

# **REPORT**

## **Climate Action, Planning and Development**

**To:** Mayor Cote and Members of Council      **Date:** November 15, 2021

**From:** Emilie K. Adin, MCIP      **File:** 05.1020.20  
Director, Climate Action, Planning and  
Development

**Item #:** 2021-559

**Subject:** Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: New Westminster  
Interceptor – Columbia Sewer Rehabilitation

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** Council grant an exemption to Oscar Renda Contracting of Canada (ORCC) from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 for four nights between Tuesday November 16, 2021 and Friday December 17, 2021 from 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM on weekdays, and Saturdays 6:00 PM to 9:00 AM Sundays to conduct slip-lining of the existing sewer with small sections of open cut replacement, replacement of lateral connections, and installation of new utility holes at Eighth Street and Columbia Street and at Blackwood Street and Columbia Street.

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### **PURPOSE**

To seek an exemption from the Construction Noise Bylaw for Oscar Renda Contracting of Canada (ORCC) to conduct slip-lining at the existing sewer with small sections of open cut replacement, replacement of lateral connections, and the installation of new utility holes at Eighth Street and Columbia Street and at Blackwood Street and Columbia Street during overnight hours for four nights from Tuesday, November 16, 2021 to Friday, December 17, 2021.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Project Description**

The New Westminster Interceptor Columbia Section sewer is a section of a Metro Vancouver sanitary collection system that runs from McBride Boulevard at the upstream end to the junction of Columbia Street and Front Street at the downstream end totaling

approximately 1,600 m. The existing condition of the sewer is poor and it has had numerous minor, localized repairs completed in the last few years. Due to its condition the sewer's entire length is undergoing rehabilitation. The rehabilitation work consists of slip-lining the majority of the existing sewer with small sections of open cut replacement, replacement of lateral connections, and installation of new utility holes.

## **DISCUSSION**

The slip-lining phase of the New Westminster Interceptor Columbia Replacement project represents a key stage in the project as it is this activity that directly addresses the threat of aging sewer pipe failure. The specific task requiring the noise exemption is the concurrent movement of pipe into position with a loader and the slip-lining of 700 metres of the existing sewer line with a jacking frame along Columbia Street from Front Street to Blackwood Street. Although completion of this activity exclusively during the day was originally planned, the window to complete this critical phase is at risk due to the seasonal weather along with the urgency to complete this phase to avoid conflicting with the Pattullo Bridge Replacement project in 2022. Therefore having the ability to work continuously through the night has significant advantages:

- This construction work is weather dependent, and the work revolves around the sewer line surcharging, which occurs during heavy rain events. During this period of high levels, no work can occur. As such, continual work through nighttime hours will reduce the number of continuous dry days needed, thereby allowing ORCC to address the urgency and schedule this activity within a smaller weather window.
- The faster completion of the slip-lining will reduce the number of required construction days and thereby reduce impacts to Downtown businesses.
- The faster completion will also reduce the likelihood of construction conflicts with the planned Pattullo Bridge replacement project construction scheduled in 2022. Simultaneous construction work of the two projects is expected to have a significant impact to the community from a transportation, business, and overall livability perspective.

## **Notification and Noise**

Updated construction notification will be provided to residents and businesses in the area by the contractor and Metro Vancouver. Noise will be kept to a minimum during the slip-lining activity. Only essential tasks for slip-lining will occur outside the permitted construction hours. There will be no dump truck delivery or soil removal during the overnight work.

ORCC has applied for and received a Street Occupancy Permit from the City's Engineering Transportation Division.

## **Road Closure Impact**

In conjunction with the noise exemption, the slip-lining of approximately 700 metres of pipe, from the entry shaft at Eighth Street and Columbia Street to the receiving shaft at Blackwood Street and Columbia Street, will also involve the full closure of Columbia Street to two-way vehicle travel between Front Street and Begbie Street. A complete closure is necessary to provide adequate road space for construction crews to both safely move pipe material to the launch shaft and simultaneously perform the slip-lining activity. An additional benefit of a complete closure is that it will simplify the work zone and will permit the contractor to focus on their task more efficiently without having to manage traffic simultaneously. With a noise exemption granted by Council, a 24-hour closure of Columbia Street of up to 4 days is expected. However, with these measures in place, it will allow ORCC to complete this task more safely and potentially in a shorter period of time than the maximum time period of 4 days that has been requested.

ORCC has submitted Transportation Management Plans for this closure, which includes accommodation for pedestrians, cyclists, affected transit routes, and vehicle movements. These plans are currently being reviewed by City staff, and are expected to be approved before the slip-line work takes place. This also includes coordination with the 660 Quayside Drive development (Pier West, Bosa Development) to ensure road safety and whistle cessation at the Begbie rail crossing are maintained. Digital signs will be updated to advise motorists of road closures. City staff will coordinate with Metro Vancouver's communications group on messaging to residents, businesses and regional partners to promote that businesses are still open during construction but some vehicle access will not be available through downtown.

Given that this is a critical phase of the project, the limited weather window to complete this work, expected low noise impacts, and a shorter Columbia Street closure that should lessen impacts to Downtown businesses, City staff consider the requested exemption to be reasonable under these circumstances.

## **OPTIONS**

There are two options to consider:

1. That Council grant an exemption to Oscar Renda Contracting of Canada (ORCC) from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 for four nights between Tuesday November 16, 2021 and Friday December 17, 2021 from 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM on weekdays, and Saturdays 6:00 PM to 9:00 AM Sundays to conduct slip-lining of the existing sewer with small sections of open cut replacement, replacement of lateral connections, and installation of new utility holes at Eighth Street and Columbia Street and at Blackwood Street and Columbia Street.
2. That Council provide staff with alternative direction.

Staff recommend Option 1.

## **APPROVALS**

This report was prepared by:

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This report was reviewed by:

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