

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>

Date: 8/1/2017 3:03:33 PM

Subject: Memo on 800 Robson Temporary Improvements

Attachments: 800 Robson Temporary Improvements.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Jerry Dobrovolny which provides information on interim improvements to the 800 Robson Plaza to improve functionality and accessibility ahead of construction of the permanent plaza.

- The improvements will consist of raising the existing roadway to curb level with asphalt and painting a simple design on the raised surface.
- A level surface will address a primary issue raised through public and stakeholder engagement and make the space more accessible, and easier to use.
- The asphalt will provide a canvas for a simple painted design which will brighten and activate the space in the spirit of previous VIVA activations in the space.
- Temporary levelling will take place in mid-August and will be followed soon after by application of a painted design.

Should you have any questions, please contact Margaret Wittgens at 604.673.8227 or Margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca

Thank you,
Paul

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ENGINEERING SERVICES
Jerry Dobrovolny, P.Eng.
City Engineer / General Manager

MEMORANDUM

July 31, 2017

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Katie Robb, Director, Communications, Mayor's Office
Naveen Girn, Director of Community Relations, Mayor's Office
Margaret Wittgens, Director, Public Space & Street Use

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: 800 Robson Plaza Temporary Improvements

This memo provides information on temporary improvements to the 800 Robson Plaza to improve functionality and accessibility ahead of construction of the permanent plaza. This will consist of raising the existing roadway to curb level and painting a simple design on the raised surface.

800 Robson Plaza Project Background

Robson Square is a regionally-significant public space in the heart of downtown Vancouver, attracting residents and visitors for a wide range of uses and acting as an important connector of neighbourhoods and civic institutions.

On April 20, 2016, Council moved to create a permanent plaza on the 800 block of Robson Street, closing the street to vehicular traffic.

Since that time, City staff launched a public engagement process to gather input on the design and stewardship of the permanent plaza. This has included engaging key partners and

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stakeholders including the Province, University of British Columbia, Vancouver Art Gallery, and Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association for input.

Feedback from engagement was used to develop a design for the permanent plaza. The design will provide a level surface in the familiar Robson Square paving treatment, improved lighting, seating elements, and opportunities for public art. Staff provided an update on the permanent plaza design concept and results of public engagement on December 14, 2016.

Temporary Levelling and Street Paint Design

The detailed design for the permanent plaza is advancing. In light of land ownership and lease agreements governing the site, staff are in conversation with the Province to partner on the delivery of construction of the permanent plaza.

In the interim, staff recognize a need to deliver a flexible, functional, level surface for public use and enjoyment, and events for the remainder of the summer months and until construction begins. A level surface will address a primary issue raised through public and stakeholder engagement and make the space more accessible, and easier to use. Asphalt was chosen as a cost effective infill material, as it is relatively easy to implement and later remove and reuse when permanent plaza construction begins.

The asphalt will provide a canvas for a simple painted design which will brighten and activate the space in the spirit of previous VIVA activations in the space.

The temporary levelling and street paint design were developed in consultation with key partners and stakeholders including the Province, Vancouver Art Gallery, Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, University of British Columbia, Nick Milkovich Architects as well as City of Vancouver Public Art Program.

Temporary levelling will take place in mid-August and will be followed soon after by application of a painted design.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Margaret Wittgens, Director of Public Space and Street Use, at 604-673-8227 or margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca.



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