

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 24, 2017
FROM:	KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT:	RAIL SAFETY WEEK

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services and City Engineer, the following report regarding the National Public Rail Safety Week **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- Civic Works Committee – March 29, 2016 – Grade Crossing Regulation
- Civic Works Committee – April 28, 2014 – Rail Safety Week
- Civic Works Committee – October 7, 2013 – Railway Pedestrian Crossings Safety

2015-19 STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan identifies the implementation and enhancement of road safety measures for all users as a means to deliver convenient and connected mobility choices.

BACKGROUND

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to promote Canada’s 15th annual Rail Safety Week, which is being held from April 24th to April 30th 2017. 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 and municipalities to make the rail network even safer.

Context

The City of London is serviced by a network of railway lines that move freight and passengers. The network is comprised of railways owned by Canadian National Railway (CN), Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) and Goderich-Exeter Railway (GEXR), which account for over 60 at-grade crossings within the City. The railways are crucial to the economic prosperity of London and Southwestern Ontario as they provide a reliable and affordable way to transport goods and people.

The City of London can pride itself on taking proactive steps when it comes to rail crossing safety. In 2007, a safety review was completed by the City, Transport Canada (TC), CN, CPR, and GEXR which assessed all railway crossings in London. The safety review analyzed signage, pavement markings, vegetation, fencing and other issues. All recommended upgrades within City control were completed as a result of the review.

In 2013, the City of London undertook a Railway Pedestrian Safety Study. The objective of this study was to develop best practices for providing effective warnings to non-motorized users of road/rail grade crossings that inform the user of the presence of a crossing and suggest appropriate actions 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.

In 2014, Council approved the London Road Safety Strategy (LRSS), which has a vision of safer road environments for all transportation users in London with a goal to reduce injury and fatal collisions by 10% over 5 years. The plan includes educational, engineering and enforcement actions as part of the strategy. The citizens of London and Middlesex County will benefit from the many road safety programs that will result from the London Road Safety Strategy. The vision of the Strategy is a path to a safer road environment for all transportation users in London.

In 2016, the City of London, in compliance with new Transport Canada Grade Crossing Regulations, worked with the rail companies undertaking critical safety information data collection at railway crossings to support crossing assessments. Currently, the City is undertaking the detailed safety assessments of the crossings required by the regulations to identify any deficiencies that exist and plan for upgrades with the railways.

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.

DISCUSSION

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) 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.

Every year in Canada approximately 240 collisions and trespassing incidents occur at highway/railway crossings and along railway tracks resulting in the death or serious injury of more than 100 people. Virtually all of these incidents could be avoided.

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

Key Rail Safety Week 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
Twitter: www.twitter.com/oplifesaver
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/OperationLifesaverCA

CONCLUSION

Railway safety is a function of education, engineering and enforcement. The goal of Rail Safety Week from April 24 to April 30, 2017 is to raise awareness among residents. The City is working with our partners at CNR, CPR and GEXR to promote these safety messages through the local media and utilizing social media.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with the assistance of Ardian Spahiu, P.Eng. Transportation Design Engineer of the Transportation Planning & Design Division.

SUBMITTED BY:	REVIEWED & CONCURRED BY:
DOUG MACRAE, P.ENG. DIVISION MANAGER, TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & DESIGN	EDWARD SOLDI, P.ENG. DIRECTOR, ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION
RECOMMENDED BY:	
KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER	

Attach: Appendix A – Operation Lifesaver Letter

c: Canadian National Railway, Drew Redden, Lead Community Affairs
Ontario Region, 4 Welding Way off Administration Road, Vaughan, ON,
L4K 1B9

Canadian Pacific Railway, Nathan Cato, Director, Government Affairs, 81
Metcalf St Suite 1110, Ottawa, ON, K1P 6K7

Goderich Exeter Railway, Lou Mastandrea, Public Works, 101
Shakespeare St. 2nd Floor Stratford, ON, N5A 3W5

APPENDIX A
Operation Lifesaver Letter



Operation Lifesaver
901 - 99 Bank Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6B9
Telephone (613) 564-8097
Fax (613) 567-6726
E-mail admin@operationlifesaver.ca

Opération Gareautrain
901 - 99, rue Bank
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6B9
Téléphone (613) 564-8097
Télécopieur (613) 567-6726
Courriel admin@operationlifesaver.ca

January 31, 2017

Office of the Clerk
City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue PO Box 5035
London, ON N6A 4L9

2017-P15
City Clerk No. 0260
Subject Rail Safety Week
April 24-30/17- Operation
Lifesaver
FEB 09 2017

Dear Sir / Madam:

Ref. DO'Brien
C.C. _____

Canada's 15th annual **Rail Safety Week** will be held from April 24 to 30, 2017. The purpose of this national event is to raise awareness about rail safety, and to highlight the ongoing commitment of communities such as yours, along with rail companies and their employees, in making Canada's rail network even safer.

Once again this year, **Operation Lifesaver** is proud to be supporting the activities and events that will be taking place across the country throughout **Rail Safety Week**. These events will emphasize the need for railways, communities and members of the public to work together to prevent the avoidable accidents, injuries and damage caused by collisions at level crossings, and incidents involving trains and citizens.

Your council can be a powerful ally for our public awareness campaign by adopting the enclosed draft resolution to support **Rail Safety Week** in your community. Should you require additional information about Operation Lifesaver and rail safety, please consult www.operationlifesaver.ca.

Thank you in advance for supporting this request and **Rail Safety Week**. We would greatly appreciate it if you would send us a copy of your resolution, and keep us informed of how you will be promoting rail safety in your community this year.

Sincerely,

Stephen Covey
President
Operation Lifesaver

Sarah Mayes
National Director (Interim)
Operation Lifesaver

Encl.

Operation Lifesaver is a national rail safety program, sponsored by Transport Canada and the Railway Association of Canada, that works to save lives by educating Canadians about the hazards of railway crossings and trespassing on railway property.

Opération Gareautrain est un programme national de sécurité ferroviaire parrainé par Transports Canada et l'Association des chemins de fer du Canada, qui vise à sauver des vies en informant les Canadiens des dangers posés par les passages à niveau et les intrusions sur le domaine ferroviaire.

(Draft Resolution)

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC - RAIL SAFETY WEEK

Whereas *Public - Rail Safety Week* is to be held across Canada from April 24 to 30, 2017

Whereas it is in the public's interest to raise citizens' awareness on reducing avoidable accidents, injuries and damage caused by collisions at level crossings or incidents involving trains and citizens;

Whereas Operation Lifesaver is a public/private partnership whose aim is to work with the rail industry, governments, police services, the media and other agencies and the public to raise rail safety awareness;

Whereas Operation Lifesaver has requested City Council adopt this resolution in support of its ongoing effort to save lives and prevent injuries in communities, including our municipality;

It is proposed by Councillor _____

seconded by Councillor _____

It is hereby **RESOLVED** to support national ***Public - Rail Safety Week***, to be held from April 24 to 30, 2017.