

REPORT

Climate Action, Planning and Development and Engineering Services

To: Mayor Cote and Members of Council **Date:** March 7, 2022

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

Lisa Leblanc,
Director of Engineering

Item #: 2022-159

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 twelve nights between Friday March 11, 2022 and Thursday April 14, 2022 from 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM Mondays to Thursdays and 8:00 PM Fridays to 7:00 AM Mondays including Sundays 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 new utility holes installation and slip lining in the downtown area for twelve nights from Friday, March 11, 2022 to Thursday, April 14, 2022.

BACKGROUND

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 along Columbia Street from near Blackwood Street to Front Street.

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.

On February 14, 2022 Council granted ORCC another extension until March 10, 2022. The February 14, 2022 Council report is attached as Appendix A. The slip-lining component was started at Front Street along Columbia Street, but ORCC encountered obstructions in the underground pipe. Work had to be stopped to assess the obstructions and implement other options for slip-lining. ORCC may choose to continue slip-lining in the opposite direction from near Blackwood Street along Columbia Street towards Front Street. ORCC may not be able to finish the work by March 10, 2022 and may need more time to do the work. Therefore, ORCC is applying for a further extension to the variance starting March 11, 2022 and finishing on April 14, 2022. Work may be done continuously for eight consecutive days and nights on a 24-hour basis depending on the weather conditions and may include weekend work including Sundays, as they must finish the work to completion once it is started. A few extra nights are being requested for any weather-related or unexpected construction delays.

All slip-lining work was originally planned to be completed during permitted hours. However, the window of opportunity has changed due to pipe cleaning, pipe obstruction, 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 existing 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 work 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.

Road Closure Impact

ORCC has applied for a Street Occupancy Permit (SOP) from the City's Engineering Transportation Division. This SOP is currently under review with the Engineering Transportation Division. Based on current understanding of the work, this additional exemption is expected to have similar transportation impacts as the previous road closures, and can be accomplished under new traffic management plans provided by ORCC. Any changes to approved traffic management plans resulting from this additional exempted work will be handled by Transportation 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 an extension of the Construction Noise Bylaw exemption to 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 twelve nights between Friday March 11, 2022 and Thursday April 14, 2022 from 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM Mondays to Thursdays and 8:00 PM Fridays to 7:00 AM Mondays including Sundays 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 February 14, 2022, December 13, 2021 and November 15, 2021

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:
Nav Dhanoya, Construction Impacts Coordinator
Michael Nguyen, Engineering Technologist

This report was reviewed by:
Serena Trachta, Acting Manager of Integrated Services
Mike Anderson, Acting Manager of Transportation

This report was approved by:
Emilie K. Adin, Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Lisa Leblanc, Director of Engineering
Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer