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**To:** ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)  
**CC:** ["City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"](#)  
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**Date:** 2/1/2021 5:22:41 PM  
**Subject:** Memo - East Robson Street Upgrades - Start of Construction  
**Attachments:** Memo - East Robson Street Upgrades - Start of Construction.pdf

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Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- Construction to replace an aged water main, reconstruct a portion of Robson Street and resurface Robson Street from Granville Street to Beatty Street will commence March 8, 2021. Construction will be executed by internal water and street crews and is expected to be completed by October 2021.
- BC Hydro will complete work during the City's construction schedule, in order to avoid cutting into new asphalt and concrete in the near future.
- There will be full road closures at times throughout construction impacting one or two blocks at a time.
- The project team has engaged both the Coast Mountain Bus Company (CMBC) and the two local Business Improvement Associations (BIA) in the fall of 2020. Neither has raised objection for the project to proceed.
- Some permanent parking will be eliminated as a result of the installation of new fire hydrants. The second round of public notification will give details about the parking loss and BIA's will be informed in advance of the public notification.
- Residents and businesses located near this work will be receiving mail notifications within the week and project signage will be installed along the corridor. A project webpage with an overview of this work will be available early next week and will include a project email and phone number.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or [lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca](mailto:lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca).

Best,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie (he/him)**  
Acting City Manager  
City of Vancouver

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθn̓əm (Musqueam), l̓oʔá7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɫ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

## MEMORANDUM

February 1, 2021

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, Acting City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Gail Pickard, Civic Engagement and Communications Acting Director  
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office  
Andrea Becker, Acting Director Water Sewers District Energy  
Taryn Scollard, Director Streets

FROM: Lon LaClaire  
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: East Robson Street Upgrades – Start of Construction

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This memo is to update Mayor and Council on the East Robson Street Upgrades (ERSU) construction scheduled to begin March 8, 2021 to replace an aged water main, reconstruct a portion of Robson Street and resurface Robson Street from Granville Street to Beatty Street. Construction will be executed by internal water and street crews and is expected to be completed by October 2021.

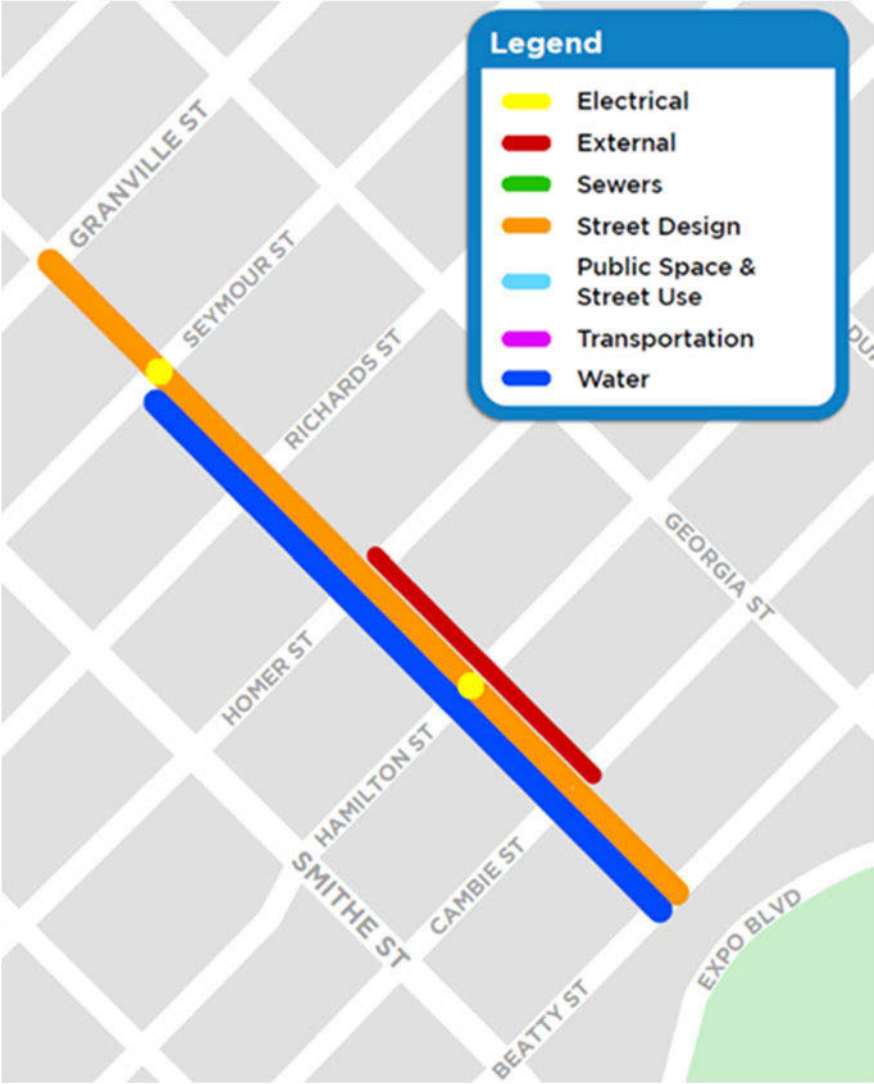
### Background

This segment of Robson Street between Granville Street and Beatty Street requires full road width grinding and re-paving in addition to spot repairs of the underlying base material due to a high number of utility cuts over time.

To ensure responsible use of City funding and to capitalize on any possible coordinated works, staff have identified that the existing water main under Robson St, installed in 1947, is also due for renewal as it is nearing its useful service life. There have been at least three water main breaks in recent years and coordinating this work with Street Operations presents a good opportunity to minimize costs and impacts over time.

Other opportunities for improvements to City infrastructure during construction include intersection improvements at two locations on Robson Street.

In addition, staff reached out to third party utilities to identify upcoming external work planned for the area to ensure the new pavement will remain cut free for as long as possible. BC Hydro identified a section of Robson Street between Beatty Street and Homer Street requiring construction of a duct bank. The work identified by BC Hydro will be delivered through their own contractor within a pre-negotiated time window that aligns with the City scope of work for the East Robson Street Upgrades.



**Project Impacts**

During this project, some sections of Robson Street will be fully closed in order to expedite construction and to allow for complex work such as full depth road restoration to take place. Closures will be short in duration (up to one week) and will be communicated to the public in advance of construction. Expedited construction minimizes long-term impacts to local

businesses and residents while reducing impacts to riders and costs for transit re-routing and overhead wiring.

The project team has been in extensive and continuous discussions with Coast Mountain Bus Company (CMBC) to ensure impacts to their services are minimized. In addition, early and continuous communication with both the Downtown and Yaletown Business Improvement Associations (BIA) started in early December 2020 to ensure impacts to businesses are minimized and any concerns mitigated. Rather than a single notification with a two-week lead time before the start of construction, the project team is implementing a two-round notification approach to ensure that business specific concerns are identified early to allow for mitigation efforts. Business open signs will be installed and access to businesses will be maintained at all times. Neither of the BIAs nor CMBC have voiced opposition to the overall project proceeding. The first round of notification letters is scheduled to be distributed shortly.

The Park Board has identified three trees at the end of their life in the project area that are scheduled for removal. Though the tree removals are not related to the ERSU construction, the project team will advise the public of these removals in the project notification letter supplementing the signage and public notification already issued by the Park Board.

Following the project, some permanent parking will be eliminated on Robson Street due to the installation of new fire hydrants on the south side of the street. The project team will inform the public as well as Yaletown and Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Associations of the removal of any parking.

### **Public Communication**

The Project Delivery Branch will coordinate communication for the project. Project impacts will be communicated to stakeholders according to the Project Communication Plan with adjustments made as needed in consideration of COVID-19.

Due to the number of restaurants on Robson Street that rely on water service, we are providing initial notification 5 weeks in advance, with the goal of hearing from business owners early and to help alleviate/mitigate any concerns that they identify. The project team will also send out an additional notification 2 weeks in advance of construction, in line with our regular process.

Communication tactics for this project include:

- Advance notification letters to residents and businesses;
- Meetings/check-in sessions with the local neighborhood, residents, businesses, BIAs and key stakeholders along the project corridor as needed;
- Project signage for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers;
- Project website allowing for regular project updates;
- Media news release
- Day-to-day support of area businesses and residents provided by
- community/stakeholder liaison (Community Liaison, Do Nguyen [do.nguyen@vancouver.ca](mailto:do.nguyen@vancouver.ca)); and
- Social media through the City's various channels

If you have any questions or would like more information on this project, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lon LaClaire'.

Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.  
General Manager, Engineering Services

604.873.7336 | [lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca](mailto:lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca)