Canadian train transportation regulation began with the establishment of a Railway Committee of the Privy Council in 1868. The Railway Committee was replaced by the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada in 1903. The Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada was an independent, quasi-judiciary regulatory agency that was given authority over railway construction and operation to ensure that construction was safe and met governmental standards. Applications for railway construction needed to be approved under the Railway Act, so when railway companies or other corporations wanted to develop or modify railways they would apply to the board in order to obtain approval. The board’s name changed to the Board of Transport Commissioners for Canada under the Transport Act of 1938. Any development to railways, roads, bridges, etc. would need to be approved by the more encompassing Board of Transport Commissioners for Canada.

This series consists of orders prepared by the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada/Board of Transport Commissioners for Canada in response to the applications put forth by the Corporation of the City of Fort William or other corporate bodies. When the Corporation of the City of Fort William wanted to develop or alter railways they would apply to the board in order to obtain approval and the board would respond with a formal order. Each order is numbered, dated, and stamped by the board to certify that the order is a true copy under Section 23 of the Railway Act. Each order contains a brief statement explaining the significance of the order and is often accompanied by the blueprint or technical drawing of the plan. Some orders also have the City Clerk's correspondence attached. Most of the orders are typewritten, however some of the earlier orders are handwritten.

Handwritten, Typescript

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No further accruals are expected.