



Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date of Meeting: July 3, 2018

Report Number: SRPRS.18.165

Department: Planning and Regulatory Services
Division: Development Engineering & Transportation

Subject: **SRPRS.18.165 – Transport Canada Rail Safety Improvement Program**

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to notify Council of a successful application to the Transport Canada Rail Safety Improvement Program and to request that Council approve the budget for the project and authorize entering into a Funding Agreement.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That the Railway Grade Crossing Improvement Project, as identified in SRPRS.18.165, be approved;
- b) That a project with a budget of \$211,250.00 be established for Recommendation a);
- c) That project funding be allocated as \$91,670.00 from the Transport Canada Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP) and \$119,850.00 from the Town-wide Engineering Development Charge Reserve Fund; and
- d) That the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Financial Services & Treasurer be authorized to sign and execute the Transport Canada Rail Safety Improvement Program funding agreement on behalf of the Town of Richmond Hill.

Contact Person:

Richard Hui, Manager of Transportation, Development Engineering, 905-771-5478
and/or

Rob Cowie, Senior Traffic Analyst, Development Engineering, 905-747-6455

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Report Approval:

Submitted by: Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services

Approved by: Neil Garbe, Chief Administrative Officer

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), Town Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and Chief Administrative Officer. Details of the reports approval are attached.

Background:

In 2015, Transport Canada developed new *Grade Crossings Regulations* (GCR) under the *Railway Safety Act* to improve safety by establishing comprehensive and enforceable safety standards for at-grade road/rail crossings, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of railway companies and road authorities and ensuring that they share key safety information.

The *Grade Crossings Regulations* stipulate that two years after the Regulations come into force, or by November 27, 2016, railway companies and road authorities were required to share safety information about their existing public grade crossings with each other.

Further, seven years after the *Grade Crossings Regulations* come into force, or by November 27, 2021, railway companies and road authorities must meet all requirements to upgrade existing grade crossings, including signage, crossing surface specifications, sightlines and warning systems.

This phased-in approach requires immediate safety improvements at road/rail grade crossings across Canada, while allowing railway companies and road authorities sufficient time to comply with all of the requirements in the *Grade Crossings Regulations*.

In anticipation of the above noted requirements, York Region retained the services of an engineering consulting firm to review all road/rail crossings under their jurisdiction and identify any improvements necessary to address deficiencies. An invitation was extended to local municipalities to participate in this review in order to assess their respective road/rail crossings for a nominal cost. The Town of Richmond Hill accepted the invitation to participate. The review carried out an assessment of five (5) crossings within the Town. Recommendations were provided for the necessary improvements along with the associated cost estimates for each road/rail crossing location within the Town as listed below:

- Hillsvie Avenue (Pedestrian Crossing)
- Weldrick Road East
- Centre Street East
- Crosby Avenue

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- Bethesda Side Road

These five locations currently have railway crossing signs, flashing lights, bells and gates. A sixth location was subsequently identified on Gormley Road West and, similar to the crossing on Hillsvie Avenue, is a pedestrian crossing. Because this crossing shares similar characteristics with the Hillsvie Avenue crossing, it was planned that the same improvements can be implemented on Gormley Road West in order to satisfy the regulatory requirements.

Funding Application to Transport Canada was successful

An application for funding was submitted to the Transport Canada Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP) for these improvements and the grant application was successful.

The cost to complete all necessary recommended improvements identified at the six (6) locations is estimated to be \$211,250.00. The successful Transport Canada Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP) grant application resulted in a partial funding contribution of \$91,670.00 (including all applicable taxes) towards this work, leaving the remainder (\$119,580.00) to be funded by the Town.

All improvements must be complete by March 31, 2019 in order meet the requirements of the grant.

In order to receive the funding, Richmond Hill is required to enter into a funding agreement with Transport Canada and staff are requesting that authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Financial Services & Treasurer to sign and execute the funding agreement on behalf of the Town.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

Staff are recommending that the Railway Grade Crossing Improvement Project be approved with a budget of \$211,250.00. Staff recommend the funding sources for this project be established as follows: \$119,580.00 from the Town-wide Engineering Development Charge Reserve Fund and \$91,670.00 from the Transport Canada Rail Safety Improvement Program.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

The recommendations of this report are consistent with the Town's Strategic Plan to enhance community safety. It leads to achieving the objectives to build "strong connections in Richmond Hill" and "providing better choices for Town residents". The goal of Wise Management of Resources is also aligned since infrastructure improvements help to manage traffic congestion while reducing travel delays and poor air quality for residents.

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Conclusion:

In 2015, Transport Canada developed new *Grade Crossings Regulations* (GCR) under the *Railway Safety Act* to improve safety. By November 27, 2021, railway companies and road authorities must meet all requirements to upgrade existing road/rail crossings. Six crossings in Richmond Hill are required to implement improvements with a total project value of \$211,250.00. The Town's application to the Transport Canada Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP) has been successful and a grant contribution of \$91,670.00 has been awarded to the Town towards this work. Staff are recommending that the budget be approved for this project and that staff be authorized to enter into a Funding Agreement with Transport Canada.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPRS.18.165 Transport Canada Rail Safety Improvement Program.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 26, 2018

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Dan Terzievski - Jun 25, 2018 - 4:04 PM

Kelvin Kwan - Jun 26, 2018 - 6:57 AM

David Dexter - Jun 26, 2018 - 7:56 AM

Neil Garbe - Jun 26, 2018 - 2:07 PM