

ITEM	02
MANAGER'S REPORT #	55
COUNCIL MEETING	95/11/27

TO: CITY MANAGER 1995 November 23

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 11.160.1

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
1996/97 B.C. HYDRO BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To outline the status of Burnaby's application to B.C. Hydro for underground wiring assistance and to seek Council authorization for the City share of costs for the proposed project on Government Street.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council bring down a bylaw to appropriate \$139,000 from Capital Reserves to fund the City's share of costs to remove overhead lines on Government Street (Lougheed Highway to Cardston Court).

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

On 1995 September 18, Council authorized staff to apply to the 1996/97 B.C. Hydro Beautification Program for one-third (1/3) cost-sharing assistance for the removal of overhead power lines at various locations in Burnaby.

B.C. Hydro has provided the following preliminary cost estimates for Burnaby's projects:

1. Government Street (Halston/Cardston) \$715,000
2. Willingdon Avenue (Hastings to Eton) 693,000
3. Hastings Street Lane (north of 4100 block) 130,000
4. Bennett Street (Nelson to Marlborough) 200,000
5. Nelson Avenue (Jubilee to Imperial) 135,000

B.C. Hydro requires that funding for the City's two-thirds (2/3) share of project costs be confirmed by Council at this time in order that Burnaby's projects can be submitted to B.C. Hydro's Board of Directors in 1996 January for approval of cost-sharing under the terms of the Beautification Program. If Burnaby is successful in this application, the work would be required to commence by 1997 March 31.

In conjunction with the B.C. Hydro component, B.C. Tel will fund one-third of the cost to underground overhead telephone lines related to approved beautification projects. The City is required to fund the balance (2/3).

2.0 PROPOSED PROJECT

While all five projects outlined have merit as desirable beautification projects, the Government Street project in particular offers the following benefits:

- is a significant major line which can be implemented in practical phases;
- is located in an area of Burnaby which has not received beautification funds for underground wiring for several years;
- is in the area currently under study by the Lougheed Town Centre Advisory Committee, and
- the City is holding a small amount of funds in trust from private developers for the project.

It is proposed that the Government Street project be pursued on a phased basis as a priority for the 1996/97 Program. The proposed first phase of the project will provide for the undergrounding of overhead wires for approximately a one-block section from Lougheed Highway west to Cardston Court. Staff have discussed this approach with B.C. Hydro staff who have indicated that our application can be considered on this basis. A similar approach has been successfully applied over the past five years to remove overhead wires on Patterson Avenue in Metrotown.

3.0 PROJECT COSTS

Project costs and City of Burnaby funds required for the proposed project are outlined below based on preliminary estimates. As noted, some funds from developers (RZ #25/80; RZ #35/89) are currently held in trust for this project.

Total hydro lines component	\$ 186,000
B.C. Hydro contribution (1/3 total)	62,000
City of Burnaby contribution (2/3 total)	\$ 124,000
Total telephone lines component	22,500
B.C. Tel contribution (1/3 total)	7,500
City of Burnaby contribution (2/3 total)	<u>15,000</u>
Sub Total (City of Burnaby contributions)	139,000
Add: 10% contingency	13,900
7% GST	10,703
Less: Developers' funds on deposit (RZ #25/80/ RZ #35/89)	<u>(24,626)</u>
City of Burnaby Funds Required	\$ 138,977

4.0 FINANCING

Sufficient Capital Reserves are available and, with Council approval, \$157,500 will be included in the 1997 Land Assembly and Development component of the 1996-2000 Capital Program.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The removal of overhead utility lines is considered to be a desirable and worthwhile endeavour for the City of Burnaby to pursue jointly with B.C. Hydro and B.C. Tel through the B.C. Hydro Beautification Program, and with contributions from adjacent developments.

It is proposed that the underground wiring project on Government Street be given priority in Burnaby's current application to B.C. Hydro.

Therefore, it is recommended that Council bring down a bylaw to appropriate \$139,000 from Capital Reserves to fund the City's share of costs to remove overhead lines on Government Street from Lougheed Highway to Cardston Court, as outlined in this report.



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