



REPORT

Report Date: May 4, 2021
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Meeting Date: July 20, 2021
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TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager of Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management in consultation with the General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Funding Application to Transport Canada's Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP) for \$172,000 towards the \$215,000 Jellicoe Street Grade Crossing Upgrade Project

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse a funding application to Transport Canada's annual Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP) for \$215,000 towards the Jellicoe Street Grade Crossing Upgrade Project.

REPORT SUMMARY

The proposed Jellicoe Street Grade Project includes installation of concrete railroad panels over the rail right-of-way at Jellicoe Street while also upgrading the sidewalks and curb ramps to enhance the pedestrian experience. This report seeks Council's approval of the submission of a funding application for the Jellicoe Street at-Grade railway crossing to the annual federal RSIP intake. Funding for RSIP is provided by Transport Canada. The Jellicoe Street funding application for the project value of \$215,000 has already been approved by Transport Canada. Transport Canada will contribute 80% of the total project cost and the remaining 20% will be funded by the City's Rail Crossing Upgrades Capital Program.

Council approval for previous RSIP applications were not required. Transport Canada has a new requirement where Council approval must be documented and accompany RSIP funding applications moving forward.

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

There is already approved Capital budget for the Rail Crossing program which will cover for any remaining costs for the project.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

Background

The City of Vancouver is responsible for over 30 public rail grade crossings. Maintenance of these rail grade crossings is complex and must be done collaboratively with the responsible rail companies to ensure adequate safety at every crossing. The City and rail companies use safety information, track and road layout, traffic and rail volumes, vehicle and train speeds, warning system information, and available sightlines to enable both parties to meet the required safety standards. According to Transport Canada, municipalities and rail companies have seven years from the date of publication of the Grade Crossing Regulations (GCR) to comply with the Grade Crossing Standards. The GCR was released on November 28, 2014 and the City must comply with these standards by November 28, 2021.

The Jellicoe Street railway crossing between East Kent Avenue North and East Kent Avenue South is on CP Railway's Marpole Spur Line. Surrounded by a residential area and adjacent to the busy arterial SE Marine Drive to the north, a rapidly developing residential district 0.5 km to the east, and the Riverfront Park/Fraser Foreshore Trail to the south, the Jellicoe crossing provides an important connection between these areas. Improvements to the crossing surface and sidewalks would enhance the accessibility and user experience of pedestrians, while also smoothing the road surface for cyclists and vehicles that cross the rail tracks.

This existing crossing currently meets the minimum requirements of the Grade Crossing Regulations, thus this work is not tied to the November 28, 2021 deadline for upgrading all crossings to compliance. However, the project will need to be completed by March 31, 2022 per the funding agreement terms and conditions.

Strategic Analysis

The RSIP allows for a maximum contribution of \$10,000,000 per municipality per fiscal year. City staff reviewed the eligibility criteria and selected the Jellicoe Street project as the best candidate based on benefits, project feasibility, safety, regulatory requirements and timing.

Pedestrians using strollers and mobility aids at this location have difficulty when crossing over the tracks. The existing sidewalks have trip hazards and substandard curb ramps, which lead pedestrians into the middle of the intersections as opposed to aligning them to the receiving curb ramp facilities. With the increased population density of East Fraser Lands, there will be

more people walking across the tracks. Upgrading the crossing will enhance the pedestrian experience.

Implications

Financial

The estimated total project cost is \$215,000, The RSIP Program will cover up to \$172,000 (or 80%, whichever is less) and the City will pay for the remainder out of the existing budget under the Rail Crossing Upgrades program, below are further details:

Project Costs	
Eligible Costs	\$215,000
Other costs including COV overhead	\$21,500
Total Project Costs	\$236,500
Funding Sources	
RSIP Program (80% of Eligible Costs)	\$172,000
City – funding from the Multi-Year Capital Project Budget for Capital Maintenance	\$64,500
Total Project Cost	\$236,500

CONCLUSION

Council support is sought for the City's application to the RSIP Program for funding the Jellicoe Street project as described in this report.

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