



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Public Works and Transportation Committee **DATE:** May 25, 2000
FROM: Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
 Manager, Transportation **FILE:** 6500-01
RE: Steveston Interchange - Proposed Improvements to Westbound to Northbound On-Ramp

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the proposed improvements to the Highway 99/Steveston Highway westbound to northbound on-ramp, including a free flow right-turn lane from Steveston Highway, as outlined in the attached report from the Manager of Transportation, be endorsed for implementation in 2000 as part of the 1998/1999 Federal Infrastructure Grant Program.
2. That additional funding in an amount of \$60,000 (with \$40,000 recoverable) be allocated to the Steveston Highway Improvement Project in order to maximize the funding recovery by the City from the 1998/1999 Federal Infrastructure Grant Program.
3. That the source of funding for the above additional budget for the Steveston Highway Improvement Project be re-allocated from the Gilbert Road Bicycle Route Project in the 2000 Major Capital Works Program which was denied for provincial funding from the 2000/2001 Cycling Network Program.

Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
 Manager, Transportation

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Engineering	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Budget	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

At the July 21, 1999 Public Works and Transportation Committee meeting, staff presented a report outlining the scope of roadway improvements on Steveston Highway between Palmberg Road and Entertainment Boulevard. At the same meeting, staff advised that there would be remaining funds from this project that could be appropriated for other improvements in the area. After some discussion about the alternative options of road work that could be completed in the area with these funds, Council endorsed the following staff recommendation:

That the remaining funding be appropriated for improvements to the Highway 99/Steveston Highway northbound on-ramp.

This staff report presents a recommended design of the improvements to the Highway 99/Steveston Highway northbound on-ramp for implementation in 2000, as well as presents a proposed funding strategy to implement the recommended improvements for Council's consideration.

ANALYSIS

1. Discussions with TransLink

Over the past few months, staff have been working with Ministry of Transportation and Highways and TransLink to develop an acceptable design for the improvements to the Highway 99/Steveston Highway westbound to northbound on-ramp as well as a cost-sharing arrangement for the improvements. TransLink is involved in this project as they will be establishing new bus stop facilities in the interchange area to enhance regional transit service connections as part of the Richmond Area Transit Plan.

2. Scope of Improvements

The proposed scope of improvements to the Steveston Highway westbound to northbound right-turn facilities at Highway 99 (attachment) are described as follows.

- Free Flow Right-Turn Lane - It is proposed that a new free flow right-turn lane be established by constructing a new raised median to delineate the westbound traffic destined to northbound Highway 99. With this improvement, the westbound traffic destined to northbound Highway 99 would no longer be required to stop at the traffic signal and it is expected that this would reduce queuing in the area, especially during the peak times of Riverport related activities.
- Asphalt Sidewalk - The project will also include the introduction of asphalt sidewalk on the north and south sides of Steveston Highway, just east of the interchange to provide pedestrian connections with bus stop facilities and the existing foot path on the north side of the Steveston Highway overpass.
- Directional Signage – Signage will be placed to assist drivers in finding their way to their destination under the new intersection configuration.
- Bus Stop Facilities – TransLink will be implementing improved bus stop facilities, such as bus bays and provisions for new shelters in the interchange area to enhance regional transit

service connections between Richmond and areas south of the Fraser River as part of the Richmond Area Transit Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

TransLink and staff have agreed in principle, subject to Council's approval, to pursue implementing all of the proposed improvements as one project in 2000 with the right-turn lane portion of the work to be funded by the City. Staff are proposing that the City's portion of the cost be committed in the amount of the existing surplus (\$186,715) of the 1998/99 Federal Infrastructure Works Program for Steveston Highway Improvements.

In order for the City to expend the whole amount of this surplus, additional funding of up to \$60,000 (two-thirds of which is recoverable) would need to be allocated to the Steveston Highway Improvement Project as a portion of the overall project budget of \$1.2 million has been spent on items such as property acquisition which was not eligible for the Federal Infrastructure Works Grant. It is proposed that the source of funding for this additional budget of \$60,000 be the Gilbert Road Bicycle Route Project which has recently been denied for provincial cost-sharing under the Cycling Network Program. The 2000 Bike Lane Program (Project #45232) will be reduced by \$60,000 from \$170,000 to \$110,000. This will result in a reduction in the 2000 Capital Reserve Bylaw (#7079) of \$3000 and a reduction in the 2000 DCC Roads Bylaw (#7080) of \$57,000.

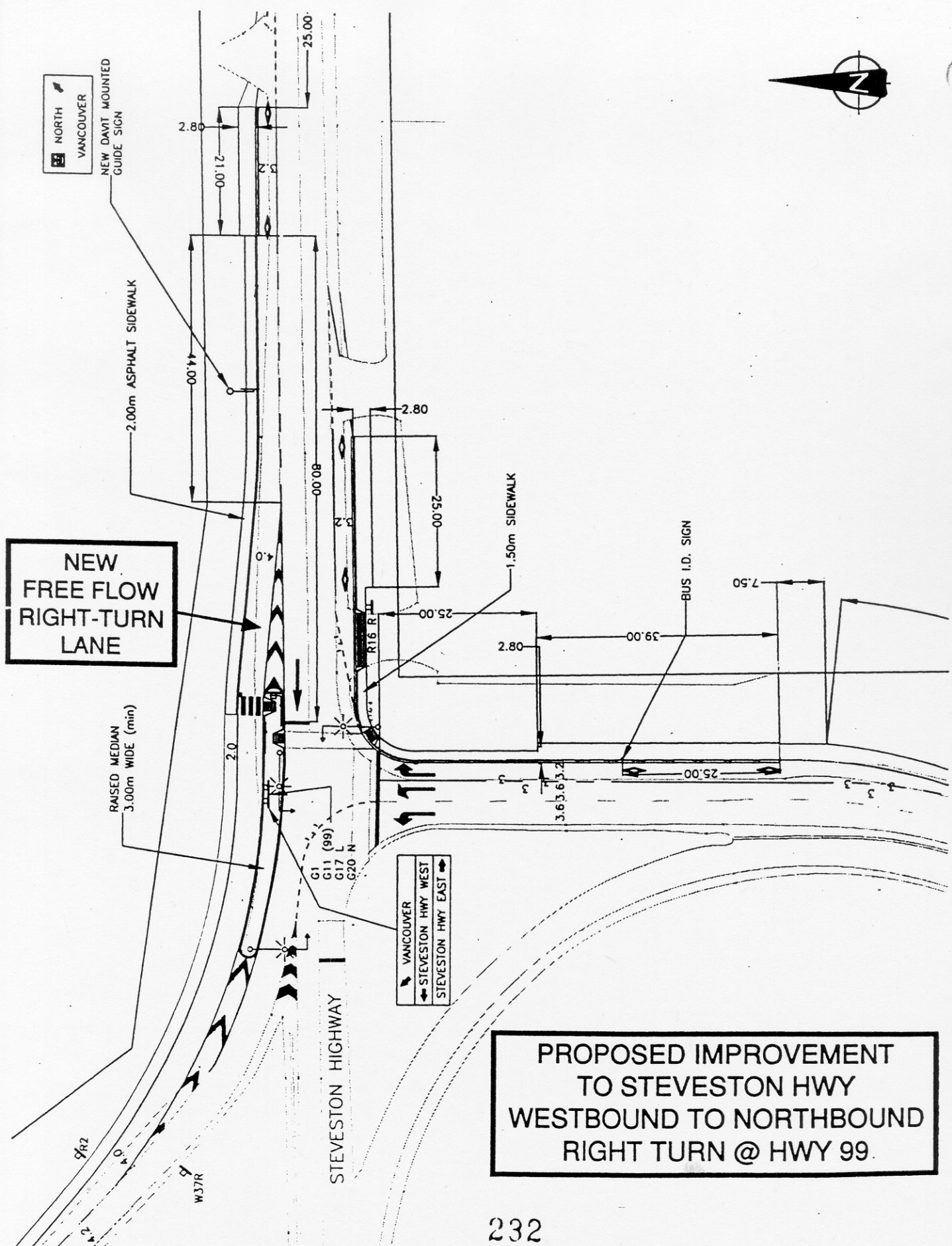
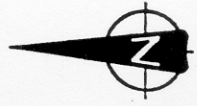
If the above funding is committed by the City, TransLink would carry out the overall project which was estimated to cost approximately \$800,000. At this time, potential provincial funding contribution is also being sought as most of the proposed improvements are within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation and Highway. If endorsed by Council, the improvements are expected to be completed by the end of August, 2000.

It should be noted that no amendment would be required to the existing Federal Infrastructure Work Program agreement with the provincial and federal government as the current agreement includes this portion of Steveston Highway for cost recovery.

CONCLUSION

Staff are seeking Council's endorsement of the proposed improvements to the Highway 99/Steveston Highway westbound to northbound on-ramp, including the free flow right-turn lane on the north side of Steveston Highway. This improvement, which would be implemented as part of TransLink overall improvements for bus stops in the area in 2000, is expected to enhance traffic safety and capacity in the Steveston Interchange as well as improve transit service connections. The City's portion of the project cost towards the right-turn lane improvement has been previously committed through the 1998/99 Federal Infrastructure Works Program for Steveston Highway widening. In order to maximise the funding recovery from this program, additional funding of up to \$60,000 would need to be re-allocated to the Steveston Highway Improvement Project with two-thirds of this project cost recoverable by the City. The source of funding for this additional budget is proposed to be the Gilbert Road Bicycle Route Project which has now been postponed.

Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Transportation Engineer



**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT
TO STEVESTON HWY
WESTBOUND TO NORTHBOUND
RIGHT TURN @ HWY 99.**