



REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Mayor Schaffer and Councillors**

Subject **Fraser Hwy One-Way Trees**

Report #: 18-21

File #: 5210.00

From: Rick Bomhof, P.Eng
Director of Engineering, Parks & Environment

Doc #:

Date: March 29, 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the street trees, within the sidewalk area, along Fraser Hwy between 204 Street and 206 Street be removed and;

THAT the \$35,000 budget estimate for this work be funded from the Council Enterprise Fund.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to request Council authorization to remove the trees within the sidewalk area on Fraser Hwy, 204 Street to 206 Street.

POLICY:

NA

COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

The trees located on Fraser Hwy, 204 Street to 206 Street, within the sidewalk area have caused significant heaving and tripping hazards in the sidewalk. This has been a problem for many years as the trees are not the appropriate type of species for pedestrian sidewalk areas. The trees on the north side have also been severely pruned around the BC Hydro and TELUS lines, which is detrimental to the health of the trees and create an aesthetically displeasing appearance.

The City is currently in the planning stage to rehabilitate this section of roadway and it is anticipated that most if not all the trees will be removed and replaced with more appropriate trees and/or plantings. Subject to Council approval of the final plan and budget the rehabilitation work is expected to be complete in 2019.

Seven trees along the one way have already been removed this year using the budget available within the 2018 Capital Improvement Plan. The response has generally been positive with the following perceived benefits:

- Smooth sidewalk – less trip hazards
- Better visibility of businesses
- Improved lighting

Based on this response and the inevitability that the trees will be removed in the future as well as improving pedestrian safety, it is recommended that the trees be removed now rather than waiting for the rehabilitation project in 2019.

The negative aspect of removing the trees now without a plan for replacement is that the road may look quite bare without the foliage, there will be no trees on which to place Christmas lights and there will be less shade downtown in the summertime. To address the Christmas light issue it is believed that additional lights can be added to the street light poles to offset the reduced tree lights. If approved staff will look into this and add more lights as feasible.

There are four trees proposed to remain along the one way section (see attached plan) being two at McBurney Lane (one recently planted on the north side of the road and the one on the south side within the planting area), and two on the north side of the one way just east of 204 Street at the city parking lot entrance, also within planting areas with sufficient space for root growth.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The budget estimate to remove the trees, stumps and repair the sidewalk with asphalt is \$35,000. It is proposed that funding be allocated from the Council Enterprise Fund for this work.

ALTERNATIVES:

Defer the tree removal until the Fraser Hwy rehabilitation project is completed and include the cost within the capital plan.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rick Bomhof, P.Eng
Director of Engineering, Parks & Environment

Attachment(s): Plan showing four trees to remain.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

I support the recommendation.



Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer