

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 7/15/2022 5:14:36 PM
Subject: Update: East Hastings Street (July 15, 2022)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please find below a community update sent today regarding East Hastings Street and work underway.

Should you receive community or media inquiries on the City's next steps, you may find the following key messages helpful:

- We recognize there is a need for meaningful improvement in the near term.
- City Crews continue to attend daily and remain committed to keeping streets in the DTES safe, clean and accessible for all in a manner that also respects the rights and challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness.
- Staff are working directly with the community on long-term solutions and alternative service models to create an approach that supports those experiencing homelessness while keeping sidewalks and streets safe, clear and accessible for everyone.
- A block stewardship model, whereby peers work in collaboration with the City's Engineering Services team and residents to keep the sidewalks and doorways clean and passable, has been initiated with a focus on the 00 block, and is expected to be fully deployed over the next two weeks.
- These discussions are ongoing, and we will have more to share in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions, please contact Taryn Scollard at taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca or Sandra Singh at sandra.singh@vancouver.ca and they will respond as part of the weekly Council Q&A update.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

From: DTES Updates
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2022 4:08 PM
Subject: City of Vancouver Update: East Hastings Street (July 15, 2022)

Dear Community Stakeholder,

Sharing this information on behalf of Sandra Singh, General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services, and Taryn Scollard, Acting General Manager, Engineering Services.

Following our update on July 7, we are contacting you to provide an update on street cleaning and fire safety

along East Hastings Street near Main Street in the Downtown Eastside (DTES).
The City acknowledges the situation on these blocks has recently become worse, with the appearance of large structures, more fire hazards and a decline in cleanliness and accessibility.

The City acknowledges the situation on these blocks has recently become worse, with the appearance of large structures, more fire hazards and a decline in cleanliness and accessibility.

City staff are working with community organizations to finalize a plan to address the situation in a way that respects the needs of people on the sidewalk, residents, non-profits and the business community.

City crews remain committed to keeping streets in the DTES clean and accessible for all in a manner that also respects the rights of and challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness.

What is happening short term?

Fire safety

Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services continue to actively work with multiple internal and external agencies on short- and longer-term strategies to increase accessibility and reduce fire risk associated with propane, structures and combustible materials.

Seven community members have been assigned fire watch duties. These individuals received training from the Fire Department and have been equipped with fire extinguishers. In the coming days additional fire extinguishers will be installed in 10 housing buildings in the area to increase fire safety.

We are working with community partners and those sheltering outdoors to remove propane tanks to further reduce fire risk.

Communication

To increase communication and transparency, community meetings are being conducted at Pigeon Park every Wednesday at 11:30 am to discuss issues and processes. Non-profits are welcomed to attend to discuss safety and access issues.

Accessibility

A peer-led effort has begun to mark sidewalks to ensure building access and highlight areas where gathering and temporary camping are permitted.

Sanitation

Last week, the City deployed additional waste bins to E. Hastings to collect debris and provided litter and waste collection tools (garbage bags, gloves and other cleanup tools) to community stewards and organizations to help keep sidewalks and streets clean.

Community volunteers and peers have since collected more than 50 bags of garbage in the area and are in the process of working on sourcing a storage container for supplies until a storefront operation can be set up.

What is happening longer term?

The City will be installing a misting station in Pigeon Park and repairing the existing bathroom and water fountain. We will also be adding an additional washroom trailer to increase sanitation in the area.

Community has identified day storage of personal belongings as a key concern for those sheltering outdoors and as a key component to developing a long-term solution to maintaining clear sidewalks. We are working on finding a solution and actively exploring various models.

A block stewardship model, whereby peers work in collaboration with the City's Engineering Services team and residents to keep the sidewalks and doorways clean and passable, has been initiated with a focus on the 00 block, and is expected to be fully deployed over the next two weeks.

We will have more to share in the coming days and weeks. We will keep everyone – individuals

experiencing homelessness, businesses, community stakeholders and non-profit groups – informed as we finalize our longer-term plan.\u8239

We appreciate and thank everyone for their patience as we work through this complex situation.\u8239 \u8239

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Taryn Scollard** at taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca or **Sandra Singh** at sandra.singh@vancouver.ca.\u8239

Sincerely,

City of Vancouver