

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2018
FROM:	KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT:	RAIL SAFETY WEEK

RECOMMENDATION

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

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

- Civic Works Committee – August 13, 2018 – Rail Safety Improvement Program Agreement for Grade Crossing Improvements
- Civic Works Committee – April 24, 2017 – Rail Safety Week
- Civic Works Committee – March 29, 2016 – Grade Crossing Regulation
- Civic Works Committee – April 28, 2014 – Rail Safety Week

2015-19 STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2015-2019 Strategic Plan through the strategic focus area of Building a Sustainable City. The 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 Operation Lifesaver’s 16th annual Rail Safety Week, which takes place on September 23 to September 29, 2018. This year’s Rail Safety Week aligns with the United States Rail Safety Week.

Rail Safety Week’s mission is to save lives by raising awareness of rail safety and to highlight the ongoing commitment of the rail industry and government to make the rail network safer.

Context

London is serviced by a network of railway lines that move freight and passengers. The network is comprised of railways owned and operated by Canadian National Railway (CNR), Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) and Goderich-Exeter Railway (GEXR), which account for 64 at-grade crossings and 27 grade separated crossings within London. 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 continues to take a proactive approach when it comes to rail crossing safety. Safety reviews of railway crossings in London were completed by the City in partnership with Transport Canada (TC), CN, CPR, and GEXR in 2007 and 2013. The subsequent improvements included signage, pavement markings, vegetation and fencing to improve safety for all motorized and non-motorized road users by helping to prevent collisions.

In 2014, Council approved the London Road Safety Strategy 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 five years. The plan includes educational, engineering and enforcement actions as part of the strategy. The citizens of London are benefitting 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 began to work with the rail companies to complete railway crossing safety assessments at each at-grade crossing in compliance with new Transport Canada Grade Crossing Regulations. Currently, the City has undertaken the detailed safety assessments of the crossings required by the regulations identified any deficiencies that exist and developed a plan for upgrades with the railways. The City is currently implementing the safety improvements at several of these crossings. Recently, the City received funding from Transport Canada under the Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP) to complete safety improvements at ten at-grade crossings.

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

DISCUSSION

Railway Safety Education

Education is an important component that reduces and eliminates 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 trespassing incidents that can lead to serious injury or death.

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

During Rail Safety Week, Operation Lifesaver engages 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 prevents serious injury or death.

The City of London and Operation Lifesaver are working together on the “Look Listen Live” Community Safety Partnership Program at three crossings within London. This program encourages municipalities to work to prevent pedestrian-train incidents by installing “Look Listen Live” surface decals at select crossings in their community, similar to the illustration shown below. The City of London and Operation Lifesaver are implementing this program at the following three crossings during Rail Safety Week:

- Richmond Street just south of Piccadilly Street;
- Rectory Street between York and Little Simcoe; and
- Colborne Street between York and Bathurst.

In addition to the decals being installed at these three crossings, an official launch event that includes participation of City officials and local media is planned, which will include community engagement regarding the program and rail safety.

“Look Listen Live” Decal Example
(provided by Operation Lifesaver)



Key Rail Safety Week Education Messages

The following are key messages:

- Be aware, attentive and prepare to stop at railway crossings.
- Listen for warning bells and/or whistles of an approaching train.
- Obey all signs and signals. Never attempt to drive or walk 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.
- It is against the law to trespass on railway property. (Railway property is private property.)
- Playing or walking on railway tracks and bridges is dangerous and illegal. 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 instance on their way to and from school, teach them to stop, look, and listen before crossing railway tracks.

Additional railway safety information from Operation Lifesaver and “Look Listen Live” can be found at the following links:

- 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 September 23 to September 29, 2018 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, social media, and educational campaigns.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with the assistance from Sam Shannon, C.E.T., Technologist II and Peter Kavcic, P. Eng., Transportation Design Engineer, in the Transportation Planning & Design Division.

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- Transportation Advisory Committee