



**To:** General Purposes Committee  
**From:** Eric G. Gilfillan  
 Director, Operations  
**Re:** Viking Way Watermain Replacement

**Date:** March 28, 2003  
**File:** 6340-20

**Staff Recommendation**

That the proposed Gilbert Road Watermain replacement project identified in the 2003 capital program be substituted for the Viking Way watermain replacement project.

Eric G. Gilfillan  
Director, Operations (L.1206)

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Budgets .....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

## Staff Report

### Origin

The Gilbert Road watermain replacement capital project is included in the 2003 capital program.

On March 24, 2003 the watermain on Viking Way failed, disrupting water supply to local businesses and resulting in \$58,200 in emergency repairs. The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's approval to defer the Gilbert Road watermain capital project to 2004 and advance the Viking Way watermain replacement capital project for construction in 2003.

### Analysis

The Viking Way watermain dates back to 1976 and is one of the first vintages of plastic pipe used as watermain in Richmond. Today we know this early vintage of plastic pipe has a limited life, as it tends to become brittle over time because of its chemical composition. In contrast, the chemical composition for new PVC pipe used for watermains today is completely different and is expected to last 50 years.


The Viking Way watermain between Cambie Road and Bridgeport Road is approximately 800 metres long and was not scheduled for replacement in the five year capital program. Because the Viking Way watermain ruptured 3 times over the past 5 years, staff recommend that it be advanced as a priority project for replacement in 2003. The Gilbert Road watermain replacement project currently scheduled for replacement in 2003 will be deferred to 2004.

### Financial Impact

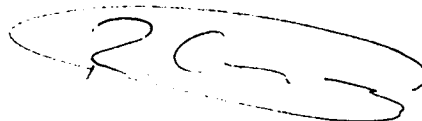
Replacement of 800 metres of watermain on Viking Way is estimated at \$550,000, which is the same budget as for the Gilbert Road watermain replacement project.

### Conclusion

Watermain failures on Viking Way have resulted in costly emergency repairs and disruptions to water supply to local businesses. Proactive replacement of the Viking Way watermain in 2003 will improve the water system's reliability. Therefore staff recommend that the Gilbert Road watermain be deferred to 2004 and the Viking Way watermain replacement project be advanced to 2003.



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