

## Whistling Cessation at 210 Ave SW

### **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the Community Development Committee recommend that Council:

1. Approve the cessation of train whistling at the rail crossing location known as Mile 106.12 of the CPR Aldersyde subdivision at 210 Ave SW (Attachment 1); and
2. Direct Administration to provide notification of the above Council direction to the Canadian Pacific Railway, the headquarters of Transport Canada Rail Safety Directorate, and other relevant collaborators as required.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, 2022 DECEMBER 1:**

That Council:

1. Approve the cessation of train whistling at the rail crossing location known as Mile 106.12 of the CPR Aldersyde subdivision at 210 Ave SW (Attachment 1); and
2. Direct Administration to provide notification of the above Council direction to the Canadian Pacific Railway, the headquarters of Transport Canada Rail Safety Directorate, and other relevant collaborators as required.

### Opposition to Recommendations: Councillor Chabot

- Heavy rail companies have infrastructure throughout Calgary. Crossing devices (gates and lights) and processes (whistling) are used to address crossing safety.
- The city has grown steadily over the years, including along the CP rail corridor to the south.
- The crossing at 210 Ave S has been upgraded with gates and lights in addition to the train whistling on approach.
- Citizens have inquired about the nuisance noise from the trains.
- A resolution by the government of a municipality pursuant to section 23.1 of the Railway Safety Act is required for update the policy on train whistling.
- Strategic alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: a healthy and green city
- The rail crossing is constructed to the current Transport Canada standard with all safety measures in place. Cessation of whistling will lead to enhanced livability for adjacent communities.

## **DISCUSSION**

In 2021, 210 Avenue SW was realigned west of Macleod Trail and a new at-grade crossing of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) line was completed. The new crossing is equipped with bells, lights and gates making it a suitable candidate for whistling cessation.

There are currently 54 rail crossings in Calgary in proximity to residential communities which already have whistling cessation resolutions in place, as previously approved by Council under Bylaw 41M85, as amended. Users of the crossing will have advance

## **Whistling Cessation at 210 Ave SW**

---

notification of the approaching train by virtue of the bells and lights at the crossing, and the cessation of whistling will result in improved quality of life for the neighbouring communities of Pine Creek and Belmont in Ward 13, and Walden and Legacy in Ward14.

### **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)**

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Collaborators were informed
- Collaborator dialogue/relations were undertaken

This report is coming forward in response to a citizen concern around train whistles in the community of Walden. Transport Canada requirements for whistle cessation applications include the need for direct notification of all relevant collaborators as well as a public notice, regarding the municipality's intention to pass a resolution to prohibit train whistles at the subject location. The rail company, Office of the Mayor and all Ward Councillors were advised of the intention to cease whistling in June 2022. Individual notifications were sent out to the rail company and an advertisement was posted in both the Calgary Herald and the Okotoks Western Wheel. No concerns were brought forward following these notifications.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Social**

Whistle cessation at this location will enhance the livability of adjacent neighbourhoods by reducing noise. Night-time whistling can impact some people's ability to sleep at night; this is often more of an issue during the warmer summer months when people often sleep with open windows. The existing bells, lights and gates at the crossing ensure that pathway and roadway users will continue to be safe while using the crossing.

#### **Environmental**

Not applicable

#### **Economic**

No cost implications. No funding is being sought.

#### **Service and Financial Implications**

No anticipated financial impact

### **RISK**

Transport Canada Grade Crossing Standards require that the crossing at 210 Avenue SW be equipped with bells, lights, and gates in order for whistling cessation to be considered. Since this is a new crossing, the infrastructure is all in place and in good order resulting in minimal risk

**Whistling Cessation at 210 Ave SW**

---

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. Attach 1 - 210 Avenue Rail Crossing Location Map

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Doug Morgan	Operational Services	Approve
Troy McLeod	Mobility	Approve
Stuart Dalgleish	Planning & Development Services	Inform