

Priorities Committee Meeting_Oct23_2018

REPORT FOR INFORMATION**Train Whistle Cessation CP Mile 168.38****Report Purpose**

To provide Priorities Committee with a report on the City of Edmonton's train whistle cessation request at CP Mile 168.38 – 34 Street north of 94 Avenue.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Goal 6 - Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents

Goal 8 - Foster an environment for safe communities

Report

At its meeting on October 28, 2015, the City of Edmonton Transportation Committee (now Community and Public Services Committee) identified the top sixteen rail crossing locations for whistle cessation based on the number of houses located within a 2 km radius of the crossing, whether the crossing was located on a main line or spur line, the type of warning system at crossing and frequency of rail usage at the crossing. One of these crossings, CP Mile 168.38 Scotford Subdivision, crossing 34 Street south of Baseline Road, falls under the jurisdiction of Strathcona County.

The City of Edmonton retained AECOM to conduct a whistle cessation report detailing the crossing assessment pursuant to Transport Canada's Grade Crossing Regulation and have contacted the rail operator, Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). The study recommends improvements in order to be compliant with Transport Canada's Grade Crossing Regulation. At this particular crossing, the requirement is to erect two advance rail-crossing signs at the stopping sight distance in both northbound and southbound directions on 34 Street. The addition of the two signs satisfies the requirements to move forward with whistle cessation at this crossing. A site visit conducted by Strathcona County's Traffic Safety Engineer revealed that the warning sign on the north side of the crossing was in place but at a closer distance to the crossing which was not in compliance with the current Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Canada standards and the warning sign was missing on the south side. Strathcona County has relocated the existing railway crossing warning sign on the north side and installed a new warning sign on the south side of the crossing as a proactive traffic safety measure. According to City of Edmonton, CPR agrees that the crossing meets the safety requirements and whistle cessation can now be applied at this crossing.

The City of Edmonton will notify relevant associations and organizations identified by Ministerial Order MO 13-01, as well as the public, as part of the notification and communication process. The City intends to send out notification letters to all federally regulated railway companies as per Ministerial Order M13-01 (<https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/railsafety/legislation-380.htm>).

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They will also send a general public notification once the CPR and Strathcona County agree that the site is ready for whistle cessation.

The City of Edmonton is seeking support from Strathcona County for whistle cessation at CP Mile 168.38 Scotford Subdivision and will require Strathcona County to enter into a whistle cessation and liability agreement.

Currently, there is no impact to Strathcona County residents as the crossing is located further away from any residential subdivisions and is not on our short list of intersections for whistle cessation as it does not meet our policy requirements. The City has agreed to accept responsibility for any other costs associated with the whistle cessation process and will notify the County when all stakeholders have been notified and the train whistle cessation resolution can be presented to Council for approval.

Council and Committee History

September 25, 2018	Council approved that the cessation of railway whistling at the crossing at CN Mile 255.97 – Range Road 231.
July 3, 2018	Council approved that the cessation of railway whistling at the crossings at CN Mile 251.43 - Range Road 223 and CN Mile 247.45 - Range Road 220.
September 5, 2017	Council approved that the capital project for whistle cessation at CN Rail Crossings for Range Road 231, Range Road 223, and Range Road 220, as outlined in the report titled Train Whistle Cessation, be included in the 2018 budget for Council's consideration.
July 11, 2017	Train Whistle Cessation Update was referred to the September 5, 2017 Council meeting for debate and discussion.
March 8, 2016	Priorities Committee was provided with a summary of the Highway 824 at-grade rail crossing train whistle cessation process and information as to the review of future actions.
January 19, 2016	Council approved that the cessation of railway whistling at the at-grade crossing at CN Mile 250.25 - Highway 824.
December 11, 2012	Council approved the 2013 Capital Budget which included the 2013 Ardrossan Train Whistle Cessation project.
July 17, 2012	Council approved Municipal Policy SER-013-004: Train Whistle Cessation.
January 11, 2011	Council directed Administration to bring back criteria for, and establish a policy to, minimize train whistles in Strathcona County.

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Other Impacts

Policy: SER-013-004 Train Whistle Cessation, SER-009-017 Traffic Control Devices.

Legislative/Legal: Transport Canada – *Railway Safety Act* (Section 23.1) provides that the government of a municipality may by resolution declare that it agrees that a train whistle within the municipality should not be used. The municipal government is required to 1) consult the railway company that operates the relevant line of railway; 2) notify each relevant association or organization; and 3) give public notice of its intention to pass the resolution.

Interdepartmental: Planning and Development Services, Transportation and Agriculture Services, and Legislative and Legal Services.

Master Plan/Framework: Integrated Transportation Master Plan

Communication Plan

As per the *Railway Safety Act* and in accordance with the advertising requirements in the *Municipal Government Act*, notice of the proposed resolution was provided in the newspaper. Benefiting area residents will be contacted via direct mail out, and the train whistle cessation will also be advertised on the County website.

Enclosures

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| 1 | Train whistle cessation location map |
| 2 | City of Edmonton Whistle Cessation Report (Prepared by AECOM, dated December 2016) |