

TO: CITY MANAGER 1998 NOVEMBER 10

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE  
 1999/2000 B.C. HYDRO BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM  
 PROPOSED PRIORITY PROJECT FOR 1999 - WILLINGDON AVENUE  
 (lane north of Hastings Street to Penzance Drive)

PURPOSE: To update the status of Burnaby's application to B.C. Hydro for underground wiring assistance and to seek Council authorization to pursue the priority project on Willingdon Street for 1999/2000 (Phase I - lane north of Hastings Street to the lane north of Pandora Street).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT Council bring down a bylaw to appropriate \$ 168,639 from Capital Reserves to fund the City's share of costs to remove overhead lines on Willingdon Avenue (Phase I - lane north of Hastings Street to the lane north of Pandora Street).

**REPORT**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

At its 17 November 1997 meeting Council authorized staff to apply to the 1999/2000 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 identified priority projects:

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Willingdon Avenue (lane north of Hastings Street to Penzance Drive) . . . . | \$456,373 |
| 2. Bennett Street (Nelson to Marlborough) . . . . .                            | \$210,000 |
| 3. Nelson Avenue (Jubilee to Imperial) . . . . .                               | \$142,000 |

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 1999 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 1999 March 31.

## **2.0 PROPOSED PRIORITY PROJECT - WILLINGDON AVENUE**

While all three projects outlined have merit as desirable beautification projects, it is recognized that the total cost is prohibitive unless phased over a number of years in conjunction with the City's overall Capital spending priorities. Therefore, it is proposed that the underground wiring project on the east side of Willingdon Avenue be pursued with redefined boundaries. Staff have consulted with B.C. Hydro regarding their estimate of the project which does not include the cost for undergrounding the 69KV transmission wires north of Penzance Drive. Undergrounding these 69 KV wires is considerably more expensive than standard wires and is outside of the Beautification Program, and so Burnaby would be responsible for 100% of the cost of such a project. Furthermore, there is some doubt as to whether the project would be accepted by B.C. Hydro.

For these reasons, staff have redefined the boundaries of the project. Rather than undergrounding the B.C. Hydro wires on Willingdon Avenue from Hastings Street to Eton Street, as originally put before Council at its regular meeting on 1997 November 17, it is proposed that only the section of overhead wires on the east side of Willingdon Avenue between the lane north of Hastings Street and Penzance Drive be placed underground. This would be completed in two phases. Phase one of this priority project extends from the lane north of Hastings Street to the lane north of Pandora Street and is approximately 200 metres in length (see attached sketch #1). The second phase of this project extends from the lane north of Pandora Street to Penzance Drive, and is approximately 238 metres in length .

Staff have discussed the proposed project with B.C. Hydro staff who have indicated support for our application to complete this project.

## **3.0 ENQUIRY REGARDING ROYAL OAK AVENUE**

At its meeting of 1998 September 14, a Council enquiry was made regarding the undergrounding of overhead wires on the original Royal Oak Avenue alignment adjacent to the new Royal Oak realignment project and its possible future consideration under the B.C. Hydro Beautification program.

Staff have examined this possibility with B.C. Hydro. As the underground wiring priority projects have been pursued in greater detail by B.C. Hydro since 1997 November, the consideration of the Royal Oak underground wiring project would need to be established as one of the City's priorities with B.C. Hydro for inclusion at the earliest in the 2000/2001 Beautification Program. This would have the effect of "bumping" the identified priority projects to-date. It should also be noted that B.C. Hydro, in line with their budgetary requirements, would likely not accept two large-sized projects in the same fiscal year from one applicant. Thus, the Willingdon Avenue and Royal Oak projects could not be pursued concurrently.

An attempt has been made to provide for beautification projects throughout the City and to-date major underground wiring projects have been pursued in south Burnaby (Patterson Avenue) and north-east Burnaby (Government Street). The Willingdon Avenue project is considered a worthy project for north Burnaby along a high-profile stretch of Willingdon Avenue adjacent to Confederation Park and the Eileen Dailly Leisure Pool. To meet the City's usual budgeting for this beautification program, the Willingdon Avenue project would need to be phased over two consecutive years - as it would be inefficient and undesirable to interrupt its completion as a linked continuous project. This approach

would result in the Royal Oak Avenue project being considered as one of the priority projects in the 2001/2002 Beautification Program.

However, undergrounding wires on Royal Oak Avenue has been considered as a part of the major Royal Oak realignment project which has been phased over a number of years. Some of the existing wires along Royal Oak Avenue have already been undergrounded, and it had been proposed that the undergrounding of the balance of the overhead wires along this stretch of Royal Oak Avenue in the vicinity of Dear Lake Park would be pursued in 1999.

The Engineering Department reports that sufficient funds are available in the 1998 Capital Program under major roads to fund the completion of undergrounding overhead wires along Royal Oak Avenue. Staff consider this a suitable approach to achieve the desired undergrounding of this stretch of wiring along Royal Oak Avenue abutting Dear Lake Park, and unless otherwise directed by Council, propose that this approach be pursued. The Director Engineering will seek Council authority to issue the appropriate purchase orders to B.C. Hydro and B.C. Tel at a later date when final estimates have been received from these utility companies.

**4.0 PROJECT COSTS - WILLINGDON AVENUE**

Project costs and City of Burnaby funds required for the proposed Willingdon Avenue project (lane north of Hastings Street to Penzance Drive) are outlined below based on preliminary estimates. Further, as the overall Willingdon Avenue project is costly, and in keeping with usual budgetary procedure, the project is phased over two consecutive years. The costs are broken down as follows:

**PHASE I (1999/2000):**

A)	Estimated undergrounding costs .....	\$208,904
	B.C. Hydro contribution (1/3 total) .....	68,938
	City of Burnaby contribution (2/3 total) .....	139,966
B)	Total telephone lines component .....	\$15,188
	B.C. Tel contribution (1/3 total) .....	5,012
	City of Burnaby contribution (2/3 total) .....	10,176
C)	Sub Total City of Burnaby Contributions .....	\$150,142
	Add: 10% contingency .....	\$15,014
	7% GST .....	\$10,510
	City of Burnaby Funding Required .....	<u>\$175,666</u>
	Net Cost (after 4% GST rebate) .....	<b>\$168,639</b>

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**PHASE II (2000/2001):**

A)	Estimated undergrounding costs .....	\$247,469
	B.C. Hydro contribution (1/3 total) .....	81,665
	City of Burnaby contribution (2/3 total) .....	165,804
B)	Total telephone lines component .....	\$15,188
	B.C. Tel contribution (1/3 total) .....	5,012
	City of Burnaby contribution (2/3 total) .....	10,176
C)	Sub Total City of Burnaby Contributions .....	\$175,980
	(Hydro and Tel)	
	Add: 10% contingency .....	\$17,598
	7% GST .....	\$12,318
	City of Burnaby Funding Required .....	<u>\$205,896</u>
	Net Cost (after 4% GST rebate) .....	\$197,660

**TOTAL WILLINGDON AVENUE PROJECT (1999-2001):**

A)	Estimated undergrounding costs .....	\$ 456,373
	B.C. Hydro contribution (1/3 total) .....	150,603
	City of Burnaby contribution (2/3 total) .....	305,770
B)	Total telephone lines component .....	\$30,376
	B.C. Tel contribution (1/3 total) .....	10,024
	City of Burnaby contribution (2/3 total) .....	20,352
C)	Sub Total City of Burnaby Contributions .....	\$326,122
	(Hydro and Tel)	
	Add: 10% contingency .....	\$32,612
	7% GST .....	\$22,828
	City of Burnaby Funding Required .....	<u>\$381,562</u>
	Net Cost (after 4% GST rebate) .....	\$366,299

**5.0 FINANCING**

Sufficient Capital Reserves are available and, with Council approval, \$250,000 will be included for consideration in the 1999 Land Assembly and Development component of the 1999-2003 Capital Provisional Program.

**6.0 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 through the B.C. Hydro Beautification program.

It is proposed that the previously approved underground wiring project on the east side of Willingdon Avenue (Hastings Street to Eton Street) be redefined to include only that section between the lane north of Hastings Street and Penzance Drive for the reasons mentioned in Section 2.0 of this report. Furthermore, it is proposed that Phase I (lane north of Hastings Street to the lane north of Pandora Street) of the project be given priority in Burnaby's current application to B.C. Hydro.

Therefore, it is recommended that Council bring down a bylaw to appropriate \$168,639 from Capital Reserves to fund the City's share of costs to remove overhead lines on the east side of Willingdon Avenue (Phase I) as outlined in this report.



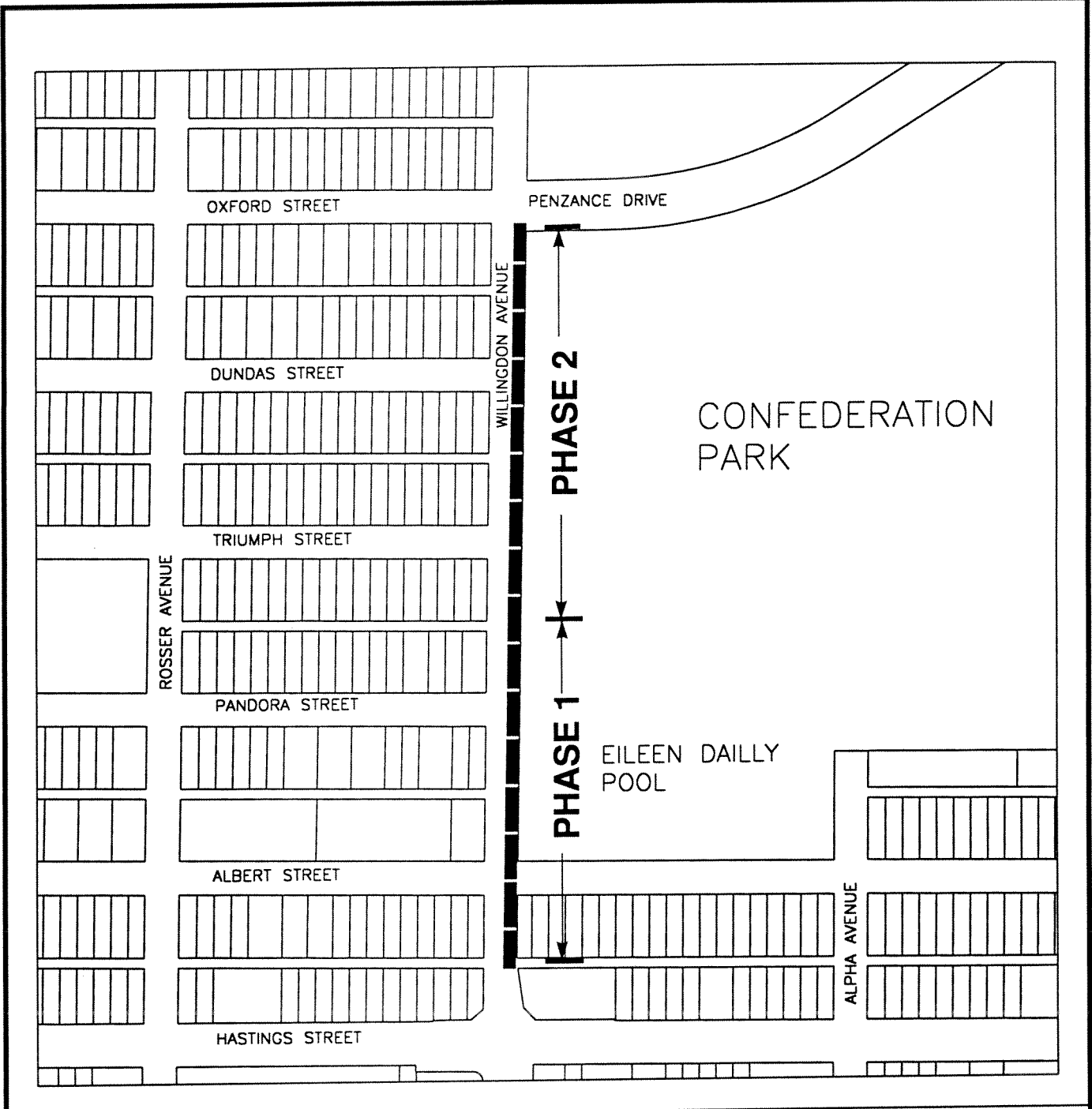
D.G. Stenson  
Director Planning and Building

EK:lf

Attachment

cc: Director Engineering  
City Solicitor  
Director Finance  
City Clerk


a:\willing.rpt



PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

DATE: NOVEMBER 1998  
 DRAWN BY: EWK  
 SCALE: NTS

PROPOSED WILLINGDON AVENUE  
 UNDERGROUND WIRING PROJECT

  
 North  
 SKETCH #1