

October 8, 2010



## City Council Committee Report

**To: Mayor & Council**

**Fr: Richard Perchuk, Manager of Operations**

**Re: 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue North Railway Crossing – Safety Concern (Amended)**

### **Recommendation:**

**That** the Operations Department install Warning signs on the north side of the CPR tracks at Sixth Street North and Sixteenth Avenue North to warn vehicles from crossing tracks until the south side is clear of any backups to state "**DO NOT BLOCK TRACKS**".

### **Background:**

In review of the safety concerns at the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue North railway crossing raised by Transport Canada I would like to make the following comments.

The main problem with the crossing is the road alignment on the south side of the tracks and the difference of grade between the north and south. Due to the volume of traffic on Railway Street, especially after a train passes by the Airport Road Crossing, a large number of vehicles move along Railway Street heading west. When this happens vehicles crossing the tracks heading south become backed up as vehicles are unable to enter Railway Street. It is possible vehicles are sitting on the tracks with a train approaching in another direction.

In respect to this matter I would suggest that a short term and long term plan is necessary.

Options for short term improvement:

- 1) Close the crossing at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue North allowing traffic the use of the Airport Road crossing only.
- 2) Allow only north bound traffic across 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and close it to south bound vehicles.
- 3) Place Warning signs on the north side of the tracks to stop vehicles from crossing tracks until the south side is clear of any backups and erect signage to state "Do not Block Tracks".

- 4) Use of Yield or Stop signs on Railway Street to allow unrestricted flow of vehicles over the crossing in a south bound direction. (The main flow of traffic is on Railway Street in an east /west direction. The south bound traffic from 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue North would be designated the "through" street to eliminate any back up of vehicles on the tracks).

With poor visibility in both directions, along Railway Street at the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue North crossing, the use of a "Yield" sign would become confusing for motorists due to the geometry of the intersection and who has the right-a-way. The Ontario Traffic Manual does not recommend the use of Yield signs for the control of major flow of traffic at an intersection.

The OPP they do not recommend any type of traffic control on Railway Street due to the geometry of the existing roadway.

A long term improvement would involve the redesign of the Railway Street and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue North intersection or the installation of traffic lights to control movement across the tracks.

On an interim basis it is recommended that the city install warning signs on the north side of the tracks for motorist not to begin crossing the tracks until the south side is clear of any backups by erecting signage to state "**Do not Block Tracks**".

**Budget:** 2010 Operating Budget

**Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:**

Resolution & By-law required.

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