



NOTICE OF MEETING

VANCOUVER HERITAGE COMMISSION

AGENDA

DATE: Monday, January 15, 2018
TIME: 11:00 am
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

PLEASE NOTE:

- *If you are unable to attend this meeting, please advise Bonnie Kennett at 604. 873-7269, bonnie.kennett@vancouver.ca.*
 - *Agendas and Minutes are available on the City of Vancouver civic agencies' web site at: <http://vancouver.ca/your-government/advisory-boards-and-committees.aspx>*
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Roll Call 11:00 - 11:05 am

Leave of Absence Requests

1. Business Arising from the Minutes 11:05 - 11:10 am
2. Cambie Heritage Boulevard: Improvements summary and public realm highlights 11:10 am - 12:00 pm

The Cambie Corridor Public Realm Plan:

The public realm is defined as all exterior social spaces in the city that are generally accessible to the public. The public realm is linked to the built form and complementary to high quality, human-scale architectural design. The combined built form and quality public spaces establish a sense of place and a unique identity for neighbourhoods and communities. The Cambie Corridor public realm plan will guide the design of public and semi-public spaces including plazas, open spaces, pedestrian connections, streets and lanes, and will inform a sense of place by establishing a coordinated character along the length of the Cambie Corridor.

Approach to the Heritage Boulevard

The vision for the Cambie Corridor public realm is to celebrate and reinforce Cambie Street's unique character, its existing, expansive Heritage Boulevard, define distinct neighbourhoods along its length, and enhance east-west connections to open spaces and parks. Cambie Street's centre median, the Heritage Boulevard, is the most iconic feature in the Corridor. Wide, planted, and running largely uninterrupted, the median is a key element around which the public realm plan is built.

Improvements to the Heritage Boulevard, detailed in the public realm plan, will strengthen the unique character of the neighbourhoods the Boulevard passes through and celebrate its status as a heritage icon in the city.

The Heritage Boulevard

The Heritage Boulevard is a key feature that distinguishes the Cambie Corridor. This wide landscaped median—extending from King Edward Ave in the north to Marine Drive in the south—has played an important role in creating a pleasure drive experience when entering Vancouver from the South. As the Corridor transforms from a car-oriented environment to a more walkable urban place, the Heritage Boulevard will continue to play an important role in defining neighbourhood character.

The Heritage Boulevard's creation is rooted in the 1920s and 1930s, when the newfound freedom of movement provided by the automobile led to the pleasure drive movement. Parkways and pleasure drives that combined recreational motoring with regular traffic movement were developed throughout North America.

In 1930, engineer Harland Bartholomew produced a grand master plan for the City of Vancouver, in which he envisioned Cambie Street as a picturesque and extensive pleasure drive within the City. A landscaped centre median was a primary component of his vision. Construction of the pleasure drive began shortly after the plan was produced. Harland Bartholomew's vision was fully realized in 1958 with the final extension of Cambie Street south of W 59th Avenue.

The centre median, which consists of diverse deciduous and coniferous plantings, is now known as the Heritage Boulevard following its designation as a municipal heritage site in 1993. A boulevard planting plan was developed in 1996 and resulted in a substantial number of new plantings that enhanced the boulevard and led to its current appearance.

As the Cambie Corridor grows and evolves, the preservation and enhancement of the iconic Heritage Boulevard becomes paramount.

Today, as residents move along the Corridor, they pass through four neighbourhoods that contain sections of the Heritage Boulevard:

- Queen Elizabeth Park: King Edward Ave to 39th Ave
- Oakridge Centre: 39th Ave to 49th Ave
- Langara: 49th Ave to 59th Ave
- Marpole: 59th Ave to Marine Drive

While each neighbourhood maintains the common theme of the Boulevard, they simultaneously offer a unique character that relates to their local and surrounding environment. Careful and considerate improvements will strengthen the character of each neighbourhood and contribute to the Boulevard's status as a celebrated heritage icon. Retention of mature trees and the addition of new, compatible plantings will improve the aesthetic appeal and ecological resiliency of the Boulevard, while simultaneously preserving its common elements that provide a sense of continuity along Cambie Street. Public realm enhancements, such as places of refuge and pedestrian crossings, will allow visitors to fully appreciate the Heritage Boulevard and the Cambie Street public realm.

This vision will be achieved through a comprehensive planting strategy outlined in Section 3.7.5 that provides planting character and spot improvements for the Boulevard. Tree and understory planting will define the character of the neighbourhoods, while spot improvements

will focus on the integration of improved pedestrian crossings, refuge points, public art and enhancing the character of heritage elements. Spot improvements should be implemented at the time of adjacent redevelopment or as part of major street improvements and in coordination with new and improved signal installation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Preserve and Protect Existing Mature Trees deemed valuable by City arborist
- Improve Soil Quality and Tree Health ensuring that all new changes to the median significantly improve soil volumes, soil quality and overall tree health, per current City streetscape guidelines, allowing trees to reach a mature canopy cover with a root systems that can sufficiently filter rainwater
- Integrate Rainwater Management by identifying areas for rainwater integration in two forms: sub-surface improvements with no visual change, and visual rain-gardens with understory planting. To be focused in primarily residential areas
- Establish Gateways at major intersections and nodes that are the focus of more substantial change and higher quality planting. These will act as gateways to the neighbourhoods and integrate public art whenever possible
- Meet Tree Planting Objectives by identifying opportunities for infill planting in the median. Identify locations suitable for clustered planting, higher density planting, and locations for significant tree species. Trees should be at a relatively significant size (7 to 10 cm caliper for deciduous and 3 to 4 m height for coniferous) when they are planted. Plantings should not interfere with sightlines
- Minimize Adverse Effects on Pedestrian and Vehicle Infrastructure by ensuring trees and their root systems are protected with barriers
- Improve East-West Pedestrian Crossing Points associated with new and improved signal locations to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment that improves safety and accessibility, creates areas of refuge, provides opportunities to enjoy the Boulevard, and forms a more significant buffer from adjacent traffic. Sidewalks across the Heritage Boulevard should be a consistent 1.8 m to 2.1 m wide depending on adjoining sidewalk width

Staff:

Ann Mclean, Senior Development Planner, City of Vancouver
Jessie Gresley-Jones, Vancouver South Planner, City of Vancouver

Attachments:

- Cambie Heritage Boulevard Package

3. New Business

12:00 -12:10 pm

Next Meeting:

DATE: Monday, February 5, 2018
TIME: 11:00 am
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall