



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** June 6, 2006
From: Robert Gonzalez, P.Eng.
 Director, Engineering **File:** 6340-20
Re: **No. 3 Road Undergrounding Pre-Ducting - Cambie Road to Sea Island Way**

Staff Recommendation

That the 2005 capital funds allocated for undergrounding of foreign utilities along Gilbert Road from Granville Avenue to Westminster Highway in the amount of \$600,000 be reallocated to fund pre-ducting for undergrounding of foreign utilities along No. 3 Road from Cambie Road to Sea Island Way.

Robert Gonzalez, P.Eng.
 Director, Engineering
 (4150)

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
Budgets	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>			
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

The Foreign Utility Infrastructure Undergrounding Strategy is a partnership between BC Hydro and the City to underground overhead utility poles and wires in the City Centre. Council has approved several undergrounding projects in this regard including one on No. 3 Road, between Cambie Road and Sea Island Way originally planned for construction in 2003 following construction of the 98-Bline. With Council's approval (Attachment 2), this project was postponed in order to realize the coordination opportunities with the pending Canada Line project.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to reallocate funding to the undergrounding project on No. 3 Road, between Cambie Road and Sea Island Way.

Analysis

The Canada Line is an approximate \$1.7 billion rapid transit project within the Cities of Richmond and Vancouver and the International Airport on Sea Island. Construction of the Canada Line on No. 3 Road between Granville Avenue and the North Arm of the Fraser River has been ongoing since approximately January 2006.

Among the many activities taking place in preparation for construction of the Canada Line column foundations is the relocation of the various utilities along the alignment. Given this ongoing work, the City has an opportunity to complete hydro undergrounding pre-ducting between Cambie Road and Sea Island Way now and realize several economic and public impact efficiencies. This section of undergrounding along No. 3 Road is currently identified in the five-year capital program, slated for 2008 and 2009.

The following are some of the benefits of commencing the pre-ducting work at this time:

- A traffic management plan is already in place.
- BC Hydro who is a key player in completing the undergrounding work is already on site completing their own related utility relocations to facilitate foundation construction.
- Disruption to traffic and businesses will be minimized.
- All construction related advertising and information letters are in place.
- A community liaison person(s) has already been established.
- Contractors who complete hydro undergrounding work are already on site.

Funding to complete this project is available through Council's previous approval of the undergrounding project along Gilbert Road between Granville Avenue and Westminster Highway. The undergrounding project along No. 3 Road is a higher priority given the timing and scope of the Canada Line work and allows the City to leverage significant efficiencies as compared to completing undergrounding on Gilbert Road. The estimated cost to complete the pre-ducting component of the undergrounding on No. 3 Road is \$600,000.

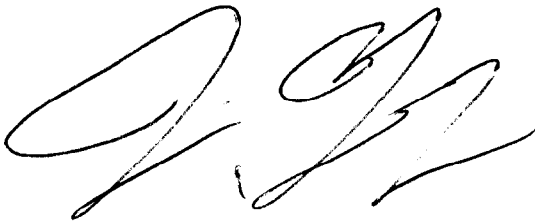
Because the west side of No. 3 Road is slated to undergo redevelopment, it does not make sense to underground the poles and cables at this time. From a smart sequencing stand point it is prudent to install most of the necessary ducting to avoid major trench work in the future.

Impacts

A reallocation of \$600,000 from the Gilbert Road undergrounding project (Account #40263) is required to complete undergrounding on No. 3 Road. Details on the budget and funding allocations are shown in Attachment 1.

Conclusion

The City has an opportunity to realize hydro undergrounding related efficiencies on No 3 Road through coordination with the Canada Line project. Funding is available through reallocation from the Gilbert Road undergrounding project approved by Council in 2005.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. V. Young', is written over the signature line.

Jim V. Young, P. Eng.
Manager Engineering Design and Construction
(4610)

JVY:kdI

Attachment 1

Funding Source	Funding Approved for Project # 40263	Total Funding Allocation to New Project on No. 3 Road	Remaining Budget Under Project # 40263
Capital Reserve Fund per 5-Year Financial Plan (2005 – 2009) Bylaw #7939	\$900,000	\$400,000	\$500,000
Grant – BC Hydro	\$450,000	\$200,000	\$250,000
Total	\$1,350,000	\$600,000	\$750,000



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Public Works and Transportation Committee
FROM: Steve Ono, P.Eng.
Director, Engineering
RE: **No. 3 Road Undergrounding – 2003**

DATE: July 3, 2003
FILE: 6340-20

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That Staff postpone the undergrounding project along No. 3 Road between Road and Sea Island Way and coordinate it with the RAV Project; and
- 2) That the 2002 capital funds allocated for undergrounding of foreign utilities along No. 3 Road from Cambie Road to Sea Island Way in the amount of \$2,646,000 be reallocated to fund undergrounding of foreign utilities along Westminster Highway from Minoru Boulevard to Gilbert Road and on Granville Avenue from No. 3 Road to St. Alban's Road/Cooney Road.

Steve Ono, P.Eng.
Director, Engineering

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Budget	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	_____

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

The No. 3 Road Foreign Utility Infrastructure Undergrounding Strategy commenced in 1997 when BC Hydro partnered with the City to underground overhead utility poles and wires along No. 3 Road between Westminster Highway and Sea Island Way. BC Hydro contributed one third of the total estimated undergrounding cost over the three year period.

In 2000, undergrounding along No. 3 Road from Westminster Highway to Cambie Road was completed in conjunction with the 98 B Line project.

In 2002, the City budgeted \$2,646,000 in the Capital Program to underground the final section on No. 3 Road between Cambie Road and Sea Island Way. In 2003, BC Hydro confirmed their contribution to pay for one third of the cost for this project.

ANALYSIS

The Richmond Airport Vancouver (RAV) Project has been proposed for No. 3 Road between Granville Avenue and Sea Island Way with a significant amount of roadway construction. To avoid duplication of disruption to businesses, traffic congestion and relocation of existing services, staff recommends postponing the undergrounding project along No. 3 Road between Cambie Road and Sea Island Way until the RAV Project proceeds. This will allow for coordination and construction of work in a timely and more economical manner.

Unfortunately, the BC Hydro funding deadline is for March 31, 2004 and the RAV project construction will not commence prior to this date. As such, BC Hydro has approved transferring the funds dedicated for the No. 3 Road undergrounding project in 2003 to the following two undergrounding projects which were originally scheduled for construction in 2004 and 2006 in the City's 5 Year Capital Program.

1. Westminster Highway – Minoru Boulevard to Gilbert Road
2. Granville Avenue – No. 3 Road to St. Alban's Road/Cooney Road

These two projects could be tendered and commence construction prior to the end of March 2004.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated combined cost to the City for the Granville Avenue and Westminster Highway undergrounding projects is within the approved 2002 capital program budget of \$2,646,000 for No. 3 Road – Cambie Road to Sea Island Way. Therefore, no financial impact is expected.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the RAV Project, Staff recommends postponing the final section of the No. 3 Road Undergrounding project to be constructed in conjunction with the RAV Project. In addition, due to BC Hydro's offer to reallocate their approved funds from the No. 3 Road Project to the Granville Avenue and Westminster Highway Undergrounding Projects, Staff recommends that

June 8, 2006

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the City reallocate the budgeted \$2,646,000 in the Capital Program to underground Westminster Highway – Minoru Boulevard to Gilbert Road and Granville Avenue – No. 3 Road to St. Alban's Road/Cooney Road.

Siu Tse, M.Eng., P.Eng.
Manager, Engineering Planning
(4075)

ST:rg