

Findings of Internal Investigation of January 20, 2021 Canadian Pacific Train Collision with an Access Transit Bus

ISSUE

Administration was asked to report to the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation the findings of the internal investigation into the January 20, 2021 collision between a Canadian Pacific (CP) train and an Access Transit bus at 20th Street West near Avenue L South. The report was also to include input from the Transportation Department regarding any potential infrastructure changes recommended following the outcome of the investigation.

BACKGROUND

The following inquiry was made by Councillor D. Hill at the Regular meeting of City Council held on January 25, 2021:

“Would the Administration report to the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation the findings of their internal investigation of the January 20, 2021 collision between a Canadian Pacific train and an Access Transit bus at 20th Street West near Avenue L South including potential infrastructure changes.”

On January 20, 2021 a CP Rail Train collided with the rear end of an Access Transit bus at the crossing on 20th Street West near Avenue L. One passenger was onboard the Access Transit Bus. Subsequent investigations were performed to determine cause and any remedial actions that may be required to avoid this kind of incident in the future.

CURRENT STATUS

Internal investigations have been completed and are now closed.

The Transportation and Technical Services Departments are collaborating with CP Rail on a crossing improvement construction at this location planned for the summer of 2021. The preliminary plan is attached as Appendix 1. It is not expected to have a specific impact on Access Transit services but may have an overall positive impact by clearly re-establishing the curb and sidewalk areas.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The investigation findings determined that the main cause of the collision was due to operator error. Specifically, the error involved the operators' choice of location to park the vehicle during the trip as there were safe alternatives available that would not have the vehicle encroaching on the railway crossing. Appropriate remedial action has taken place with the operator involved and information sessions were conducted with all Access Transit operators to identify appropriate alternate locations to park in the event the entrance to Station 20 West is not accessible from 20th Street.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial, privacy, legal, social, or environmental implications identified.

APPENDICES

1. 20th Street CP Crossing Improvement Project Drawing

Report Approval

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James McDonald, Director Saskatoon Transit

Approved by: Terry Schmidt, General Manager Transportation and Construction

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