

Date: May 10, 2021

To: Chair and Members of General Committee

From: Geoff Wright, P.Eng, MBA, Commissioner of
Transportation and Works

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
May 26, 2021

Subject

Construction of Noise Walls along Southdown Road between South Sheridan Way and Wiseman Court (Ward 2)

Recommendations

1. That capital project PN 19-188 Noise Wall Program Retrofit be amended to a gross budget of \$2,300,000 to be funded from the Tax-Capital Reserve Fund (33121) and the DCA Roads and Related Infrastructure Reserve Fund (31335);
2. That funding of \$650,000 be transferred from the Tax-Capital Reserve Fund (33121) to PN 19-188 Noise Wall Program Retrofit;
3. That funding of \$650,000 be transferred from the DCA Roads and Related Infrastructure Reserve Fund (31335) to PN 19-188 Noise Wall Program Retrofit;
4. That Council express its intent to fund PN 19-188 Noise Wall Program Retrofit to the extent allowable from current and future development charges; and,
5. That all necessary bylaws be enacted.

Background

Noise walls are required along Southdown Road, on the east side between South Sheridan Way and Truscott Road; and on the west side between Truscott Drive and Wiseman Court to meet the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Environmental Noise Guideline (NPC-300). Appendix 1 delineates the extent of noise walls required. These noise walls are recommended to be completed in advance of other road improvement and renewal works planned for Southdown Road, including a multi-use trail, intersection improvements at Southdown Road and Truscott Drive, and roadway rehabilitation work, tentatively scheduled for 2023. Approximately \$1,000,000 is available from capital project PN 19-188 Noise Wall Program Retrofit for the construction of these noise walls.

Present Status

Additional funding in the amount of \$1,300,000 is required in anticipation of increased construction costs associated with the close proximity of utilities and trees, as well as recent unit price increases for noise wall installations since the project budget was previously estimated.

The detailed design of the noise wall project is nearly complete and is scheduled to be tendered for construction by June 30, 2021.

Comments

Under the MECP Environmental Noise Guideline (NPC-300), the City is required to implement noise mitigation measures to protect the outdoor living areas (OLA) of residents who live along the City's road network.

Eligibility criteria for noise wall upgrades and replacements across the City are outlined in the City's *Policy 09-03-03 Noise Attenuation Barriers on Major Roadways*. The planned noise wall installation locations along Southdown Road between South Sheridan Way and Wiseman Court meet these criteria.

Delay of the noise wall construction to a future year would require either a delay to the planned multi-use trail, intersection improvements, and road rehabilitation works along Southdown Road, or re-work and additional costs should certain elements proceed in advance of the noise wall installation.

Options

Staff has identified two options for managing the funding shortfall for the noise wall construction, as outlined below.

- Option 1: Increase the funding required to construct all of the planned noise walls along Southdown Road between South Sheridan Way and Wiseman Court in advance of the construction of the multi-use trail, intersection improvements and road rehabilitation works. This option would ensure that these subsequent works are not impacted by a delay to the noise wall installation and would minimize disruptions to nearby residents and road users; or,
- Option 2: Utilize existing funds to construct a portion of the noise walls in advance of the other planned roadway improvement and renewal works. The remaining portion of the noise walls would be deferred to a future construction year. This option may impact the other improvement and/or renewal works should they proceed in advance of the remaining noise wall installations, resulting in additional construction mobilization costs and further disruptions to nearby residents and road users. Deferring a portion of the noise wall construction to a future year may also result in damages to the other, newly constructed roadway improvement and renewal works.

Option 1 is the preferred option as it minimizes construction mobilization costs, disruptions to local residents and road users, and damages to new infrastructure.

Financial Impact

Capital project PN 19-188 Noise Wall Program Retrofit requires additional funding of \$1,300,000 in order to construct all of the proposed noise walls along Southdown Road in advance of the construction of the multi-use trail, intersection improvements and road rehabilitation works (Option 1). As the noise walls are being installed as part of the retrofit program, the funding request is split between two reserve funds:

Reserve Fund	Amount
Tax-Capital Reserve Fund (33121)	\$650,000
DCA Roads and Related Infrastructure Reserve Fund (31335)	\$650,000
Total Request	\$1,300,000

Additional funding of \$1,300,000 will increase the project's current gross budget from \$1,000,000 to \$2,300,000.

Conclusion

The approval of additional funding to capital project PN 19-188, as requested, will allow the construction of the noise walls along Southdown Road to proceed in advance of the other planned roadway improvement and renewal works along this corridor. This will minimize the City's construction costs and disruptions to the local residents, businesses and road users.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Proposed Noise Walls along Southdown Road



Geoff Wright, P.Eng, MBA, Commissioner of Transportation and Works

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