

REPORT

Climate Action, Planning and Development and Engineering Services

To: Mayor Cote and Members of Council **Date:** February 14, 2022

From: Serena Trachta **File:** 05.1020.20
Acting Director, Climate Action,
Planning and Development

Lisa Leblanc,
Director of Engineering

Item #: 2022-106

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

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council grant an exemption to Oscar Renda Contracting of Canada (ORCC) from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 for eight nights between Tuesday February 15, 2022 and Thursday March 10, 2022 from 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM Mondays to Thursdays and 8:00 PM Fridays to 7:00 AM Mondays including Sundays and a Statutory Holiday to conduct maintenance of the existing sewer, installation of new utility holes and slip lining along Columbia Street.

PURPOSE

To request that Council grant an exemption from the Construction Noise Bylaw for Metro Vancouver's contractor, Oscar Renda Contracting of Canada (ORCC), to conduct sewer maintenance including multiple upgrades installation and slip lining in the downtown area for eight nights from Tuesday, February 15, 2022 to Thursday, March 10, 2022.

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.

On December 13, 2021 Council granted ORCC's request for a construction noise exemption extension for four nights leading up to February 14, 2022 to conduct slip-lining work along Columbia Street however, this work was not performed due to weather conditions. ORCC is still hoping to perform the work under the exemption granted but are not confident given the recent weather patterns and high level sewer flow that that is achievable. The December 13, 2021 Council report is attached as Appendix A.

DISCUSSION

During the rehabilitation work, the water main at three different locations (the intersection at Sixth Street and Columbia Street; midblock between Sixth Street and Church Street; and the intersection at Fourth Street and Columbia Street) was performed before the start of utility holes installations. The slip-lining component will be done continuously for four consecutive days and nights on a twenty four hour basis depending on the weather conditions and may include weekend work including Sundays as once they start they must finish the work to completion. Construction work may occur on February 21, 2022 a statutory holiday due to slip-lining work continuity. Further, an open cut by the intersection of Front and Columbia to accommodate a bypass will allow for ORCC to slip-line right after the bypass is installed overnight. A few extra nights are being requested for any weather-related or unexpected construction delays.

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. This work was originally planned to be completed during permitted hours only however the window of opportunity has changed due to weather conditions and a need to avoid conflicts with other construction projects in the downtown core. 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 schedule this activity within a smaller weather window.
- The faster completion of the slip-lining will reduce the number of required construction days, especially during daytime hours, and thereby reduce impacts to Downtown residents and businesses.

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 and water main relocation activity. There will be no dump truck delivery or soil removal during the overnight work. Noise will occur from a small excavator, a rubber tire backhoe, small generator, small tools, and a cut off saw used during the overnight work.

ORCC will apply for an updated Street Occupancy Permit (SOP) from the City's Engineering Transportation Division. Their current SOP expires on February 28th, 2022.

Road Closure Impact

Details regarding traffic implications can be found in the November 15, 2021 Council report attached as Appendix A.

Transportation staff report that, based on current understanding of the work, this additional exemption is expected to have similar limited transportation impacts as the previous road closures, and can be accomplished under previous traffic management plans. Any changes to approved traffic management plans resulting from this additional exempted work will be handled by staff through the normal review and permitting process.

Conclusion

Given that this is a critical phase of the project, the limited weather window to complete the work, expected low noise impacts, and that a shorter Columbia Street closure duration would lessen impacts to Downtown businesses, City staff consider the request be reasonable.

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 eight nights between Tuesday February 15, 2022 and Thursday March 10, 2022 from 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM

Mondays to Thursdays and 8:00 PM Fridays to 7:00 AM Mondays including Sundays and a Statutory Holiday to conduct maintenance of the existing sewer, installation of new utility holes and slip lining along Columbia Street.

2. That Council provide staff with alternative direction.

Staff recommend Option 1.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Council Reports Dated December 13, 2021 and November 15, 2021

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:

Nav Dhanoya, Construction Impacts Coordinator

This report was reviewed by:

Serena Trachta, Acting Manager of Licensing and Integrated Services

Mike Anderson, Acting Manager of Transportation

This report was approved by:

Serena Trachta, Acting Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development

Lisa Leblanc, Director of Engineering

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer