

## Appendix A

Report to Council Dated July 8, 2024

# **REPORT**

## ***Planning and Development***

**To:** Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council  
**Date:** July 8, 2024

**From:** Jackie Teed, Director, Planning and Development  
**File:** #2509783

**Item #:** 2024-409

**Subject:** **Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 252 Brunette Avenue (Sapperton SkyTrain Station)**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** Council grant an exemption from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 to TransLink for the period of Monday July 15, 2024 to Saturday 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 Sapperton SkyTrain Station at 252 Brunette Avenue.

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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 maintenance, modifications, and reinstallation of extended walkways in preparation for the activation of longer trains to accommodate increased ridership on SkyTrains.

### **BACKGROUND**

TransLink has actively been increasing the egress from all SkyTrain stations to support more increased ridership. The work includes installing new maintenance walkways, demolishing and restoring original maintenance walkways and performing operation equipment modifications. Council has approved similar requests for work related to this project at:

- 22nd Street SkyTrain Station for the period between March 2024 and January 2025;
- New Westminster SkyTrain Station for the period between March 2024 and August 2024; and
- Braid SkyTrain Station for the period between May 2024 and August 2025.

Sapperton SkyTrain Station is next on the Translink's agenda and work is scheduled to begin in July 2024 and extend through to August 2025.

## **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 nearest residences are approximately 100 meters from the Sapperton SkyTrain Station. To ensure the least impact to the local community, TransLink has committed to the following noise mitigation measures:

- Ensuring all equipment is in good operating order.
- Educating and supervising construction personnel to ensure potential noises are minimized.
- Turning off equipment when not in use.

- Utilizing back-up warning systems such as white noise reversing alarms instead of tonal beepers.
- Locating stationary noise generating equipment as far away as possible from noise sensitive receivers.
- Scheduling construction related activities and limiting equipment usage to minimize noise, especially during nighttime hours.
- Providing a night time contact person and responding to any calls from affected residents.

TransLink will be issuing information notices via Canada Post to area residents at the following locations:

- 100 block to 400 block of East Columbia Street
- 200 block to 400 block of Brunette Avenue
- 200 block to 300 block of Sherbrooke Street
- 200 block Keary Street
- 200 block of Nelson's Court
- 200 block of Allen Street

Translink has also published notification of the upcoming SkyTrain upgrade project on its website and the proposed work and timelines will be available for viewing 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 associated with this exemption request.

The Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH) is approximately 200 meters away and operates 24 hours a day. TransLink advise they are in communication with Fraser Health and RCH to ensure their operations are not negatively affected by the construction.

TransLink is in the process of obtaining permission from CN Rail to work between the two railways located under the Sapperton SkyTrain Station.

## **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; and
4. no complaints have been received regarding noise disturbances during overnight hours at any of the other three New Westminster SkyTrain locations that are part of this project.

**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 for the period of Monday July 15, 2024 to Saturday 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 Sapperton SkyTrain Station at 252 Brunette Avenue..
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 Area Residents

**APPROVALS**

This report was prepared by:

Bal Varn, Senior Property Use Coordinator, Integrated Services

This report was reviewed by:

Kim Deighton, Manager, Integrated Services

This report was approved by:

Jackie Teed, Director, Planning and Development

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer

## Appendix A

### *Map of Area of Construction Work*

## Map of Area of Construction Work



## Appendix B

### *Sample of Notification to Area Residents*





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South Coast British Columbia  
Transportation Authority

July XX, 2024

Dear Neighbours,

To prepare existing SkyTrain platforms to accommodate longer trains and more riders as we prepare to receive more than 200 new SkyTrain cars over the next few years, we will be completing a number of modifications to aspects of station infrastructure through our Station Access and Safety Project (SASP).

Work is expected to **begin in July 2024 at Sapperton Station** to modify the walkways along the tracks used by our SkyTrain Attendants. This project is critical to the safety of our riders and staff. **The work will take place overnight from 12 midnight to 6:00 a.m., may include weekends, and is expected to be complete by Summer 2025.**

Crews will work primarily overnight, and you can expect to hear construction-related noise including drilling, cutting, and hammering.

TransLink has received an exemption to the City of New Westminster's Noise By-Law for this nighttime work to take place. Together with the contractor, we will make every effort to minimize the impact of this project on our customers and neighbours.

**Customer Service | 604.953.3333**

- Monday to Sunday | 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**Overnight Call Centre | 604.815.6077**

- After hours only

**Email | [publicengagement@translink.ca](mailto:publicengagement@translink.ca)**

- Monitored during regular business hours, Monday to Friday.

This work is needed to continue to expand and improve transit service in Metro Vancouver. We apologize for any inconvenience it may cause you.

Sincerely,  
*SASP Project Team*