

**TO:** CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2005 October 28

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

**SUBJECT:** APPLICATION FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE  
**2006-2007 BC HYDRO BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM**  
**PROPOSED PRIORITY PROJECT: CANADA WAY FROM**  
**KENSINGTON AVENUE TO DEER LAKE AVENUE**

**PURPOSE:** To update the status of Burnaby's Application to BC Hydro for underground wiring funding assistance and to seek Council authorization to pursue the priority project, Canada Way from Kensington Avenue to Deer Lake Avenue, for 2006-2007.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** Council approve the Canada Way underground wiring project as outlined in this report.

**REPORT**

At its meeting on 2005 September 19, Council authorized staff to apply to the 2006-2007 BC Hydro Beautification Program for one-third (1/3) cost-sharing assistance for the removal of overhead power lines at various locations in Burnaby.

BC Hydro has provided the following preliminary cost estimates for Burnaby's identified priority projects:

- 1) a) Canada Way from Kensington Avenue to Deer Lake Avenue .....\$460,000  
     b) Sperling Avenue from Canada Way to Hampstead Place .....\$534,000
- 2) Beta Avenue from Lougheed Highway  
     to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway.....\$300,000
- 3) Edmonds Street from Canada Way to Kingsway in the Edmonds Town Centre .....\$2,600,000

BC Hydro requires that funding for the City's two-thirds (2/3) share of project costs be confirmed by Council by 2005 November 15 in order for Burnaby's project to be submitted to BC Hydro for advancement through the approval processes and consideration 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 that BC Hydro has committed its share of the funds

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for the projects (i.e. 2007 March 31) and to be completed by the end of the next fiscal year (i.e. 2008 March 31).

**2.0 PROPOSED PRIORITY PROJECT – Canada Way from Kensington Avenue to Deer Lake Avenue**

While all the projects have merit as desirable Beautification projects, it is recommended that the Canada Way project be pursued as the priority project (see Sketch #1 *attached*). This project would seek to underground highly visible overhead wires and remove poorly sited hydro poles along the south side of Canada Way between Kensington Avenue and Deer Lake Avenue, adjacent to the civic arts and cultural precinct. Civic contributions to a Beautification project along this stretch of Canada Way will not only convey a sense of public commitment to improvements in the City’s high-profile arts and cultural precinct, but also enhance safety and access for pedestrians and those using mobility aids as poles currently situated within the abutting sidewalk area will be removed. In order for the City’s share of costs to be consistent with the amount budgeted in the City’s Capital Program, this project would require two phases. BC Hydro would be able to provide detailed information on phase boundaries and associated cost estimates once it receives confirmation from the City that funding is available and committed.

It should be noted that the Edmonds Street underground wiring project remains a potential high priority as both a Beautification project and as part of the Edmonds Street Revitalization Strategy, but is not recommended as the priority project for the upcoming funding year for two reasons. First, an independent electrical consultant has provided this Department with a cost estimate for this project, but detailed information on the potential phasing of this project – at least five phases are anticipated – is still pending. Furthermore, the Edmonds Street Village Plan, which provides general direction for urban design, including underground wiring initiatives, remains under review. Given the complexity of the Edmonds Street underground wiring project, it is prudent to gather all information and complete the Plan prior to potentially recommending it as a priority project for Beautification funding.

**3.0 PROJECT COSTS – Canada Way from Kensington Avenue to Deer Lake Avenue**

Project costs, including the City’s share of funds required, are outlined below, based on the preliminary estimates provided by BC Hydro and Telus. As noted above, detailed estimates would be provided by BC Hydro upon City confirmation that funding is available and committed.

A.	Estimated undergrounding costs .....	\$690,000
	BC Hydro contribution (1/3 total).....	\$230,000
	City of Burnaby contribution (2/3 total).....	\$460,000
B.	Total telephone lines component (City of Burnaby).....	\$10,000
C.	Sub-total City of Burnaby Contributions.....	\$470,000

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Add 10% contingency.....	\$47,000
7% GST.....	\$36,190
City of Burnaby Funding Requirement .....	\$553,190
(Bylaw required to cover this amount)	
<b>Net Cost (after 4% GST rebate) .....</b>	<b>\$532,510</b>

#### 4.0 FINANCING

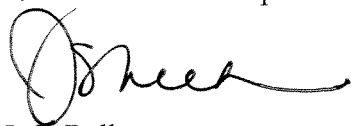
It is expected that the first phase of this two-phase project would commence by the end of BC Hydro's 2006-2007 fiscal year, with completion by the end of the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Within the Provisional 2006-2010 Capital Program that is being prepared for Council's consideration, \$300,000 is provided in the Underground Wiring component in each of 2008 and 2009 for this work.

At the time of preparation of the 2006-2010 Annual Capital Program, and once detailed information on phase boundaries and associated cost estimates are received from BC Hydro and Telus, the budget allocation for this project will be updated to be consistent with the current estimates, including the costs of any necessary civil works and right-of-ways. Staff will also provide Council with a further report detailing the two phases of the project, and seeking specific authority to bring down a Capital Reserves Expenditure Bylaw in the appropriate amount to fund the City's share of costs for Phase I of the project.

#### 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 BC Hydro through the BC Hydro Beautification Program. Canada Way from Kensington Avenue to Deer Lake Avenue is considered the appropriate priority project for Burnaby's current application to BC Hydro.

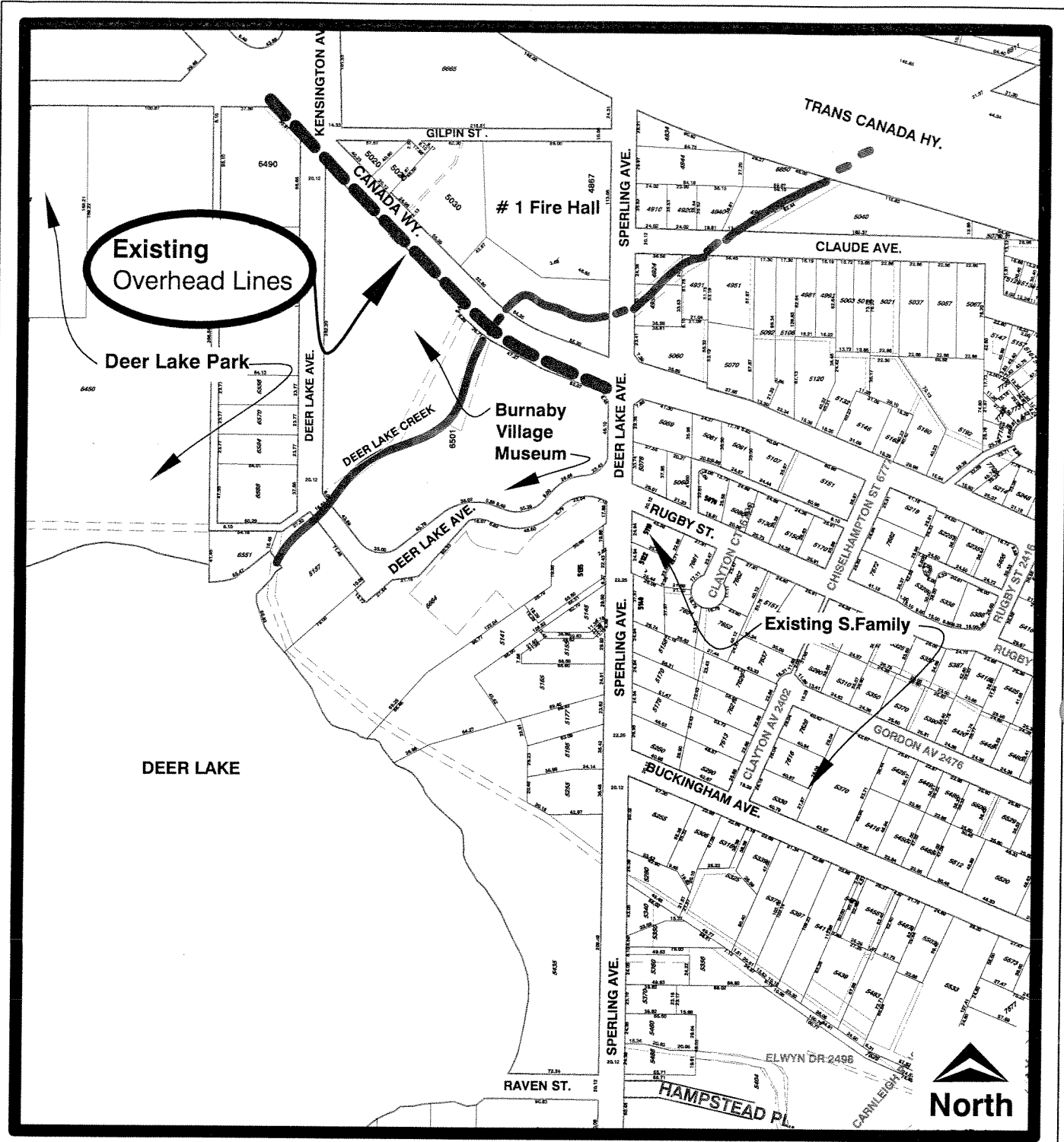
Therefore, it is recommended that Council approve the Canada Way underground wiring project as outlined in this report.



J. S. Belhouse  
DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

KH:gk  
Attach

cc. Director Engineering  
Director Finance  
Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services



**Planning and Building Department**

Scale: N.T.S.

Drawn By: J.P.C.

Date: November 2005

**Canada Way Project**  
**Proposed Underground Wiring**  
 ( B.C. Hydro Beautification Program )

**Sketch # 1**