

REPORT

Climate Action, Planning and Development

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: October 16, 2023

From: Jackie Teed,
Acting Director, Climate Action,
Planning and Development
File: 05.1020.20

Item #: 2023-663

Subject: **Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: Columbia Street at 8th Street (New Westminster SkyTrain Station)**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council grant a noise exemption to TransLink from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from 10 PM to 7 AM starting October 31, 2023 to February 28, 2024 including Saturdays and intermittent Sundays, but excluding Statutory Holidays, to demolish and restore original walkways, install new maintenance walkways, and make operational equipment modifications to the New Westminster SkyTrain station.

PURPOSE

To request Council grant an exemption to Translink from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 to enable the maintenance, modification, and reinstallation of walkways in preparation for the activation of longer trains to accommodate more ridership.

DISCUSSION

On March 27, 2023 Council passed the following resolution:

THAT Council grant a noise exemption to TransLink from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from 10 PM to 7 AM starting May 1st, 2023, to October 31st, 2023 including Saturdays and intermittent Sundays, but excluding Statutory Holidays, to install new maintenance walkways, demolish and restore original walkways and make operational equipment modifications to the New Westminster SkyTrain station.

The exemption request was to enable Translink to demolish and restore original walkways and make operational equipment modifications to the New Westminster Skytrain station.

The work was delayed for a few reasons: staffing posed a challenge as Translink requires specialized personnel on the energized rail; longer lead time was required for critical materials; and some developments took longer than expected. This has resulted in the project taking longer than expected and a later completion date than first anticipated.

To ensure the work is completed within the new amended timelines, the contractor is requesting an extension of the original approved exemption granted by Council on March 27, 2023. The new extension will cover the period of October 31, 2023 to February 28, 2024. If the extension is granted, Translink will send an updated notification to neighbouring residents in the following areas:

- 700blk & 800blk Carnarvon Street, New Westminster
- 700blk & 800blk Columbia Street, New Westminster
- 700blk & 800blk Agnes Street, New Westminster
- 000blk Eighth Street, New Westminster
- 000blk Tenth Street, New Westminster

Please see Appendix A and B.

City staff consider an exemption of the Construction Noise Bylaw to be reasonable for the following three reasons:

1. SkyTrain is a key transportation system linking riders from New Westminster to multiple business centers;
2. SkyTrain operational constraints dictate construction must occur during nighttime hours; and
3. Increased ridership demands larger trains requiring modified infrastructure.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial impact to the City is anticipated by granting the exemption. If the exemption is not granted, the project will likely be delayed which may result in financial impacts for the applicant.

OPTIONS

There are two options to consider:

1. That Council grant a noise exemption to TransLink from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from 10 PM to 7 AM starting October 31, 2023 to February 28, 2024 including Saturdays and intermittent Sundays, but excluding Statutory

Holidays, to demolish and restore original walkways, install new maintenance walkways, and make operational equipment modifications to the New Westminster Skiy Train station.

2. That Council provide staff with alternative direction.

Staff recommend Option 1.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Sample of Previous Notification to Immediate Neighbourhood
Appendix B: Area of Construction Work

APPROVALS

This report has been prepared by:
Bal Varn, Bylaw Officer, Integrated Services

This report was reviewed by:
Kim Deighton, Manager, Integrated Services

This report was approved by:
Jackie Teed, Acting Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Lisa Leblanc, Acting Chief Administration Officer