

Since 2011, the City of New Westminster has been working closely with Transport Canada and the four railway companies currently operating in the city towards eliminating the use of locomotive whistling within city limits.

In order to achieve whistle cessation at all at-grade railway crossings, safety audits must be completed to ensure that the necessary requirements outlined in the Canada Railway Safety Act and the BC Railway Safety Act are feasible.

New Westminster has a total of 22 railway crossings in the city; 12 on the mainland and 10 in Queensborough. The City is currently focusing on 13 major crossings and has completed safety audits at all 13 of the crossings to achieve imminent whistle cessation.

Status of Downtown Crossings (2 crossings)

There are two downtown crossings; one at Fourth Street and Front Street, and the other at Begbie and Front Street. Safety audits have been completed and the scope of improvements, including roadway design and signal enhancements, have been reviewed and agreed upon by the railway companies. Equipment has been ordered and the railways have confirmed that the work to achieve whistle cessation will be completed by the end of 2015.

Status of Westend and Queensborough Crossings (7 crossings)

The City has negotiated a financial contribution from Southern Railway of British Columbia (SRY) to upgrade several crossings in the Queensborough and Westend neighbourhoods. Preliminary safety audits have been completed and SRY is currently undertaking the design work for the required crossing controls. It is expected that this work will be completed by summer 2016. Whistle cessation has been implemented at the Port Royal crossing.

SRY and the City will partner in public consultation with the Quayside community prior to implementation of the Quayside Drive and Laguna Court crossing to address concerns raised by residents. SRY has committed to complete this work by the end of 2015.

Status of Sapperton Crossings (4 crossings)

Four other major crossings are located in the Sapperton neighbourhood. Safety audits have been completed at these crossings and a number of complex issues have been identified for both the Braid and Spruce Street crossings. Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) will be upgrading the Braid Street crossing this year and only minor improvements are required at the Cumberland Crossing as most of the required equipment already exists.



More Information

For more information, please contact the Engineering department at 604-527-4592.