

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – DECEMBER 3, 2007**

### **REQUEST FOR STAFF TO REPORT ON ELIMINATING THE WHISTLE BLOWING IN NASHVILLE**

#### **Recommendation**

Councillor Peter Meffe recommends:

1. That Staff be directed to prepare a report with respect to the costs associated with the installation of crossing gates at the raised intersections along Nashville and Coldcreek; and
2. That Staff pursue the option of advising Transport Canada to revisit their present guidelines as it relates to this area; and
3. That this report be brought forward for consideration under the Draft 2008 Capital Budget.

#### **Economic Impact**

To be determined once Staff has explored the possibility of Transport Canada to review their present policy. Presently the costs associated with installation of crossing arms are in the neighbourhood of \$300,000.00 plus GST.

#### **Purpose**

In recognizing that urban and residential areas have grown, and that residences are now located in closer proximity to railway lines, it is recommended that CN/CP review their policy in terms of whistle blowing so as to allow residents quiet enjoyment of their homes particularly during the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Further the arms would serve to create safety for travelers and pedestrians at railway crossings in high density residential.

#### **Background – Analysis and Options**

Numerous complaints have been received from residents in the Nashville Road, Coldcreek Road and Huntington Road area in terms of the number of times the whistle blows during the night hours disrupting the residents. Also, great concern has been raised by residents in connection to the lack of railway arms at the intersection of Coldcreek and Nashville Road. Residents; in particular those whose property is adjacent to the intersection has reported that often travelers disregard the lights that come on signaling an oncoming train, and proceed through the intersection. This is an accident waiting to happen.

Recently Staff met with Transport Canada Officials in this regard and were advised that presently, as per their guidelines, crossing arms are not warranted and any costs associated would be borne by the City of Vaughan.

Due to the residential growth in this area, if possible, Transport Canada can revisit their present guidelines to ensure the needs of the residents can be properly met.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report recommends a change from the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have not been allocated.

**Regional Implications**

Nil.

**Conclusion**

It is my feeling that this is a reasonable request and the residents should not have to suffer in terms of the noise from the whistle blowing particularly during the night hours. The installation of Railway arms would certainly be a safety measure that should be in place particularly in high density residential areas.

**Attachments**

Nil.

**Report prepared by:**

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Meffe,  
Councillor, Ward 1