



To:	Public Works and Transportation Committee	Date:	August 20, 2026
From:	Roeland Zwaag General Manager, Engineering and Public Works	File:	10-6000-01/2025-Vol 01
Re:	Granville Avenue and Shell Road Walkway Update		

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “Granville Avenue and Shell Road Walkway Update”, dated August 20, 2026, from the General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be received for information.

Executive Summary

Following the July 22, 2026 Public Works and Transportation Committee referral, staff reviewed pedestrian safety and connectivity improvements near the Granville Avenue Canadian National Railway (CN) crossing and Shell Road Trail.

Recent ditch-bank stabilization and gravel shoulder widening have improved access; however, an approximately 30 metre gap remains near the rail tracks. A permanent asphalt full-width walkway is the preferred long-term solution but would require significant CN signal and crossing modifications and capital funding.

Staff are advancing an interim gravel shoulder walkway for CN review and confirmation that signal and crossing upgrades are not required. Subject to CN approval, the interim works can be funded through existing approved capital projects. Staff will also prepare a 2027 Capital Budget submission for the permanent solution and pursue external funding and cost-sharing opportunities.

Origin

This report is in response to the following referral from the July 22, 2026, Public Works and Transportation Committee:

That staff be directed to review options related to pedestrian safety improvements along the Shell Road trail and Granville Avenue and negotiate with Canadian National Railway on the associated costs, and report back.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.

3.2 Leverage strategic partnerships and community-based approaches for comprehensive safety services.

Analysis

Background and Current Status

In 2010, Council approved the 2011 Granville Avenue Walkway capital project. The project constructed a 1.5 metre wide, curb-protected asphalt walkway on the north side of Granville Avenue, between No. 4 Road and No. 5 Road for pedestrians and cyclists. The walkway was not completed through the Canadian National Railway (CN) crossing near the Shell Road Trail because CN required significant crossing and signal modifications. The cost of those modifications could not be accommodated within the approved project budget. As a result, an approximately 45 metre gap remained near the rail crossing.

In early June 2026, the City completed approximately 15 metres of ditch-bank stabilization and gravel shoulder widening along the road edge between the Shell Road Trail and the existing walkway to the west. This work improved pedestrian access by providing a wider gravel shoulder. As the work was outside the rail crossing area, CN approval was not required.

Following this work, an approximately 30 metre gap remains between the Shell Road Trail and the rail tracks to the east. (See Attachment 1).

Based on recent feedback from CN, construction of a permanent 1.5 metre wide asphalt walkway through the crossing would still require the signal and crossing modifications identified in 2011. Staff have contacted CN to determine whether lower-cost interim improvements could be completed without triggering these signal modifications.

Staff are exploring an interim narrow gravel shoulder walkway design that may avoid the need for the signal modifications. These interim works can be funded from existing approved capital projects.

CN has advised that any work, whether interim or permanent, must comply with railway safety requirements, including Transport Canada's Grade Crossings Standards, where applicable. Before approving the work, CN requires engineered design drawings and approval of both the interim and permanent designs. The approval process requires new permits and agreements that staff will review to ensure the terms are acceptable to the City.

Next Steps

A design that minimizes the extent of rail crossing modifications and includes an interim narrow gravel shoulder walkway is being prepared for submission to CN.

As part of the upcoming 2027 Capital Budget process, staff will also prepare a capital submission for a permanent asphalt walkway including CN signal and crossing modifications for Council's consideration. The permanent solution will provide improved accessibility through a wider continuous hard surface connection.

Staff will also seek external cost-sharing opportunities to reduce the City's portion of project costs, including competitive funding programs offered by Transport Canada and TransLink.

Budgetary Implications

The interim narrow gravel shoulder walkway design and construction can be funded from existing Council-approved capital projects.

The permanent asphalt walkway design and construction, including the required CN signal and crossing modifications, will be submitted for Council's consideration as part of the 2027 Capital Budget process.

Operating cost increases associated with any changes would need to be reviewed and incorporated once a design has been submitted to and accepted by CN.

Conclusion

The City has improved pedestrian access along Granville Avenue through recent ditch-bank stabilization and gravel shoulder widening; however, an approximately 30 metre gap remains near the CN crossing. A permanent 1.5 metre wide asphalt walkway is the preferred long-term solution but requires substantial CN signal and crossing modifications and currently does not have adequate funding.

Staff are advancing an interim narrow gravel shoulder walkway, subject to CN approval. The interim works can be funded from existing Council approved capital projects and would provide improved pedestrian accessibility and connectivity while the permanent solution is advanced through the 2027 Capital Budget process. External funding opportunities will also be pursued to help reduce the City's share of the construction costs.

August 20, 2026

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Respectfully submitted,

Milton Chan, Director, Engineering

Report Contributors

This report was prepared by Patrick Lai, Senior Project Manager, Engineering Design and Construction and reviewed by Transportation and Public Works.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

Att. 1: Aerial Map and Current Conditions Looking Westbound Granville Avenue at CN Rail Crossing

**Aerial Map and Current Conditions Looking Westbound
Granville Avenue at CN Rail Crossing**



Aerial Map



Current Conditions Looking Westbound