

# City of Port Moody Report/Recommendation to Council

Date:January 7, 2021Submitted by:Economic Development CommitteeSubject:Consultation with Businesses Affected by Street Construction Projects

## Purpose

To provide Council with information regarding a resolution passed by the Economic Development Committee to propose the implementation of a consultation process with businesses affected by City street construction projects.

## **Recommended Resolution**

THAT the report dated January 7, 2021 from the Economic Development Committee regarding Consultation with Businesses Affected by Street Construction Projects be received for information.

#### Background

At the December 2, 2020 Economic Development Committee meeting, the Manager of Economic Development provided an update regarding local business recovery efforts and the ongoing hardships to local businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From this discussion, concerns were raised by the Committee about the timing of the pedestrian-controlled traffic signal and crosswalk installation at Elgin Street and Clarke Street and the impacts to businesses in the area during the holiday season. The Committee passed the following resolution:

#### EDC20/030

THAT Council direct staff to undertake process improvements as quickly as possible in regards to any non-emergency street construction projects proposed by the City will include consultation with commercial and retail businesses located nearby the planned street and sidewalk projects, in order to avoid and mitigate adverse business impacts that might arise from the City's construction projects.

#### Discussion

The Chair advised that feedback has been received from businesses affected by the construction work being undertaken for the crosswalk improvements at Elgin Street and Clarke Street. The timing of the construction negatively impacted the businesses in the area as the construction obstructed patrons' access to the storefronts and reduced the parking capacity.

These impacts consequently affected the anticipated revenues from the busy holiday shopping season for the businesses in the area.

The Economic Development Committee has been working hard in assisting local business with recovery efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and suggested that the scheduling of major road works in commercial centres should consider the unique impacts to businesses such as the high and low seasons for retail and accessibility for medical centres.

The Manager of Economic Development noted that plans are in place to review capital projects annually with the Engineering Department to determine which projects may have impacts on businesses and to create engagement strategies. This approach could help minimize the impacts to businesses by providing an opportunity for consultation with the affected businesses, which would ensure that all parties are informed of the construction, provide an opportunity to answer questions, and provide a City contact for future concerns

#### **Other Options**

- 1. THAT the report dated January 7, 2021 from the Economic Development Committee regarding Street Construction Projects and Consultation with Businesses be referred to staff for information.
- 2. THAT the report dated January 7, 2021 from the Economic Development Committee regarding Street Construction Projects and Consultation with Businesses be referred to staff for action

### **Financial Implications**

Further information on financial implications would be provided by staff should this report be referred to staff for action.

#### **Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives**

Further information on communication and civic engagement requirements would be provided by staff should this report be referred to staff for action.

#### **Council Strategic Plan Objectives**

Supporting the requests for the implementation of a consultation process with businesses effected by City street construction projects aligns with the 2019-2022 Council Strategic Plan Objective of supporting the growth of businesses and business neighbourhood development.

Report Author Jennifer Mills Committee Coordinator

#### **Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	Consultation with Businesses Affected by Street Construction Projects.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jan 18, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Tracey Takahashi, Deputy Corporate Officer - Jan 13, 2021 - 4:06 PM

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Jan 14, 2021 - 12:06 PM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Jan 14, 2021 - 1:17 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Jan 15, 2021 - 1:33 PM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Jan 18, 2021 - 11:24 AM