

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. Construction is now nearing completion. Upgrades to railway tracks by the railway companies are required before the final installation of upgraded crossing material is installed. Installation of the crossing materials and required fencing is anticipated to be completed by the end of May, however, formal application for whistle cessation may need to be delayed until the Front Street upgrade is complete in August.

### **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. Design has been completed for the railway crossing at Quayside Drive and Laguna Court. We are in the process of ordering the railway equipment which would arrive later in the year. Our target is implementation of whistle cessation at this crossing by the end of 2016.

### **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.

