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<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 28, 2014</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>EDWARD SOLDO, P. ENG. DIRECTOR, ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>RAIL SAFETY WEEK</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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That on the recommendation of the Director, Roads and Transportation, the following report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
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**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to promote Canada’s Public - Rail Safety Week, which is being held from **April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup> 2014**. The purpose of Rail Safety Week is to raise rail safety awareness among all Canadians and to highlight the ongoing commitment of the rail industry, its member companies and their employees, and municipalities to make the rail network even safer.

**Context**

The City of London is serviced by a network of railway lines that move goods and passengers. The network is comprised of railway owned by Canadian National Railway (CNR), Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) and Goderich-Exeter Railway (GEXR). The railways are crucial to the economic prosperity of London and Southwestern Ontario as they provide a reliable and affordable way to transport goods.

In 2013, the City of London undertook a Railway Pedestrian Safety Study, the objective of which was the development of best practices for providing effective warnings to non-motorized users of roadway/railways grade crossings that inform the user of the presence of a crossing, and inform the user to take appropriate action to prevent a collision. In November of 2013, Council approved the study and directed staff to liaise with the railway companies regarding opportunities to increase public awareness of rail safety issues.

Railway safety is a function of education, engineering and enforcement. The City has been working with our railway partners to help promote education regarding railway safety.

<b>DISCUSSION</b>
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**Railway Safety Education**

Education is an important component in order to reduce/eliminate railway incidents. The Railway Association of Canada and Transport Canada operate the Operation Lifesaver ([www.operationlifesaver.ca](http://www.operationlifesaver.ca)) program. Operation Lifesaver uses education, engineering and enforcement to prevent rail collisions and to prevent trespassing incidents that can lead to serious injury or death.

During Rail Safety Week, Operation Lifesaver volunteers engage in a number of local events and activities across Canada, including crossing blitzes, mock incident scenarios, public service announcements and presentations by volunteers to schools, youth clubs, drivers associations and community groups. The goal of educating people of all ages about the dangers of railway

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crossings and the seriousness of trespassing on railway property is mainly to prevent trespassing incidents that lead to serious injury or death.

**Key Education Messages**

The following are key messages

*Be aware, attentive and prepared to stop at highway/railway crossings.*

*Listen for warning bells and/or whistles of an approaching train.*

*Obey all signs and signals. Never attempt to drive under a gate as it is closing or around a closed gate. If the gate begins to close while you're underneath, keep moving ahead until you clear the crossing.*

*Walking or playing on train tracks is dangerous and illegal. Railway property is private property.*

*Playing on railway tracks and bridges is dangerous. Teach children to find safe, supervised and open areas (i.e. neighborhood parks) to have fun.*

*The only way to cross railway tracks is to use designated railway crossings.*

*If children must cross railways, for example on their way to and from school, teach them to stop, look, and listen before crossing railway tracks.*

*It is against the law to trespass on railway property.*

Additional railway safety information from Operation Lifesaver:

- Web: <http://www.operationlifesaver.ca/>
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/oplifesaver](http://www.facebook.com/oplifesaver)
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/oplifesaver](http://www.twitter.com/oplifesaver)
- YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/OperationLifesaverCA](http://www.youtube.com/user/OperationLifesaverCA)

<b>SUMMARY</b>
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Railway safety is a function of education, engineering and enforcement. The goal of Public – Rail Safety Week from **April 28 to May 4, 2014** is to raise awareness among residents. The City is working with our partners at CNR and CPR to promote these safety messages through the local media and utilizing social media.

<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>	<b>REVIEWED &amp; CONCURRED BY:</b>
<b>EDWARD SOLDI, P.ENG. DIRECTOR, ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>JOHN BRAAM, P.ENG. MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL &amp; ENGINEERING SERVICES &amp; CITY ENGINEER</b>