

THE CORPORATION OF THE  
**CITY OF WHITE ROCK**  
CORPORATE REPORT



**DATE:** November 27, 2023

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Corrine Haer, P. Eng., Manager, Engineering

**SUBJECT:** Oxford and North Bluff Intersection Improvements – Cost Sharing Agreement with City of Surrey

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT Council receive the corporate report dated November 27, 2023, from the Manager of Engineering, titled “Oxford and North Bluff Intersection Improvements – Cost Sharing Agreement with City of Surrey” for consideration; and

1. Authorize the City of Surrey to project manage the Oxford and North Bluff Intersection Improvements;
  2. Approve the amount of \$337,500 (excluding GST) as the City of White Rock’s portion of the Oxford and North Bluff Intersection Improvements and authorize an additional \$85,000 (approximately 25%) in contingency;
  3. Authorize the City of Surrey to install an emergency water connection prior to the intersection improvements in the amount of \$60,000 (excluding GST) and authorize an additional \$15,000 (approximately 25%) in contingency; and
  4. Authorize the Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations to execute the cost sharing agreement and any contract documentation required for the project.
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this corporate report is to update Council on the North Bluff Road and Oxford Street Intersection Improvement project and to obtain authorization to enter into a cost sharing agreement with the City of Surrey to construct the project in 2024.

The intersection of North Bluff Road (16<sup>th</sup> Avenue) and Oxford Street (148<sup>th</sup> Street) is jointly owned by both the City of Surrey and the City of White Rock. Staff have been actively working on collaborating with Surrey staff and working towards a joint design to address the transportation and pedestrian concerns that have been raised about this intersection in order to enhance safety and improve the functionality. Agreement has also been reached to concurrently install an emergency water connection.

**INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

In line with the vision of the City’s Integrated Transportation and Infrastructure Management Plan (ITIMP), the North Bluff and Oxford Street Intersection Improvement project is required to

improve the safety and efficiency of vehicle and pedestrian movement. In order to effectively improve the intersection, White Rock and Surrey worked together to address the needs of our growing communities.

Intersection improvements include:

- Replace concrete bases, poles, displays, underground conduit, junction boxes, cabling, and all other necessary equipment for full vehicle and pedestrian movements at the intersection.
- Reconstruct the sidewalk letdowns at the southwest, northwest, and northeast corners of the intersection. White Rock has previously constructed letdown improvements in the southeast corner of the intersection, these will remain.
- Deliver protected/permissive left turning movements southbound and northbound.
- Upgrade to LED streetlighting fixtures.
- Repave the intersection.
- Install new pavement markings and signage on all approaches.
- Commission the rehabilitated intersection.

These improvements are expected to address congestion, improve vehicle and pedestrian visibility, shorten crosswalk lengths and will make the intersection safer. Additionally, Oxford Street northbound currently experiences a 2.9 minute bus delay for buses turning east onto North Bluff Road. These improvements are expected to significantly reduce or eliminate this current delay.

Staff recommend entering into a cost sharing agreement with the City of Surrey to allow this project to move forward to construction in 2024. Terms and conditions of the agreement will include:

- Fifty percent (50%) cost sharing in the development and procurement of the final design.
- Fifty percent (50%) cost sharing in constructing the intersection improvements.
- Surrey staff will manage the design and construction.
- Any material change from the approved final design will require approval by the City of White Rock.
- If tenders received exceed the expected contribution limit, approval will need to be provided by the City of White Rock before proceeding to construction.

The City of Surrey has estimated this project at \$675,000 (excluding tax), with White Rock's contribution estimated to be 50% of that, \$337,500. Final invoicing will be actual costs incurred to implement the project.

In addition to the intersection improvements, staff have completed a design for emergency water connections connecting the City's Water Utility to the City of Surrey. This will allow the City to access City of Surrey water in the event of an emergency. One of the locations that requires a connection is at North Bluff Road and Oxford Street. Staff tendered this project on BC Bid early 2023 and received no interest from contractors at the time.

As this work must be completed before intersection improvements go ahead, staff recommend that White Rock staff work alongside City of Surrey staff to complete the installation together. City of Surrey has provided an estimate for the work and staff recommend we proceed with awarding this work to the City of Surrey in the amount of \$60,000.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The City of Surrey has estimated the intersection improvements at \$675,000 (excluding tax), with White Rock's contribution estimated to be 50% of that, \$337,500. In addition, the City of Surrey has estimated the emergency water connection to be \$60,000. Final invoicing for both projects will be actual costs incurred.

Currently, the City has \$224,000 approved through the 2023 Financial Plan for the intersection improvements and an additional \$301,000 available for emergency water connections.

Additional funds to support the intersection improvements (Asset general fund) will be requested through the 2024 Financial Plan to ensure sufficient funds are available to complete the project.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

No legal implications are anticipated. The City's solicitor will review all agreements before they are finalized and staff request authorization for the Director, Engineering and Municipal Operations to execute the cost sharing agreement and any contract documentation required for the project.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Engineering staff will coordinate project communication with Communication & Government Relations Staff and this will likely include information on the City website and on social media.

### **INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS**

Finance Department and Communications & Government Relations staff will provide input to the project.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

Fewer delays for buses and vehicles will result in less GHG emissions. Also, improved conditions for pedestrians may eliminate vehicle trips and the resultant GHG emissions.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

This project is in alignment with the Infrastructure Strategic Priority that identifies that the City plan, build and maintain infrastructure to enhance quality of life and civic service delivery while mitigating and adapting to environmental impacts. Specifically, this project ensures future infrastructure resiliency by making decisions through a long-term lens.

### **OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES**

The following options are available for Council's consideration:

1. Not approve the recommendation to award the North Bluff and Oxford Intersection Improvement project to the City of Surrey for management of the design and construction. This may result in reduced safety for pedestrians and vehicles utilizing this intersection and lead to potential long-term transit delays caused by congestion at the intersection. In addition, although the City of White Rock could go ahead with improvements in the southwest corner of the intersection without the participation of the City of Surrey, this would not address the requirement for a protected/permissive left turn movement southbound and northbound.

**CONCLUSION**

The intersection of North Bluff Road (16<sup>th</sup> Avenue) and Oxford Street (148<sup>th</sup> Street) is jointly owned by both the City of Surrey and the City of White Rock. Staff have been actively working on collaborating with Surrey staff and working towards a joint design to address the transportation and pedestrian concerns that have been raised about this intersection in order to enhance safety and improve the functionality. Staff seek Council's approval to award the intersection improvements and the emergency water connection to the City of Surrey. This will ensure construction is completed in 2024. In addition, staff seek Council's approval to authorize the Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations to execute the cost sharing agreement and any contract documentation required to complete the project.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by,



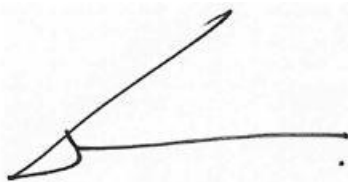
Corrine Haer, P.Eng.  
Manager, Engineering



Jim Gordon, P.Eng.  
Director, Engineering & Municipal  
Operations

**Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer**

I concur with the recommendations of this corporate report.



Guillermo Ferrero  
Chief Administrative Officer