

TO: CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER **DATE:** 2022 May 19

FROM: GENERAL MANAGER **FILE:** 2135 00
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
GENERAL MANAGER ENGINEERING

SUBJECT: TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION CROSSWALK

PURPOSE: To seek Council approval for the installation of a Truth and Reconciliation crosswalk.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council approve the installation of a Truth and Reconciliation crosswalk, located where Drummond's Walk crosses Union Street.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

In 2022 Spring, the Burnaby Mayor's Office was approached by a grade 6/7 class from Westridge Elementary School. The class requested to work with the City to install a Truth and Reconciliation themed crosswalk in the general area of the school. The request was subsequently referred to staff (Community Planning, Traffic Engineering) for response and follow up.

2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

Civic involvement in establishing a Truth and Reconciliation themed crosswalk is aligned with the following Council-adopted policies and plans/strategies: *Corporate Strategic Plan (2017)*, *Social Sustainability Strategy (2011)*, *Equity Policy (1994, updated 2020)*, and the *Healthy Community Policy (1991)*.

3.0 DISCUSSION

The Westridge Elementary School grade 6/7 class referenced above, with teacher Audrey Venner, have been investigating the 94 'Calls to Action', as issued by the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada* since the beginning of the 2021/2022 school year. Through their work, the students decided to take action on Call #82, which calls upon communities to "install a publicly accessible, highly visible, Residential Schools Monument [...] to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities". The students selected a crosswalk as a prominent item of public infrastructure for such a monument in Burnaby. As part of this effort, the class applied for a \$750 'Imagine a Canada' grant from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, and were successful in their application.

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General Manager Engineering
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The students also worked with their larger school community (including caregivers, parents and involved community members) to select a location for the crosswalk – where the Drummond’s Walk crosses Union Street (see *Figure 1*). This location was chosen because it is widely used by the general community, and because it is near a wooded area which provides a refuge area for reflection and contemplation. A themed Truth and Reconciliation crosswalk would replace the existing crosswalk currently in place. Staff concur with this location request, as the existing crosswalk is a combined multi-use crosswalk and the location allows for the installation of a more complex crosswalk design without any anticipated significantly increased maintenance considerations.

In order to create an appropriate design for the crosswalk, City staff (Burnaby Village Museum) worked with the students to retain local Indigenous artist Atheana Picha. Atheana is a member of the Kwantlen First Nation, and is experienced in creating street and public art. The students are currently working with Atheana on a design that meets the objectives of ‘Call to Action’ #82, while also complying with safety standards and other road marking requirements. While still in progress, it is anticipated that the design will feature an eagle motif and Coast Salish form lines. Payment for the artist has been contributed by the City of Burnaby through existing funds dedicated to Truth and Reconciliation, and further offset by the grant the class received from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.


City staff will be working to install the subject crosswalk by the third week of June, so that an opening ceremony can be organized for the last week of school involving the students. The class which has worked so tirelessly on this project will be graduating at the end of the school year, and it is important that they can be included in the opening. The estimated cost of the work is approximately \$20,000 and sufficient funding is available within the 2022 engineering operating budget.

4.0 CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council approve the installation of a Truth and Reconciliation themed crosswalk as a replacement for the existing crosswalk where the Drummond’s Walk crosses Union Street.



E.W. Kozak, General Manager
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

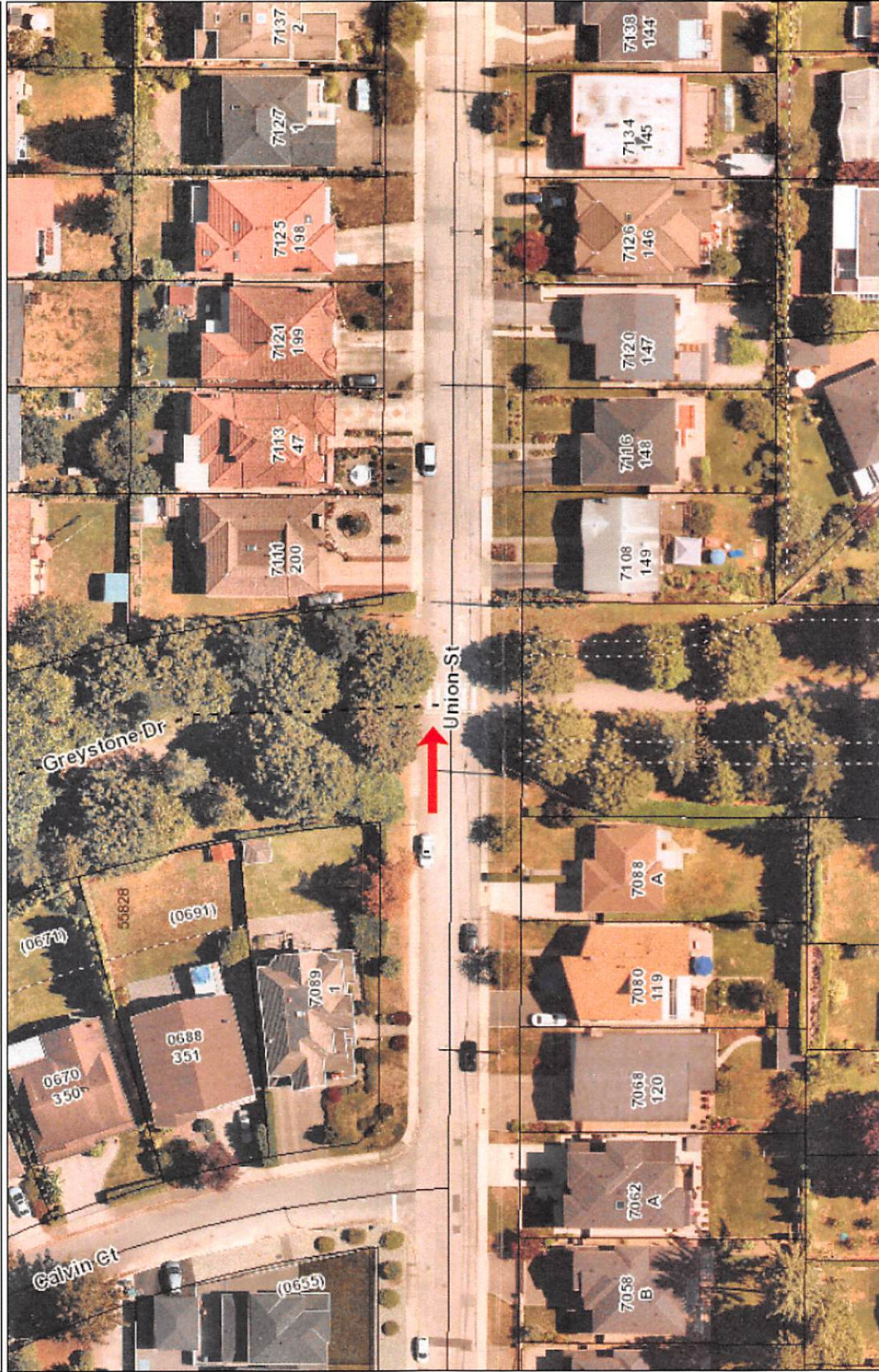


James Lota, P.Eng., MBA, MPA
GENERAL MANAGER ENGINEERING

RM:sa
Attachment

Copied to: Deputy Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer
OIC – RCMP
General Manager Community Safety

Figure 1
May 12, 2022



The information has been gathered and assembled on the City of Burnaby's computer systems. Data provided herein is derived from a number of sources with varying levels of accuracy. The City of Burnaby disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of information contained herein.

Proposed location for Truth and Reconciliation replacement crosswalk

