

Subject: Whistle Cessation Project Update No. 2

Staff Report No. EPW-008-26

**Department/
Commission:** Engineering and Public Works Commission

Date: April 15, 2026

Recommendation:

- 1) That Council authorize the reallocation of funds, in the amount of \$348,500, to the Controlled Crossing Safety Assessment (Whistle Cessation) project.
- 2) That the Treasurer be directed to fund the additional amount from savings associated with closed 2025 capital projects.

Report Highlights

- The Controlled Crossing Safety Assessment (Whistle Cessation) project was first approved in 2019
- Project costs were last updated in 2023 before detailed design was completed
- Based on recent updates and requirements by Metrolinx, staff have determined that approximately \$348,500 is required to complete the Whistle Cessation project
- Funding is available to absorb the necessary infrastructure improvements to enable whistle cessation at Hoover Park Drive and Reeves Way Boulevard

1. Purpose:

Council approval is required for the reallocation of funds needed to complete the Controlled Crossing Safety Assessment (Whistle Cessation) project.

2. Background:

Tender No. WS-RFT-25-009 for the Hoover Park Drive and Reeves Way Boulevard At-Grade Railway Crossings Upgrades (Whistle Cessation Upgrades) was awarded to Lyncon Construction Inc. (the Contractor) on April 10, 2025, in the amount of \$221,180.83, excluding taxes.

Through extensive coordination over the past six months, including bi-weekly meetings involving the Town, Lyncon, and Metrolinx, staff have worked diligently to navigate and address the detailed requirements necessary to advance the project. The scope of work needed to satisfy Metrolinx's operational and safety requirements is significantly more complex than initially anticipated. As a result, staff have determined that additional costs are required to complete the project in a manner that fully aligns with rail safety requirements and allows construction to proceed.

Staff Report No. EPW-005-2026 Whistle Cessation Project Update No. 1 was brought forward to Council during the February 18, 2026, Council Meeting. As discussed in the report, Metrolinx requires additional measures to be implemented to obtain approval to proceed with construction and perform the work.

Staff also committed to bringing forward a subsequent report once the additional costs had been determined. Staff have now identified the additional costs that are required to complete the project.

3. Analysis:

Whistle cessation is governed by the Railway Safety Act and Grade Crossings Regulations. To eliminate whistling, crossings must meet specific safety requirements including lights, bells, and gates.

These requirements extend beyond general signage and pavement markings and include infrastructure upgrades. Every element must be approved, overseen, and monitored by Metrolinx, increasing project complexity, duration and cost.

Some of the main items in the scope of work for Hoover Park Drive and Reeves Way Boulevard crossings include:

- Sidewalks – which must be reconstructed to meet current accessibility standards (as per the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act).
- Pedestrian maze barriers – required at all four (4) quadrants at both crossing locations
- Pavement markings and signage upgrades
- Mandatory railway protection and flagging

Based on the pricing received from Lyncon, CIMA+, and Metrolinx, staff have confirmed the additional project costs needed to meet the railway safety requirements. These mandated requirements, which were only identified and refined through more than six months of coordination and bi-weekly technical meetings, are the driving factor behind the increase in overall project costs.

Based on the pricing submitted by Lyncon and CIMA+, the table below summarizes the project budget along with the total additional project costs:

Table No. 1 – Project Cost Summary

Controlled Crossing Safety Assessment (310-19-00951) - Project Budget Review	
2025 Carry Forward Budget	\$378,329.00
Less:	
Total Commitments to Date	-\$315,308.18
Remaining Budget	\$63,020.82
Additional Costs:	
Additional Construction Costs	\$282,569.79
Additional Project and Contract Management Costs	\$85,758.80
Sub-total (Additional Project Costs)	\$368,328.59
Contingency (10%)	\$36,832.86
Sub-Total (Additional Project Costs)	\$405,161.45
Budget Variance (excluding 1.76% HST)	(\$342,140.63)

Although the additional project costs are substantial, there is potential for reductions if the work proceeds smoothly and without further delays.

4. Options:

Option A – Provide Additional Funding (Recommended)

With the additional funding of \$342,140.63, the Town will be able to proceed to construction this year. This option allows for the implementation of whistle cessation at the Reeves Way Boulevard and Hoover Park Drive rail crossings.

Staff request that Council accommodate the budget variance outlined in the table below with the reallocation of funding, as directed by the Treasurer.

Option B – Do Nothing/Cancel Existing Tender

With a remaining budget of approximately \$63,020.82, the Town would not be able to proceed to construction this year and the project would be cancelled. This option prevents the implementation of Whistle Cessation at the Reeves Way Boulevard and Hoover Park Drive rail crossings.

It should be noted that cancellation of the project would result in approximately \$50,000 in costs, including construction-related expenditures incurred to date and the Contractor's applicable overhead and fixed costs in accordance with the Construction Contract.

Furthermore, if the Town was to consider implementing whistle cessation at these locations in the future, the costs would likely be considerably higher.

5. Financial Implications:

Project	Budget	Budget Remaining	Forecasted Additional Project Costs (incl. 1.76% HST)	Budget Variance (incl. 1.76% HST)
Controlled Crossing Safety Assessment (310-19-00951)	\$378,329.00	\$63,020.82	\$412,292.29	(\$348,162.30)

Currently, the remaining budget for the Controlled Crossing Safety Assessment does not sufficiently cover the required costs to complete the project, thereby requiring Council approval to fund the variance.

6. Broader Intergovernmental Impacts and/or Considerations:

It should be noted that Town staff have been advised that the lead time Metrolinx requires for flagging services will be increasing from 9 weeks to 22 weeks in the near future. This extended timeline may impact future projects that require whistle cessation measures, including the Main Street Reconstruction project.

7. Communication:

N/A

8. Alignment with Strategic Plan:

1. A Town that Grows
A Town that grows in support of complete communities
2. A Town that Moves
Improve the condition and efficiency of the local road network while addressing connectivity and advancing active transportation facilities

9. Attachments:

None.

10. Related Reports:

November 1, 2016 – [PW-002-16 Crossing Safety Assessments for Whistle Cessation – Hoover Park Drive and Reeves Way Boulevard \(T07\)](#)

July 16, 2019 – [PW-020-19 Results of WS-RFP-19-52 – Consulting Services for Public Railway Grade Crossings Safety Assessment \(F18\) \(T07\)](#)

September 22, 2020 – [PW-020-20 Public Railway Grade Crossings Safety Assessment](#)

November 16, 2021 – [PW-022-21 Whistle Cessation](#)

February 1, 2023 – [PW-003-23 Whistle Cessation Update](#)

February 18, 2026 – [EPW-005-2026 Whistle Cessation Project Update No. 1](#)

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Review Confirmation:

Reviewing Division	Review Required?				Reviewed By
Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	JH
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	
Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	
Clerks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	