

**TO: CITY MANAGER**

**2001 OCTOBER 30**

**FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING**

**SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE  
2002/2003 B.C. HYDRO BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM  
PROPOSED PRIORITY PROJECT FOR 2002 - NELSON AVENUE**

**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 Nelson Avenue for 2002/2003 (from Jubilee Avenue to Imperial Street).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** Council bring down a Capital Reserves Expenditure Bylaw in the amount of \$185,000 to fund the City's share of costs to remove overhead lines on Nelson Avenue (Jubilee Avenue to Imperial Street).

**R E P O R T**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

At its 2001 September 17 meeting Council authorized staff to apply to the 2002/2003 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. Nelson Avenue (Jubilee to Imperial) .....	\$165,000
2. Southpoint Drive (Sandborne to Twentieth) .....	\$245,000
3. Canada Way (Gilmore to Curle) .....	\$300,000
4. Canada Way and Deer Lake/Sperling Avenue (Canada Way to Deer Lake Avenue and Sperling Avenue to Hampstead Place) .....	\$780,000

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 for advancement through the approval process and considered under the terms of the Beautification Program. If Burnaby is successful in this application the work would be required to commence within the fiscal year Hydro has committed its share of the funds for the project.

**2.0 PROPOSED PRIORITY PROJECT - NELSON AVENUE**

While all four 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 Nelson Avenue project, which is included in the 2001/2005 Capital Program, be pursued as a priority for the 2002/2003 Beautification Program. Staff have discussed the proposed project with B.C. Hydro staff who have indicated support for our application to complete this project. This project would remove visually obtrusive overhead lines in Metrotown adjacent to the Cenotaph plaza and to City-owned properties to be incorporated into Bonsor Park (see attached Sketch #1).

Regarding a related priority issue, on 2001 June 18, Council approved a general approach to the reconstruction of the Canada Way/Gilmore intersection, which includes the undergrounding of Hydro and Telus lines, as it relates to the development of Discovery Place lands on the south west corner of Canada Way and Gilmore Way (Rezoning Reference #98-51). Furthermore, Council authorized staff to obtain funding for this underground wiring project from the B.C. Hydro Beautification Program as a priority project for 2002/2003. However, as it would appear the developer will not be pursuing the completion of the rezoning within the next year, resulting in a delay in the required road works and relocation of utilities, an alternate underground wiring project is proposed. Nelson Avenue is considered appropriate given the unlikelihood of the wires being undergrounded through redevelopment, its location in a town centre, and in light of this year's current underground wiring project on Bennett Street (Nelson Avenue could be considered an adjunct to the Bennett Street project). Finally, due to the limited scope of the overall project, associated works could be completed in one year, thus avoiding funding commitments tied to a single project which may be phased over a number of years. This would provide the opportunity to revisit the Canada Way/Gilmore project in the following year should the developer proceed with the completion of the rezoning.

**3.0 PROJECT COSTS**

Project costs and City of Burnaby funds required for the proposed project are outlined below based on preliminary estimates.

A)	Estimated undergrounding costs . . . . .	\$165,000
	B.C. Hydro contribution (1/3 total) . . . . .	55,000
	City of Burnaby contribution (2/3 total) . . . . .	110,000
B)	Total telephone lines component . . . . .	\$60,000
	Telus contribution (1/4 total) . . . . .	15,000
	City of Burnaby contribution (3/4 total) . . . . .	45,000
C)	Sub Total City of Burnaby Contributions . . . . .	\$155,000

Add: 10% contingency .....	\$15,500
7% GST .....	\$11,935
City of Burnaby Funding Required .....	<u>\$182,435</u>
<i>(Bylaw required to cover this amount)</i>	
Net Cost (after 4% GST rebate) .....	<b>\$175,138</b>

**4.0 FINANCING**

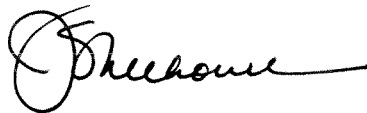
Sufficient Capital Reserves are available and, with Council approval, sufficient funds will be included in the 2003 Land Assembly and Development component of the 2002-2006 Provisional Capital Program.

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

It is proposed that the underground wiring project on Nelson Avenue (Jubilee Avenue to Imperial 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 \$185,000 from Capital Reserves to fund the City's share of costs to remove overhead lines as outlined in this report.

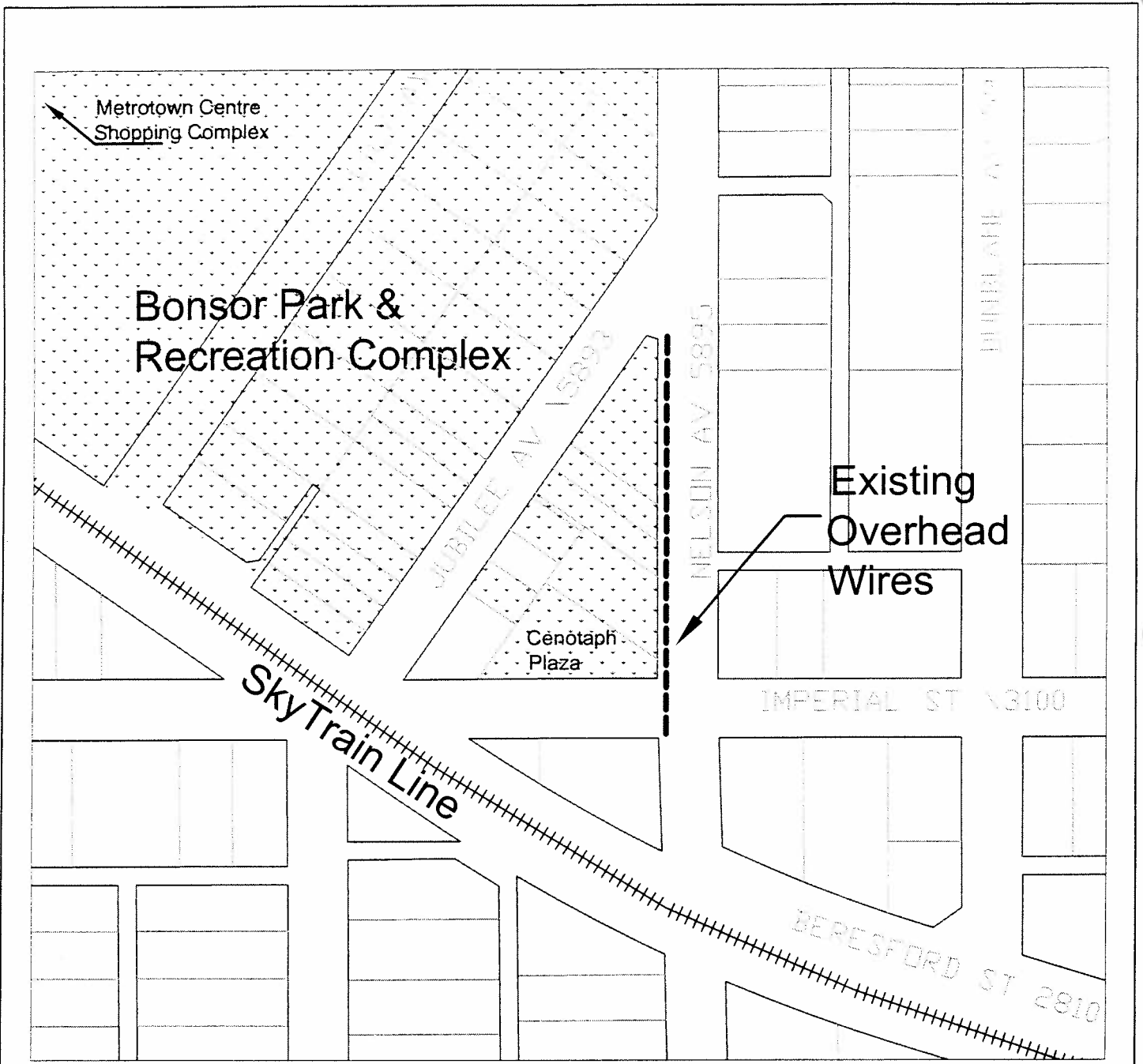


J.S. Belhouse  
Director Planning and Building

EK:dbh

Attachments

cc: Director Engineering  
City Solicitor  
Director Finance  
City Clerk



Sketch #1



2001 October

Planning and Building Department

2002/2003 Beautification Project  
**Nelson Avenue**

SIZE	FSCM NO.	DWG NO.	REV
1:2000			
			SHEET