



# Corporate

NO: R020

# Report

COUNCIL DATE: February 5, 2001

<b>REGULAR COUNCIL</b>			
TO:	<b>Mayor &amp; Council</b>	DATE:	<b>January 26, 2001</b>
FROM:	<b>General Manager, Engineering</b>	FILE:	<b>1700-007</b>
SUBJECT:	<b>Railway Crossing Improvements on Scott Road at 99 Avenue</b>		

## RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorize the Engineering Department to issue a purchase order to Southern Railway of British Columbia in the amount of \$370,000 (plus GST) for the installation of a new crossing signal system with flashing lights and barricades on Scott Road at 99 Avenue.

## BACKGROUND

Scott Road upgrading between 96 Avenue and 103A Avenue commenced last August with the award of Contract M.S. 1700-007-01 in the amount of \$1,983,245 for preload and retaining wall construction. This phase of construction is expected to take from 12 to 18 months to complete, depending on the rate of settlement experienced.

The next phase of the works involves upgrading of the intersection at 99 Avenue, including installation of a traffic signal to address concerns raised by residents west of Scott Road, for which 99 Avenue provides their only means of access. Upgrading of this intersection was approved by Council under Resolution R00-169. Since the railway cuts diagonally across the 99 Avenue / Scott Road intersection, the crossing signal system is quite complex and must be coordinated with the proposed traffic signal. Delivery time for the signal equipment is in excess of six months and ideally must be initiated now to coordinate with the planned construction schedule. Completion of this next phase will move us closer to the goal of upgrading Scott Road to ultimate arterial standards and addressing current safety and capacity concerns with the existing steep grades and sharp curves.

Funding of the City's share of the Scott Road upgrading will be provided from Development Cost Charges. Initial phases of the project have received approval for shared funding with TransLink under the Minor Capital improvement program: a 50/50 cost-sharing agreement. However, staff believe that there is justification for eligibility of the project under the Major Capital funding program and an application for cost-sharing under the Canada / British Columbia Infrastructure Program. This option is being pursued with TransLink. If successful, the City funding share could drop

to 18% or less. The BCTFA have also agreed to contribute property previously purchased by the Province, valued at approximately \$3.0 million. Sale of surplus property is expected to generate approximately \$1.0 million, which will be used to assist with funding on future phases of the project. ICBC is also expected to contribute \$500,000 toward the project on the basis of savings, which will be realized due to reduced claims following the safety improvements resulting from the project.

## **FUNDING**

Funding for the railway crossing improvements is available under Package R07/00. This funding includes 50% TransLink cost sharing commitment under the year 2000 Minor Capital Program.

Funding for the traffic signal which would integrate with the railway crossing improvement and for the Scott Road / 99 Avenue intersection upgrade has been allocated in the City 2001 Roads Capital Program. However, the assumption has been made that, at a minimum, 50% TransLink Minor Capital funding will also be available. Given the current uncertainty with respect to TransLink funding created by the delay in implementation of the proposed vehicle levy or equivalent revenue source, the TransLink cost share under either the Minor or Major Capital Programs may not be available in 2001. In that case the railway crossing improvement may either be deferred, with the ordered equipment placed in storage with the Railway Co., or the installation and intersection upgrade financed on an interim basis with City funds. This decision may be made later in the year when TransLink funding issues are clarified.

Jorgen Johansen, P. Eng.  
General Manager, Engineering

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c.c. - Acting General Manager, Finance, Technology & HR Dept.

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