

Transportation Report to
SPC on Transportation and Transit
2020 February 26

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
TT2020-0165

Truck Route Bylaw Amendment – Rail Crossing Closure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A permanent closure of the at-grade railway crossing at 8 Street S.E., where the Canadian Pacific Railway train tracks cross the street, went into effect on 2020 January 15. This closure eliminated a previously designated truck route between the communities of Inglewood, Ramsay and Victoria Park. As a result, this route should be removed from the list of truck routes contained in the Truck Route Bylaw 60M90.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

That the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation and Transit recommend that Council give three readings to the Proposed Bylaw (Attachment 1) to amend the Bylaw of The City of Calgary Respecting Truck Routes 60M90.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

Administration has brought this 'housekeeping' matter forward for Council to consider.

BACKGROUND

Goods movement by the trucking industry is a key component to the economic prosperity of the of Calgary. It is important to maintain an efficient truck route network to keep pace with growth and demand for materials and commercial goods of all kinds. The City designates certain roads or areas for use by trucks as their primary route of travel.

Truck routes are approved by Council and identified in Bylaw 60M90, Being a Bylaw of The City of Calgary Respecting Truck Routes. Trucks are prohibited from all other roads except where necessary to make deliveries, supply a service, or to obtain fuel, repairs, food or accommodation at a commercial premise. The City ensures the list and map of all truck routes is kept up-to-date for the goods movement industry to use and follow.

Canadian Pacific rail crossing in Ramsay

The street level crossing of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) train tracks on 8 Street S.E. in the community of Ramsay had been accessible for vehicles and pedestrians for over a century. However, with the agreement between CP and The City to construct a new light-rail train line along this same corridor, and to accommodate CP's reconfiguration and operations, CP determined that the level crossing should be eliminated. The regulatory authority to close a rail crossing lies with the Federal Government and the railways under the Canada Transportation Act and the Railway Safety Act.

The crossing was physically closed to the public on 2020 January 15.

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INVESTIGATION: ANALYSIS

The closure of the rail crossing on 8 Street S.E. affects a designated truck route identified in Schedule 'A' of Bylaw 60M90. The truck route from MacDonald Avenue S.E. along 8 Street S.E. to 9 Avenue S.E. created an approved corridor for trucks to travel between Victoria Park and Inglewood. The closure of 8 Street S.E. at the rail crossing point, marked by an 'X' on Figure 1, eliminated this link.

As a result, the following road sections should be removed from the list of designated truck routes:

STREET NAME	FROM	TO
8th Street E.	9 Avenue S.	MacDonald Avenue S.
MacDonald Avenue S.	12 Avenue S.	8 Street E.

Trucks may continue to access 8 Street S.E. and MacDonald Avenue S.E. for commercial purposes, in accordance with Bylaw 60M90.



Figure 1
Truck Route from MacDonald AV S.E. to 9 AV S.E.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Beginning in 2016, the communities of Ramsay, Inglewood and Victoria Park were advised that the street level crossing would eventually close. Since then, the community has been informed through in-person meetings with nearby business owners, the community associations of Inglewood and Ramsay and the Inglewood Business Improvement Area.

The City's website was updated in 2019 March with information on the details and timelines of the closure. Road-side signage that advised travellers of the planned closure in 2020 January was installed in 2019 December, and public service announcements for local media and geo-targeted social media posts began on 2019 January 8.

The City's Truck Route Committee were advised in 2019 May of the impending road closure. Members of the Truck Route Committee expressed concern over the loss of connectivity between the truck routes on 9 Ave and 12 Ave. Through subsequent meetings of the Truck Route Committee, members acknowledged that the closure of 8 St SE will take place and an update to the Truck Route bylaw and map will be required.

The City's webpage for Truck Routes was updated with the street crossing closure information on 2020 January 15.

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Strategic Alignment

The process to evaluate and manage the City's truck route network does align with Council's policy on Truck Route Network Development (TP005).

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Truck routes permit the efficient flow of truck traffic, which is an essential component of Calgary's economic prosperity. Efficient movement of trucks and commercial vehicles leads to reduced traffic and idle times. Established truck routes also help to enhance liveability in communities where truck volumes are high.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

The recommendation presented in this report has no impact on current or future operating budgets.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

The recommendation presented in this report has no impact on current or future capital budgets

Risk Assessment

The City is expected to keep up-to-date records and maps of designated truck routes available for public use and planning. The recommendation presented in this report ensures this expectation of accountability and good governance is met.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

As the permanent closure of the at-grade rail crossing on 8 Street S.E. eliminated a previously designated truck route, the Bylaw of The City of Calgary Respecting Truck Routes (60M90) should be amended to reflect this change.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Attachment 1 – Proposed Bylaw to amend Bylaw 60M90