
TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2005 September 14

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
2006 – 2007 B.C. HYDRO BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To outline proposed underground wiring projects for submission to B.C. Hydro for cost sharing in the 2006 – 2007 Beautification Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** staff be authorized to apply to B.C. Hydro for cost sharing assistance in removing the overhead lines described in this report.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

In the *attached* letter from B.C. Hydro dated 2005 September 1, the City of Burnaby was invited to consider projects for submission under the terms of B.C. Hydro's 2006-2007 Beautification Program, with a deadline for submission of 2005 October 1.

For a number of years, Burnaby has been pursuing an incremental program to remove overhead power lines from our primary urban areas. Participation in the B.C. Hydro Beautification Program has provided one-third cost sharing for various underground wiring projects, with Burnaby providing two-thirds of the project costs. For example, funding assistance has been received in previous years to underground overhead lines along Patterson Avenue adjacent to Central Park, Willingdon Avenue adjacent to Confederation Park, Bennett Street between Nelson Avenue and Marlborough Avenue, and the Government Street and Cameron Street corridors in the Lougheed Town Centre.

The approved 2003 and 2004 submissions, Cameron Street - Phase I (from Bartlett Court to Beaverbrook Drive) and Cameron Street - Phase II (from Beaverbrook Drive to Bell Avenue), are both currently under construction and are expected to be completed within the required time frame of the B.C. Hydro Beautification Program. The 2005 submission, Cameron Street - Phase III (from Bell Avenue to Keswick Avenue), was not proceeded with at this time due to the unexpected high estimate provided by B.C. Hydro. Cameron Street - Phase III would require

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additional City funds to maintain service to seven single-family homes fronting Cameron Street and Bell Avenue, five of which are in the process of being acquired by the City for park purposes. It would be advantageous and is proposed that Cameron Street - Phase III be pursued again as a priority project once the City has acquired the five single-family properties designated for park use.

The priority projects proposed for the 2006-2007 B.C. Hydro Beautification Program are outlined in Section 2.0 below, and the specific recommended priority project will be outlined in a subsequent report for Council's consideration after receiving preliminary cost estimates from B.C. Hydro.

2.0 2006-2007 BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

In line with usual procedures established by B.C. Hydro, for the 2006-2007 Program, staff are submitting an application to B.C. Hydro to provide estimates for a number of potential projects. As with previous applications, each project is located either within a Town Centre or adjacent to a significant park or cultural amenity. The proposed projects are as follows:

- a) **Canada Way from Kensington Avenue to Deer Lake Avenue and Sperling Avenue from Canada Way to Hampstead Place.** This project would seek to remove poorly sited hydro poles and underground highly visible overhead wires adjacent to the civic arts and cultural precinct and Deer Lake Park.
- b) **Beta Avenue from Lougheed Highway to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway** in the Brentwood Town Centre. This corridor is a gateway to a distinct, rapidly developing, and a major future residential sub-community of the Brentwood Town Centre with proposed park and elementary school sites. Consideration of this project for Beautification funding is merited.
- c) **Edmonds Street from Canada Way to Kingsway** in the Edmonds Town Centre. This potential Beautification project could be pursued as part of the Edmonds Street Revitalization Strategy. An independent electrical consultant has provided this Department with a cost estimate for converting overhead lines to underground and for related civic works, and information on the potential phasing of this project is pending. This extensive project is in a high-profile location, and would benefit from joint funding from B.C. Hydro.

Upon Council approval to proceed with the application for these projects, staff will prepare requests for one-third cost sharing from the B.C. Hydro Beautification Program. Upon receipt of Burnaby's application, B.C. Hydro will provide preliminary estimates for Burnaby's proposed

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projects. At that time, a further report will be submitted to Council to consider the recommended priority project and to outline City funding requirements for the 2006-2007 Program.

3.0 FUNDING

Capital Budget allocation for the underground wiring Beautification Program is provided for in the City's 2005 to 2009 Annual Capital Program.


for J. S. Belhouse
DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

KH:gk
Attach

cc. Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Manager, Transportation Planning

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THE POWER IS YOURS

Harold Nelson

Customer Projects & Installations
Phone: (604) 528-3171
Fax: (604) 528-2232
E-mail: harold.nelson@bchydro.com

September 1, 2005

The Mayor and Council
The City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 1M2

Dear Mayor and Council:

Subject: Funding Available for Electric Beautification Projects

Annually, BC Hydro budgets one million dollars for municipal beautification projects. Municipalities wishing to place existing overhead distribution lines underground to address environmental concerns, improve visual aesthetics or accommodate community redevelopment projects are welcome to apply for funding.

Funding is available for one-third of the BC Hydro beautification project cost. The attachment describes our program in more detail.

If you are considering a beautification project, an application form (attached) must be returned by October 1st with a description of the project, a map showing the extent of the project and an explanation of the project's objectives.

After receiving your application, we will prepare a "ballpark" estimate of cost for your municipality to consider. The municipality will be asked to confirm intent to fund two-thirds of the project cost and to confirm that the telephone utility has been advised of the project details. This confirmation must be received at BC Hydro by November 15th and the successful applicants will be notified in February. All accepted projects must begin within the fiscal year that they are approved and be completed within 12 months.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have about the program. If you would like to be considered for funding in 2006, please submit your application no later than October 1, 2005.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold Nelson".

Harold Nelson, P.Eng., MBA
Customer Projects Manager
Lower Mainland Central

cc: Mr. Jack Belhouse, Director of Planning and Building
Mr. Craig Sinclair, Director of Engineering

Attach.