

## **Fire Station No. 5 - 1075 Preston Avenue Median Opening**

### **ISSUE**

The purpose of this report is to obtain City Council approval for construction of a median opening on Preston Avenue, 142 metres north of 108<sup>th</sup> Street to provide all-movement access to and from the proposed Fire Station No. 5.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That a median opening be constructed on Preston Avenue, north of 108<sup>th</sup> Street, for the proposed Fire Station No. 5.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Saskatoon Fire Department is proposing to construct Fire Station No. 5 on Preston Avenue north of the signalized intersection with 108<sup>th</sup> Street. The Saskatoon Fire Department received endorsement from City Council to proceed with relocating Fire Station No. 5 onto Preston Avenue to provide an improved level of service and coverage for the development in the area.

On July 29, 2019, City Council approved the execution of a long-term land lease agreement with the University of Saskatchewan to accommodate the relocation of Fire Hall No. 5 from its current location at 421 Central Avenue to lands owned by the University of Saskatchewan on Preston Avenue, north of 108<sup>th</sup> Street.

The land lease for the parcel was executed in the fall of 2020 and an architectural/engineering commission for the detailed design of the fire station has commenced. Approval of a median opening for this site is required such that it and a new curb crossing (driveway) can be constructed in 2021 and be in place to accommodate the actual fire station construction.

### **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

A median opening on Preston Avenue north of the signalized intersection with 108<sup>th</sup> Street is required to provide access to the proposed development of Fire Station No. 5. The proposed median opening shown in Appendix 1 will permit all movement access to and from the proposed fire station on Preston Avenue.

A review of the criteria for a median opening as outlined in City Council Policy C07 – 012, Median Openings is provided in Appendix 2. Nine of eleven criteria are met with the exceptions of provision of a left-turn bay and proximity to the existing signalized intersection at 108<sup>th</sup> Street:

- As the turning vehicles are equipped with lights, use of the median opening will be infrequent and fire apparatus will actuate the fire station signals to stop Preston Avenue traffic; no left-turn bay is required.

- The median opening will be equipped with fire station traffic signals requiring Preston Avenue traffic to stop for fire apparatus. The existing traffic signal at 108<sup>th</sup> Street will be equipped for pre-emption when the fire station signal is activated.

The Administration recommends City Council consider a limited exception for this project under the circumstances.

Critical criteria set forth in the policy are met, in particular:

- “iv) The occurrence of median openings must be minimized, while at the same time having due regard for access/egress requirements of adjacent land use; and
- ix) Median openings must not negatively impact adjacent/neighbouring residential properties (such as creating shortcutting of traffic through a neighbourhood).”

The proposed location for the median opening will not pose a safety hazard to roadway users nor will it induce shortcutting traffic through the neighbourhood. The proposed median opening will receive installation of typical fire station signals requiring through traffic on Preston Avenue to stop for apparatus entering or exiting the fire station. The fire station signal will also be integrated with operation of the existing traffic signal at 108<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The proposed median opening is planned to be constructed in the summer of 2021 ahead of the fire station construction contract. The full cost of construction, traffic accommodation and restoration is to be paid for within the scope of work for the fire station construction as this is in compliance with section 3.2(b) of the policy.

Capital Project #2508 - Firehall #5 has \$9,289,000 approved funding; \$500,000 was approved in the 2017 Capital Budget and \$8,789,000 was approved in the 2018 Capital Budget.

### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Privacy, legal, social, or environmental implications were not reviewed as part of the preparation of this report.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The leased land is not serviced, and plans are to relocate existing utilities on the site, construct water and sewer services, and construct this median opening and a new driveway in summer 2021. The proposed Fire Station No. 5 is planned for public tender by late 2021 or early 2022; construction is expected to be complete in 2023.

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### Public Notice

Public Notice is required for consideration of this matter, pursuant to Section 3 (subsection d) of Policy No. C01-021, The Public Notice Policy. The following public notice was given:

- Advertised in The StarPhoenix on March 6, 2021 and March 8, 2021 (Appendix 3);
- Posted on the City Hall Notice Board on March 5, 2021;
- Posted on the City of Saskatoon website on March 5, 2021; and
- Notices were mailed to the adjacent landowners on February 10, 2021.

### APPENDICES

1. Preston Avenue - Proposed Median Opening
2. Policy Criteria Review
3. Copy of Public Notice

### Report Approval

Written by: David LeBoutillier, Engineering Manager, Transportation  
Reviewed by: Jay Magus, Director of Transportation  
Approved by: Terry Schmidt, General Manager, Transportation and Construction

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