

REPORT

Climate Action, Planning and Development

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: December 11, 2023

From: Jackie Teed, Director
Climate Action, Planning and Development
File: Doc#2408223

Item #: 2023-829

Subject: **Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 2126 Seventh Avenue (22nd Street SkyTrain Station)**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council grant a noise exemption to Translink contractor, Smith Bros. & Wilson (SBW), from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from 10 PM to 7 AM from Monday, December 11, 2023 to Monday, April 1, 2024 excluding Sundays and statutory holidays and the period between Sunday, December 24, 2023 and Tuesday, January 2, 2024 inclusive, to modify the 22nd Street SkyTrain infrastructure to increase egress from the station.

PURPOSE

To request that Council grant an exemption from the Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 to enable the modification the infrastructure of the 22nd Street SkyTrain Station to increase egress from the station.

DISCUSSION

On February 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 Wednesday March 1, 2023, to Thursday November 30, 2023 including Saturdays, but excluding Sundays and Statutory Holidays, to modify the 22nd Street Skytrain infrastructure to increase egress from the station.

Several unanticipated delays resulted in the project not being completed in the Council approved time frame. Staffing challenges contributed to delays as Translink required trained, specialized personnel on the energized rail. Also, longer than expected lead time was required for the critical materials and some development work took longer than expected. Delivery of some equipment also caused delays.

To complete the work, Translink and its contractor (SBW) is requesting an extension for the period of Monday December 11, 2023 to Monday April 1, 2024 excluding Sundays and statutory holidays and the period between Sunday December 24, 2023 and Tuesday January 2, 2024.

Translink and SBW have committed to implementing the following noise mitigation methods to minimize noise disturbances:

- Ensure all equipment is in good operating order
- Operate equipment at minimum engine speeds consistent with effective operation
- Educate and supervise construction personnel to ensure potential noises are minimized
- Avoid unnecessary idling, revving, use of airbrakes and banging of tail gates
- Turn off equipment when not in use
- Consider use of alternative back-up warning systems such as white noise reversing alarms instead of tonal beepers
- Locate stationary noise generating equipment as far away as possible from noise sensitive receivers
- Schedule construction activities and limit equipment usage times to minimize noise, especially during nighttime hours and near sensitive receivers
- Deliver notice to affected residents in advance to explain the need to conduct the work at night. The notices will be delivered to the residents in the 2000-2200blk Seventh Avenue, 600-700blk Twentieth Street, 2000-2100blk Marine Way and 2000blk Mead Street.
- Perform spot checks using hand held noise monitors

City staff consider an exemption 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. increased ridership demands larger trains requiring modified infrastructure;
3. SkyTrain operational constraints dictate construction must occur during nighttime hours;
4. no complaints have been received from neighborhood residents living in the vicinity of the 22nd SkyTrain Station since the initial Construction Noise exemption request approved Monday February 27, 2023, and
5. There are no traffic implications.

If the exemption extension is approved, Translink will send an updated notification to neighboring residents. See Appendix A and B.

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 contractor, Smith Bros. & Wilson (SBW), from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from 10 PM to 7 AM from Monday, December 11, 2023 to Monday, April 1, 2024 excluding Sundays and statutory holidays and the period between Sunday, December 24, 2023 and Tuesday, January 2, 2024 inclusive, to modify the 22nd Street SkyTrain infrastructure to increase egress from the station.
2. That Council provide staff with an alternative direction.

Staff recommend Option 1.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Area of Construction Work

Appendix B: Sample of Notification to Immediate Neighbourhood

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:

Bal Varn, Bylaw Officer, Integrated Services

This report was reviewed by:

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