



NOTICE OF MEETING

VANCOUVER HERITAGE COMMISSION

AGENDA

DATE: Monday, November 14, 2022

TIME: 11:00 AM

PLACE: WebEx Online

PLEASE NOTE:

- *If you are unable to attend this meeting, please advise Kevin Burris at 604.707.5412 or e-mail kevin.burris@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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Welcome and Roll Call **11:00 – 11:05**

Chair to acknowledge we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseil-Waututh People.

Leave of Absence Requests **11:05 – 11:10**

Approval of Minutes – October 24, 2022 **11:10 – 11:15**

1. 300 and 400-blocks, Homer Street **11:15 – 12:00**
COV Engineering Services Homer Street Upgrade Project

The Homer Street Upgrade Project, proposed for the 300 and 400-blocks of Homer Street between Pender and Cordova Streets, is a multi-disciplinary project that includes signal and street light upgrades, implementation of green infrastructure, and water upgrades, as well as street and sidewalk rehabilitation that includes preservation and rehabilitation of historic pavement. This project provides the City an opportunity to sequence its work efficiently and deliver the best overall solution for the area. This project was originally initiated as a streets project, in response to reported safety concerns for bus travel along this section of road; however, it has since been planned to incorporate improvements to other infrastructure through the coordination of the various design groups within the City engineering department.

In scoping this project, Engineering Services (the applicant) has identified the need to conserve the heritage value of the historic pavement (granite setts) that sit underneath the surface layer of asphalt.

On March 30, 1995, Vancouver City Council approved a committee report for staff to seek council approval prior to proceeding with any restoration or replacement of historic pavement identified in the administrative report appendix. Accordingly, Engineering Services retained the services of Donald Luxton & Associates in 2020 to:

- Conduct a heritage review of three granite sett pavement sites identified in the 1995 report, including the production of Historical Context Statement for historic pavements in the city and Statements of Significance for the three granite sett sites;
- Provide recommendations for prospective conservation work on historic pavements;
- Review and advise on proposed upgrades and interventions to the 300 and 400 blocks of Homer Street: one of the three granite sett pavement sites.

Partially obscured under a contemporary asphalt layer, the 300 and 400-blocks of Homer Street was the first section of public road allowance to receive granite sett pavement in the city. Installed in 1907, the granite sett pavement would have extended the full width of the road; however, the current extent and condition of the granite sett pavement is unknown. Several areas of deteriorated asphalt have exposed the granite sett pavement throughout both blocks. The granite sett pavement within in the 300 and 400-blocks of Homer Street are also considered to have heritage value due to their association with Ironside, Rannie, & Campbell, notable contractors during this era; and as an example of the evolving and experimental road engineering technologies the City was undertaking in the early 20th century.

The project was initiated due to the declining condition of the current asphalt surface layer adversely impacting the safety of Translink buses descending this sloped section of Homer Street which is a designated high-capacity arterial roadway. Buses were reportedly skidding on the exposed granite setts. Engineering Services is proposing a program of upgrades to Homer Street within these two blocks, in order to maintain its current multimodal use, particularly that of a Translink bus route.

The proposed heritage rehabilitation strategy entails the careful removal of the current asphalt surface layer and salvage of extant granite setts. The granite setts are to be reinstalled in the east curb lane (with the exception of an existing bus stop), which primarily serves as parking and loading zones. The boulevard on the west side of the road will be extended outwards, resulting in two traffic lanes, both of which will be paved with a surface layer of asphalt. Excess salvaged granite setts are planned to be kept within their original context through their installation as paving strips on both the west and east boulevards; lane crossings; and crosswalk lines in the Hastings and Cordova Street intersections.

Issues:

- Support for proposed heritage rehabilitation work on the 300 and 400 blocks of Homer Street, and appropriateness of reuse of salvaged granite setts in boulevard and crosswalk lines.
- Support for Conservation Standards and Recommendations put forth within Historic Road Pavements of Vancouver document, prepared by Donald Luxton & Associates for Engineering Services, for ongoing conservation work of historic pavements in the city.

Applicants:

- Jennifer Davis, Project Manager for Homer Street Upgrades Project, Project Delivery Branch, Engineering Services, City of Vancouver

- Samuel Boisvert, Senior Heritage Consultant, Donald Luxton & Associates
- Megan Faulkner, Director, Donald Luxton & Associates

Attachments:

- Historic Road Pavements of Vancouver: Conservation Standards, Recommendations, and Granite Sett Evaluations. Prepared by Donald Luxton & Associates, November 2022.
- Homer Street Upgrades: Landscape Plan (50%). Engineering Services, October 2022.

2. Liaison Updates 12:00 – 12:15

3. New Business 12:15 – 12:30

ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting:

DATE: TBD
TIME: 11:00 AM
PLACE: WebEx Online

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