Welcome to Vancouver' signs were installed or upgraded on various key entry corridors into Vancouver. The signs greet tourists and other visitors entering the city shortly after they have crossed the municipal boundary. One such sign is currently located on the Property.

A geometric design for a new eastbound left turn bay on Grandview Highway at Boundary was completed in November 2011, confirming the extent of a widening strip needed on the Property on the north side of Grandview Highway. This project and related work for HOV queue jumper lanes on Grandview Highway and closure of the median on Boundary at 11th, were subsequently approved in the 2012 Capital Budget, and are scheduled for construction this summer. Construction survey work recently identified a conflict between the planned new sidewalk on the north side of Grandview Highway, and the Sign located on the Property.

Strategic Analysis

There are two options for resolving the conflict between the location of the planned new sidewalk and the Sign:

- 1) Change the sidewalk alignment to go around the Sign, or
- 2) Relocate the Sign onto a new location on the Property.

Option 1), relocating the sidewalk around the Sign would result in sub-standard conditions for pedestrians - the sidewalk would be narrower than desired and would be located next to the curb without the buffer of a new landscaping strip. Accordingly, this option was not pursued further.

Option 2), relocating the Sign is feasible, and Brandon, the owner of the Property has agreed to the proposed relocation in principle. However, it appears that there was never any licence agreement drawn up for the original location of the Sign, and Brandon has requested an agreement which includes an indemnity be entered into as a condition of relocating the Sign. The City would be indemnifying Brandon from all damages, losses, liabilities or expenses that Brandon may incur by reason of the City's installation, maintenance, replacement or removal of the Sign. Staff recommend this option, and note that without the licence agreement, the Sign would need to be removed from this location as there is insufficient space on the Grandview Highway boulevard for both it and the proposed sidewalk.

Accordingly, staff recommend that Council authorize entering into a licence agreement for the proposed new Sign location on the Property, similar to what was done for another 'Welcome to Vancouver' sign at 2203 Skeena Street.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)

Financial

There are no financial implications to this entering into this licence agreement as Brandon has indicated acceptance of the City's proposal to pay a nominal sum (i.e. \$1.00) for consideration of entering into the licence agreement. Costs associated with relocating the Sign will be paid for by the roadway project out of the approved capital budget for the 2012 Arterials Program.

CONCLUSION

Grandview Highway is a key gateway into the City. To retain the 'Welcome to Vancouver' sign at this location and proceed with planned sidewalk improvements for the Grandview at Boundary left turn bay, staff recommend that Council authorize the General Manager of Engineering Services to enter into the licence agreement on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of Engineering Services and the Director of Legal Services.

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