



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: January 13, 2017
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Meeting Date: January 24, 2017

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager of Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management and
General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Funding Applications to Federal Rail Safety Improvement Program

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council endorse a funding application to the Federal Rail Safety Improvement Program for \$164,000 for the Fraser Street Pedestrian Crossing Project.
- B. THAT Council endorse a funding application to the Federal Rail Safety Improvement Program for \$76,000 for the Main Street Pedestrian Crossing Project.

REPORT SUMMARY

The City's [2015-2018 Capital Plan](#) funding strategy contemplates securing of senior government contributions toward a number of Council priorities, one of which being walking and cycling improvement projects. This report seeks Council's approval in support of two funding applications submitted to the Rail Safety Improvement Program, a Federal initiative, for two rail crossing safety projects to be implemented by the City.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Federal funding programs typically require a resolution of Council as part of the application package.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Managers of Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management and Engineering Services recommend approval of the report.

REPORT

Background/Context

The [Rail Safety Improvement Program](#) (RSIP) is a multi-year and Federal funding program. The goal of the program is to improve rail safety and reduce injuries and fatalities related to rail transportation. The program funds:

- safety improvements to existing rail lines;
- closures of grade crossings; and
- initiatives to raise awareness about rail safety issues.

The Federal government has allocated \$52 million over 3 years to this program and will fund up to 80% of eligible project costs.

The deadline for applications was December 23, 2016 and projects must be completed by March 31, 2019.

Transport Canada indicated that a Council resolution in support of the applications is desirable. Recipients may submit Council resolutions after the application deadline.

Strategic Analysis

The 2015-2018 Capital Plan funding strategy anticipates the securing of senior government contributions toward a number of Council priorities. The Engineering department maintains a prioritized listing of over 50 railway grade crossing upgrades contemplated within their work program. Obtaining RSIP funding would allow two pedestrian crossing projects from this listing to proceed and would contribute towards improved pedestrian safety and better accessibility.

Staff submitted the following two eligible projects by the December deadline:

- **Fraser Street Pedestrian Crossing Project**
This project involves the installation of concrete sidewalks, pedestrian ramps and concrete panels at a rail crossing located at Fraser Street and Kent Avenue. The project is estimated to cost \$205,000.
- **Main Street Pedestrian Crossing Project**
This project involves the installation of concrete sidewalks, pedestrian ramps and concrete panels at a rail crossing located at Main Street and Kent Avenue. The project is estimated to cost \$95,000.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)***Financial***

The two rail safety pedestrian crossing projects are estimated to cost \$300,000 in total and the City is seeking approximately \$240,000 (80%) in RSIP funding, as follows:

	Fraser Street Pedestrian Crossing Project	Main Street Pedestrian Crossing Project	Total
RSIP share (80%)	\$164,000	\$76,000	\$240,000
City share (20%)	\$ 41,000	\$19,000	\$ 60,000
Total project cost:	\$205,000	\$95,000	\$300,000

The City's share of approximately \$60,000 (20%) will be funded from the 2015-2018 Capital Plan allocation to Walking & Cycling improvements.

If either or both applications are successful, staff will report back to Council to adjust the project budgets via the Quarterly Budget Adjustment report.

CONCLUSION

The City has the opportunity to secure up to \$240,000 in senior government contributions by applying for two capital projects to the new Rail Safety Improvement Program.

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