

ADDITIONAL ITEM

AGENDA ITEM NO: 15.2.1

MEETING DATE: February 21, 2023

STAFF REPORT – COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: 2023 Railway Improvements DATE: February 13, 2023


DEPARTMENT: Engineering PREPARED BY: D. Mossey

1. SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This report will provide an update on the planned 2023 railway at-grade road crossing improvements for both Canadian National Railway (CN) and Southern Railway Link (SRY Rail Link) within the Chilliwack.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation that the report on 2023 Railway Improvements be received for information.



K. Jefford, Director of Engineering

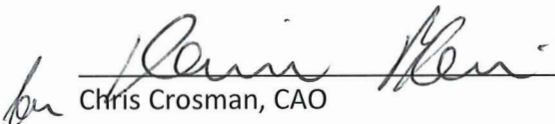
3. FINANCE COMMENTS:

Funding is allocated within the 2023 Financial Plan for these works.


FOR: Glen Savard, Director of Finance

4. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/COMMENTS:

Supports recommendation.


Chris Crosman, CAO

STAFF REPORT ON

2023 Railway Improvements

PREPARED BY: Colette McDiarmid DATE: February 13, 2023
POSITION: Supervisor – Roads, Transportation, Drainage & Dyking DEPARTMENT: Engineering

1. DEFINITION OF ISSUE:

This report will provide an update on the planned 2023 railway at-grade road crossing improvements for both Canadian National Railway (CN) and Southern Railway Link (SRY Rail Link) within the Chilliwack.

**2. BACKGROUND:
RAILWAY CROSSING REPAIRS**

- 2.1 There are approximately 40km of railway lines in Chilliwack that are operated by CN Rail and SRY Rail Link. There are 31 at-grade railway crossing locations intersect with our roadway network.
- 2.2 The constant vibration of vehicles and trains over the crossing surface leads to advanced deterioration of the ties and surface materials. Repairs are planned for the following locations:

Rail	Location	Repairs	Closure	Schedule
CN	Nevin Road	Ballast, ties, rails, crossing surface and asphalt	Full Closure	Tues Feb 21- Wed Feb 22 8am-overnight to 6pm
	McGrath Road	Ballast, ties, rails, crossing surface and asphalt	Full Closure	Wed Feb 22- Thurs Feb 23 8am-overnight to 6pm
	Ford Road	Ballast, ties, rails, crossing surface and asphalt	Full Closure	Thurs Feb 23 - Fri Feb 24 8am-overnight to 6pm
SRY	Lickman Road	Ballast, ties, rails, crossing surface and asphalt	Full Closure	Apr 12 7am-7pm

- 2.3 The Rosedale CN crossings have been constructed using wooden planks for the crossing surface and were replaced a few years ago. Unfortunately, they have deteriorated. The upcoming scheduled works will include upgrading from wooden planking to rubberized planking, reducing future maintenance costs.
- 2.4 The Rosedale crossing repairs have been staggered over several days to ensure constant access to the community. See attached Appendix A for a map detailing the closures. Lickman Rd detour will be via Unsworth Rd.

- 2.5 Asphalt paving and traffic control is the responsibility of the City for these crossing repairs and funds are allocated in the 2023 asphalt rehabilitation account.

RAILWAY SIGNAL AND CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS

- 2.6 Transportation Association of Canada in 2014 updated Grade Crossing Regulations to improve safety at railway crossings where railways intersect road, sidewalk, pathway or trail. The regulations were adopted into the BC Railway Safety Act for provincially regulated railways in 2020.
- 2.7 CN Railway and the City have completed all the necessary works to meet the federal regulations for compliance along the CN railway corridor. The City is now working with the SRY to bring the provincially regulated crossings into compliance by January 1, 2028.
- 2.8 For 2023 the two highest priority locations were selected: Vedder Road (between Spruce Rd and Wells Rd) and Yarrow Central Rd (between Wilson Rd and Simmons Rd). In order to bring both locations into compliance the bulk of the work includes new flashing lights, bells and gates (FLBG) signal system and crossing surface.
- 2.9 SRY Rail Link in coordination with the City has applied for funding from Transport Canada under the Rail Safety Improvement Program for both locations and has been successful in receiving partial funding for the Yarrow Central Rd improvements. The deadline for completion is March 31, 2023.
- 2.10 For both locations the majority of the signal work can occur with single lane alternating traffic set up, however when the rails, ties, ballast and crossing surface are replaced it requires a full road closure
- 2.11 The crossings planned for SRY Rail Link have been scheduled during the evening hours of spring break for Yarrow Central Road and Vedder Road in order to reduce inconvenience to motorists in the area.

Rail	Location	Upgrading	Repairs	Schedule
SRY	Yarrow Central Road	Signal upgrade to flashing lights, bells and gates	Lane Closure	Feb 8-March 10 7am-5pm
		Ballast, ties, rails, crossing surface and asphalt	Full Closure Night work	Thurs Mar30 to Fri Mar 31 5pm overnight to 7am
	Vedder Road	Signal upgrade to flashing lights, bells and gates	Lane Closure	Apr 3-14 7am-5pm
		Ballast, ties, rails, conduit, crossing surface and asphalt	Full Closure Night work	Sat Apr 1 to Sun Apr 2 4pm overnight to 8am

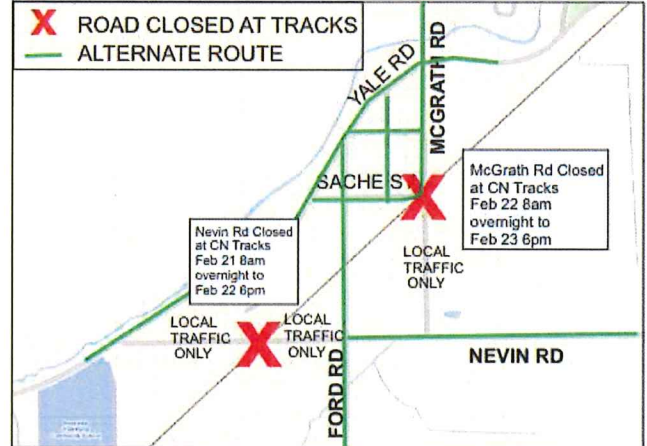
- 2.12 Detour routing is demonstrated for the Yarrow Central Road and Vedder Road crossings for the SRY closures in Appendix B.
- 2.13 Funding for these improvements are allocated in the 2023 asphalt rehabilitation budget.

Appendix A

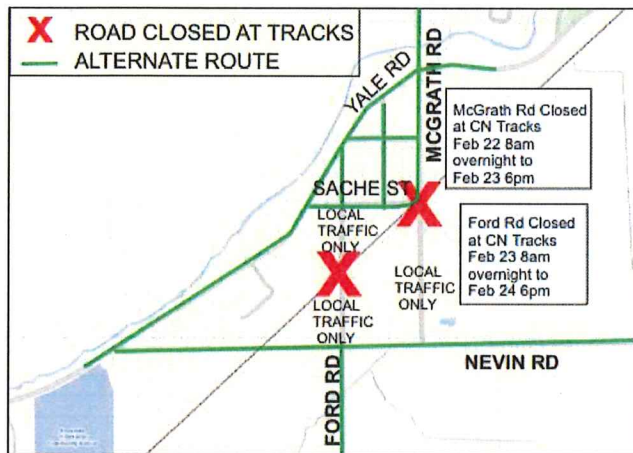
Tuesday Feb 21st



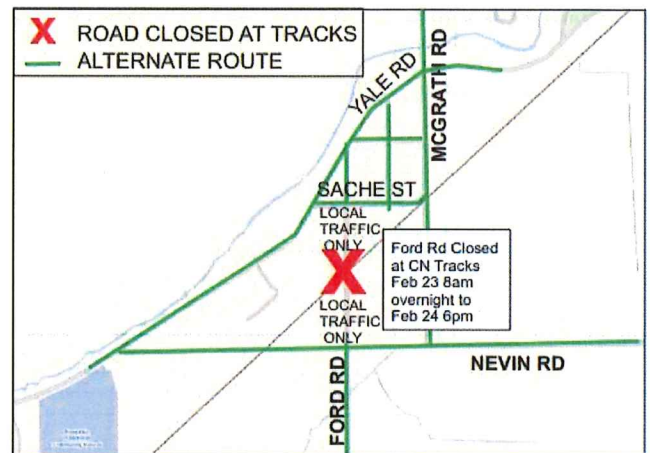
Wednesday Feb 22nd



Thursday Feb 23rd



Friday Feb 24th



Appendix B

