

# REPORT

## Climate Action, Planning and Development

**To:** Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council  
**Date:** April 22, 2024

**From:** Jackie Teed,  
Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development  
**File:** Doc #2474623

**Item #:** 2024-225

**Subject: Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 81 Braid Street (Braid Street SkyTrain Station)**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** Council grant an exemption from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 to TransLink from Wednesday May 1, 2024 to Sunday August 31, 2025 from 12:00 AM to 6:00 AM, weekdays and including weekends for a maximum of five days per week, including some Sundays and excluding all Statutory Holidays, to install new maintenance walkways, demolish and restore original maintenance walkways, and make operational equipment modifications to the Braid SkyTrain Station at 81 Braid Street.

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### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to request Council grant an exemption from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 to TransLink to enable the maintenance, modification, and reinstallation of walkways in preparation for the activation of longer trains to accommodate more ridership at the Braid SkyTrain Station.

### **BACKGROUND**

TransLink has actively been increasing the egress from all SkyTrain stations to support more ridership. Council has approved similar requests for work related to this project at 22nd Street SkyTrain Station between March 2023 and April 2024 and for New Westminster SkyTrain Station between October 2023 and March 2024. Braid SkyTrain Station is next on the TransLink's agenda and work is scheduled to begin in May 2024 for the purpose of installing new maintenance walkways, demolishing and restoring original maintenance walkways and performing operation equipment modifications.

## **ANALYSIS**

The proposed work includes demolition, drilling, hammering, welding, and concrete pouring. The equipment required to perform the work will be a railway crane, welding machine, sand blasters, work vehicles and hand-held power tools. During non-permitted hours the equipment expected to generate the most noise will be sand blasters and the welding machine which are reported to sound similar to a generator.

In order to safely conduct the demolition, modifications, and installations to the guideway, much of the work must be performed during non-operational hours when trains are not operational. During most mid-week days, there is only a two hour window of opportunity to engage in construction activities since much of the non-revenue hours are spent either preparing the worksite following the end of train service or packing up equipment and cleaning the worksite to prepare for the resumption of train service the next day. Sundays have longer non-revenue hours and provide up to a four hour window in which to advance the project. Eliminating Sundays would lengthen the duration of the project considerably.

The work is expected to occur up to a maximum of five nights per week and will involve some Sundays for the duration of the requested period. Dates of the work will vary throughout the project.

Some of the work is weather dependent and the duration of the requested exemption has taken into account the possibility of inclement weather.

## **DISCUSSION**

Noise disruptions are expected to be minimal.

The closest business is the Amazon Distribution Centre that is located 125 meters away and operates 24 hours a day. TransLink advises they are in communication with Amazon to ensure their operations are not affected.

The nearest residences are approximately 295 metres from the Braid SkyTrain Station. To ensure the least impact possible to the local community, TransLink has committed to continuing to implement the following noise mitigation measures:

- Ensure all equipment is in good operating order.
- Educate and supervise construction personnel to ensure potential noises are minimized.
- Turn off equipment when not in use.
- Spotters can be used in lieu of audible backup alarms.
- Locate stationary noise generating equipment as far away as possible from noise sensitive receivers.
- Schedule construction related activities and limit equipment usage to minimize noise, especially during nighttime hours.

- Provide a night time contact person and respond to any calls from affected residents.

TransLink will be issuing information notices to area residents via Canada Post:

- 100 block Braid Street
- 400 block Rousseau Street
- 400 block Wilson Street

TransLink has also published notification of the upcoming project on its website and is available for the remainder of the project. Appendix A shows the area of the proposed work. Appendix B contains sample notification letter to the immediate neighborhood residents.

No transportation implications are expected to be associated with this exemption request.

**Conclusion**

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

1. increased ridership demands larger trains requiring modified infrastructure;
2. SkyTrain operational constraints dictate construction must occur during nighttime hours; and
3. the short window of opportunity for construction to occur during non-revenue hours, and plan for inclement weather, require the length of the exemption requested.

**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 an exemption from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 to TransLink from Wednesday May 1, 2024 to Sunday August 31, 2025 from 12:00 AM to 6:00 AM, weekdays and including weekends for a maximum of five days per week, including some Sundays and excluding all Statutory Holidays, to install new maintenance walkways, demolish and restore original maintenance walkways, and make operational equipment modifications to the Braid SkyTrain Station at 81 Braid Street.

2. That Council provide staff with alternative direction

Staff recommend Option 1.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: Map of Area of Construction Work

Appendix B: Sample of Notification to Immediate Neighbourhood

### **APPROVALS**

This report was prepared by:

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This report was reviewed by:

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This report was approved by:

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