

It should be noted that Council recently also received correspondence regarding Gaglardi Way noise attenuation issues from Strata NW 65, a neighbouring Strata located immediately south of Strata NW 97 (see *attached* Figure 1).

2.0 BACKGROUND

The prior report arose from a resident proposal to construct a berm which would separate the residential enclave from the roadway. The berm was to be constructed on a wider section of road right-of-way using free fill that would be obtained by the residents.

Engineering staff reviewed the resident's proposal and highlighted a number of issues. First, the berm proposed had a high probability of being technically infeasible but the confirmation of this would require some expenditure on geotechnical, hydrological and environmental investigation.

Second, the berm would not be inexpensive to construct. The fill, free or otherwise, would have to be approved for the purpose and built up and compacted in lifts. Special effort is required to handle silt runoff during placement and the period following, prior to soil stabilization through planting.

Third, the general topography with the road higher than the housing being protected works against effective noise attenuation, as does the placement of the berm at a suboptimal location. The feasible length of berm would also limit any protection it offered.

Finally, the Council adopted policy which states "that arterial road improvements be designed to buffer adjacent residential areas from traffic noise and visual intrusion" makes no allowance for retrofitting existing roads with noise attenuation measures. This policy is geared to construction of new facilities through existing residential areas.

3.0 HEDGE PLANTING

Given the foregoing Council direction, staff reviewed various options for a noise and visual buffer along Gaglardi Way at this location. A strategy focussed on enhanced vegetation planting provided the most cost effective method for meeting resident concerns in accordance with Council's current intent and prior policy context.

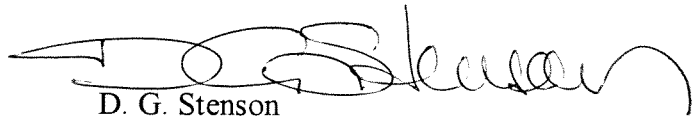
Installing a row of cedar trees roughly along the property line between the subject properties and the road right-of-way would aid in noise attenuation and provide a buffer between housing and the road. A somewhat mature hedge, particularly coniferous vegetation reduces perception of the level of noise and provides a visual screen. A coniferous hedge would be consistent with Burnaby's "green" highway corridor image.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Staff have determined that installation of a coniferous hedge made up of approximately 200, 2.0m high Western Red Cedar trees planted on the Gaglardi Way right-of-way and offset several metres from the property line would be an appropriate response to resident's concerns. Figure 1 outlines the extent of work described. Should area residents wish to supplement the proposed hedge by re-vegetating the grassy portion of the Gaglardi Way right-of-way between the proposed hedge and Gaglardi Way road with suitable species of plants they would be encouraged to do so following City approval of a submitted proposal. Such a proposal would need to address issues such as species suitability, size, extent of planting, drainage, soil preparation, maintenance, costs and funding.

A preliminary cost estimate for the proposed cedar hedge has been prepared by staff and is in the order of \$15,000 including installation and GST. Sufficient funds are available from Capital Contingency however this item is not included in the 2000 Capital budget.

Accordingly, it is recommended that Council authorise staff to implement this option.



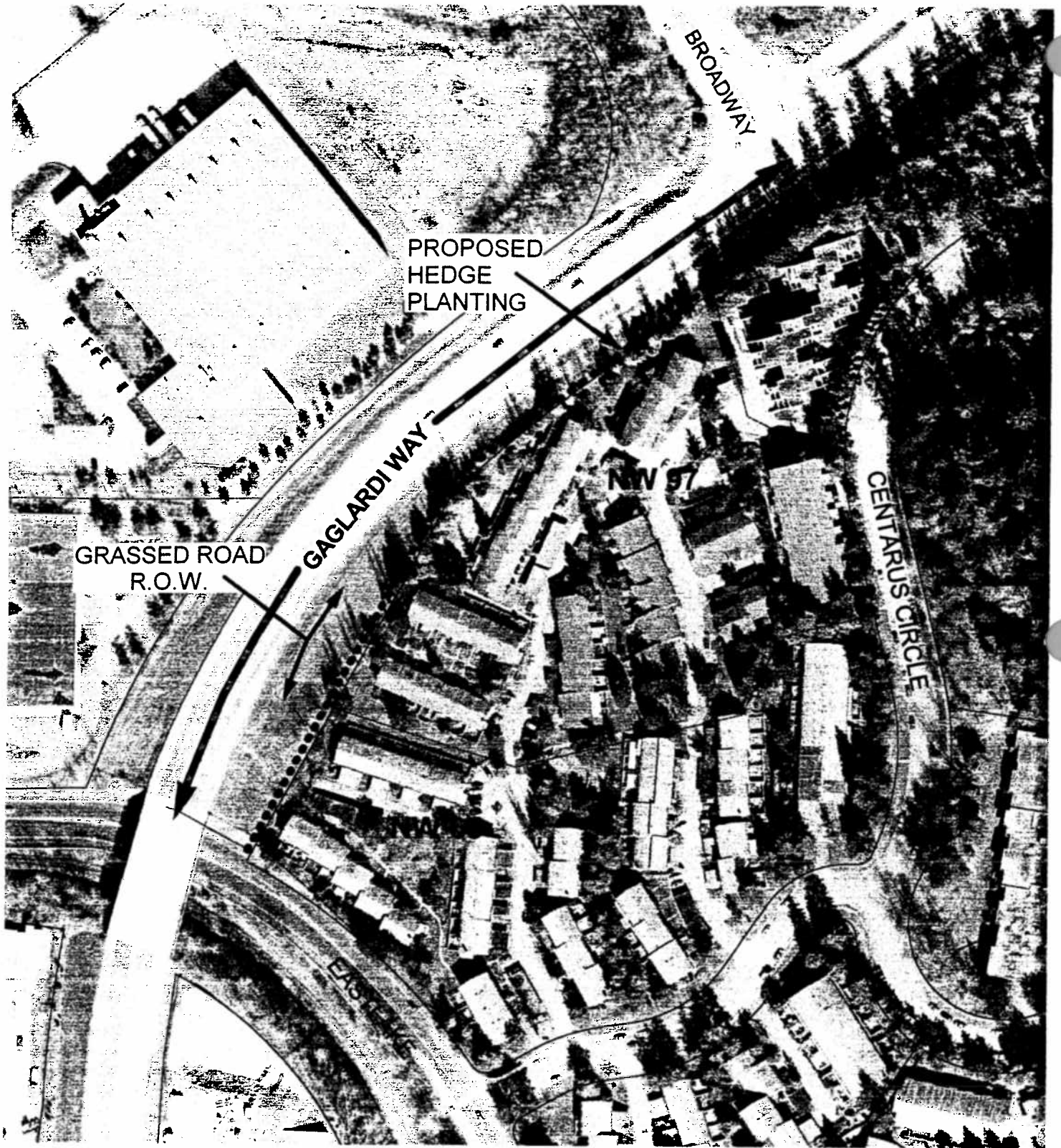
D. G. Stenson
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MP/PL:lf

Attachment

cc: Director Engineering
Director Finance

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Concept Plan - Gaglardi Way Noise Buffer



Figure 1