



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**Transportation Operations and Maintenance Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	August 12, 2020
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Transport Canada Rail Safety Improvement Program Grant (PW19077(a)) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Sarath Vala (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1320
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Edward Soldo Director, Transportation Operations & Maintenance Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the General Manager of Public Works, or their designate, be authorized and directed to negotiate/renegotiate, enter into, and execute an agreement with Transport Canada, and all amendments and ancillary documents, for the purpose of formalizing the City's ability to receive the Transport Canada Rail Safety Improvement Program grant in accordance with the principles contained in this report, all in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Transport Canada introduced the new Grade Crossing Regulations in November 2017.

The purpose of the new regulation is to:

- Improve crossing safety;
- Provide consistent safety standards for new and existing public and private grade crossings;
- Define responsibilities to improve the safety of public and private grade crossings;
- Promote collaboration between railways and road authorities; and
- Implement new regulations for a consistent level of safety for all classes of crossings.

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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The regulation includes a completion date of November 27, 2021 for the upgrades to the crossings.

The City of Hamilton submitted thirteen (13) projects to the Transport Canada Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP) for the 2020/2021 grant consideration. Of the thirteen (13) projects, three (3) have been approved by the RSIP with the maximum eligible (80%) grant funding, as requested.

The approved projects are as follows:

- Primrose Avenue CP Rail Crossing – Installation of new Flashing Lights, Bells and Gates (FLBG) warning system specifically designed for pedestrian crossing;
- Victoria Avenue CN Rail Crossing - Implementing an intelligent train detection system with variable message boards that will inform road users when the rail crossing is blocked; and
- Mountain Avenue CP Rail Crossing - Installation of a new FLBG warning system specifically designed for pedestrian crossings.

The total cost of the projects is estimated at \$250,399.00, with a federal funding contribution of \$200,319.20. Additional project details are provided in Appendix “A” to Report PW19077(a) and locations are identified in Appendix “B” to Report PW19077(a).

The remaining ten (10) projects that were not approved will be resubmitted to the RSIP in August 2020 for future grant consideration.

The purpose of this report is to give staff the authority to execute any necessary agreements for receiving the RSIP grant funds.

**Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable**

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: In total the three (3) approved projects equate to an estimated cost of \$250,399 with up to \$200,319.20 (80%) funded by the RSIP grant. The remaining cost of \$50,079.80 (20%) is to be paid by the City. The funding for these projects have been approved under Capital Budget Project ID 4031710715 established in the 2017. The RSIP grant funding reduces the City of Hamilton’s financial commitments to these projects. See Appendix “A” to Report PW19077(a), for summary details of the approved RSIP Grant Application Projects, for details of each project.

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Staffing: N/A

Legal: An agreement is required with Transport Canada in order to receive the approved funding.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

In August of 2017, Council approved Report PW17066, which provided an overview of the new Transport Canada Grade Crossing Regulations and the status of the mandatory information sharing and inspections required regarding railway crossings in the City.

In September of 2019, Council approved Report PW19077, which provided a progress update on the implementation of new grade crossing regulations, the results of the detailed railway safety inspections/audits and information related to the Transport Canada RSIP grant application.

The City of Hamilton submitted thirteen (13) projects to RSIP for the 2020/2021 grant consideration in August of 2019 and notification of approval was provided in June of 2020.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

N/A

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Railway authorities (CN Rail and CP Rail) were consulted to confirm the project scopes prior to submitting the RSIP grant applications.

City of Hamilton's Legal Services will review the contribution agreement with Transport Canada for receiving the grant funds.

**ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

Capital Budget Project ID 4031710715 was established in the 2017 with a total budget of \$2,500,000 starting in 2017 and ending in 2021 for reviewing the improving the railway grade crossings to meet the new Transport Canada regulations.

Transport Canada provides grant and contribution funding through the RSIP. This program provides up to 80% of total eligible expenditures for any one project with the maximum grant amount payable of \$500,000 per project. Each project submitted is

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assessed by Transport Canada to determine if the Project meets the following mandatory selection criteria:

- Relevance of the project to the RSIP objectives and eligible activities;
- Quality of the Proposal; and
- Value for the money in that the project represents an appropriate use of the public monies.

All the thirteen (13) projects (including the 3 approved projects) applied for the RSIP grant have already been budgeted and fully funded (under Capital Budget Project ID 4031710715). The RSIP grant funding reduces the City of Hamilton's financial commitments to these projects.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

N/A

**ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Healthy and Safe Communities**

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

**Built Environment and Infrastructure**

Hamilton is supported by state of the art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report PW19077(a) – Summary Details of Approved RSIP Grant Application Projects

Appendix "B" to Report PW19077(a) – Location Details of Approved RSIP Grant Application Projects