

# REPORT

## *Development Services*

**To:** Mayor Cote and Members of Council      **Date:** September 13, 2021

**From:** Emilie K. Adin, MCIP  
Director of Development Services      **File:** 05.1020.20

**Item #:** 2021-341

**Subject: Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: Metro Vancouver Sewer Upgrades**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

***THAT** Council grant an exemption to Metro Vancouver from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from Monday, September 20, 2021 to Thursday, September 30, 2021 from 9:00 PM to 7:00 AM to conduct utility hole hatch upgrades along Front Street.*

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### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to request an exemption to Metro Vancouver from the Construction Noise Bylaw to permit utility hole hatch upgrades along Front Street during overnight hours from Monday, September 20, 2021 to Thursday, September 30, 2021.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Project Description**

Metro Vancouver sewer interceptors convey the City's and other municipalities' wastewater to a treatment plant before being discharged into the waterways. Maintenance and upgrades of the sewerage system benefit all lower mainland residents.

Metro Vancouver is proposing to upgrade the Front Street Pressure Sewer (FSPS) in order to increase the pressure to reduce the likelihood of overflow events. To increase the pressure, the utility hole hatches must be secured along Front Street from Sapperton to the west end of Front Street.

The scope of this project includes 2 phases:

- Phase 1 involves welding the manhole hatches to temporarily increase the pressure over the winter storm season. This work will require a road closure on Front Street. A traffic management plan is being submitted to Engineering-Transportation.
- Phase 2 involves the final replacement, repair, or abandonment of all 19 hatches to permanently increase the FSPS pressure. Metro Vancouver hopes to use the same Front Street closure for the Pattullo Bridge project in 2022 to do this work.

The New Westminster utility holes along Front Street cannot be accessed during daytime hours due to high traffic volumes on Front Street. Engineering–Transportation requires that any overnight upgrade work be performed at night when the traffic flow has decreased significantly. Also, the utility hole hatches work on the sewer pipes can be carried out during dry weather and during low flow periods with less pressure. Low flow periods typically occur between the hours of midnight and 6:00 AM.

## **DISCUSSION**

Metro Vancouver is proposing to conduct the utility hole hatch upgrade work starting on or after Monday, September 20, 2021 for four nights. Metro Vancouver is requesting a ten day window of time from Monday September 20, 2021 to Thursday September 30, 2021 to account for inclement weather, unforeseen site conditions, and any other scheduling delays that may occur. If weather conditions are ideal, work may be completed sooner. An analysis of the sewer system was completed to minimize the amount of work and therefore reduce any negative impact to neighbourhood residents and businesses.

Utility hole hatch upgrades of the sewer lines will be conducted along 100 and 200 block of Front Street (between Elliot Street and Sapperton Landing Park). A map of the work zone is attached in Appendix A. The work activities involve using a Hydrovac to remove any liquid between the utility hole hatches and lids; sandblasting the coating of the utility hole frames of four corners of each utility hole, and welding a steel plate above the hatches of each utility hole. Welding work will be performed on utility holes #12 - #15 along Front Street within 450 meter zone. This is indicated in Appendix A.

For safety reasons, during the sandblasting and welding portions of the work, Metro Vancouver proposes closing both lanes on Front Street for the full four nights of work from approximately 10 PM to 6 AM. Metro Vancouver will be submitting a traffic management plan to the Engineering –Transportation for approval and the plan will include, but not be limited to, cones around the work zones and advanced warning signs for traffic management.

While the work zone is separated from the residential areas by a high retaining wall, vegetation, SkyTrain, railway tracks, and Columbia Street, some noise disruption is expected to be generated from the operation of the Hydrovac, sandblasting, and

welding. Metro Vancouver is committed to taking the following measures to minimize the noise created during non-permitted hours:

- Ensure all equipment is in good operating order.
- Operate equipment at minimum engine speeds consistent with effective operation
- Educate and supervise construction personnel to ensure potential noises are minimized
- Avoid unnecessary idling, revving, use of airbrakes and banging of tail gates
- Turn off equipment when not in use
- Consider use of alternative back-up warning systems such as white noise reversing alarms instead of tonal beepers
- Locate stationary noise generating equipment as far away as possible from noise sensitive receivers
- Schedule construction activities and limit equipment usage times to minimize noise, especially during nighttime hours and near sensitive receivers
- Have a night time contact person available to respond to any calls from affected residents
- Deliver notice to affected residents in advance to explain the need to conduct the work at night and to provide contact phone numbers
- Perform spot checks using hand held noise monitors

Area residents potentially impacted by the noise will be notified in advance. Notifications will be delivered by Canada Post a week in advance to area residents at the following locations:

- 100 Block Columbia Street
- 1, 2 & 70 Block Front Street
- 30 Block Elliot Street
- 200 Block Carnarvon Street
- 30 to 100 Block Agnes Street
- 70 Block Coburg Street
- 40 & 50 Block Dufferin Street
- 40 Block Hasting Street
- 30 Block Albert Crescent
- 30, 40 & 50 Block Leopold Place
- 12 Royal Ave
- 10 to 20 Block E Royal Ave

A map of the notification area as well as a sample of a resident notification is attached in Appendix B. There will also be a tweet from the Metro Vancouver road work account.

**OPTIONS**

There are two options to consider:

1. That Council grant an exemption to Metro Vancouver from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from Monday, September 20, 2021 to Thursday, September 30, 2021 from 9:00 PM to 7:00 AM to conduct utility hole hatch upgrades along Front Street.
2. That Council provide staff with alternative direction.

Staff recommends option 1.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: Map of the Utility Hole Hatch Upgrade Work Zone.

Appendix B: Map of the Notification Area and Sample of the Notification.

**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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