

From: **"Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>**
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**
Date: 7/28/2023 4:50:48 PM
Subject: Council Memo – Yew Open Street Pilot Learnings – RTS# 15882 and 15902
Attachments: Council Memo – Yew Open Street Pilot Learnings – RTS# 15882 and 15902.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

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

- Staff will be concluding the Yew Open Street Pilot the week of August 7, 2023 after a five week pilot period
- The pilot tested a unique 24/7, multi-block "open street" design, allowing for loading activities in the morning and early afternoon while supporting walking, rolling, and gathering at other times without the need for daily barricade moving
- Feedback from the pilot highlighted concerns about traffic access, circulation, and parking but also showed strong community and business interest in transforming the area into more of a plaza for gathering and activating the space, rather than just reallocating space for walking.
- Staff made small modifications during the pilot; however, re-imagining the space as a plaza would require further detailed design and conversations with businesses.
- In light of this, staff have determined the best path forward is to conclude the pilot and use the feedback and lessons learned to inform future work in the area

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

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətəʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

July 28, 2023

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Interim Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Yew Open Street Pilot Learnings

RTS #: 15882 and 15902

Staff will be concluding the Yew Open Street Pilot the week of August 7, 2023 after a five week pilot period which began in late June of this year.

The pilot created a pedestrian-friendly environment on Yew Street between Cornwall Avenue and W 1st Avenue. It is the first time staff have tested a 24/7, multi-block "open street" in Vancouver, and this design is unique in that it supports loading activity in the morning and early afternoon while allowing for walking, rolling, and gathering during other times. This sharing of space was designed in such a way that daily moving of barricades or the use of staff to manage traffic wasn't necessary.

Pilot projects such as this one provide valuable opportunities to test new ways to use our streets to support businesses and thriving communities. The experience with the Yew Open Street provided a lot of useful learnings for future work.

Staff heard a lot of feedback through the pilot. There were concerns related to traffic access, circulation and parking, particularly from one of the businesses on the streets. Beyond those concerns, the feedback demonstrated that there is significant community and business interest in making the street be more plaza-like for gathering and activating the area, rather than primarily reallocating space for walking.

In response to community feedback, staff made a number of modifications, such as adding additional temporary bollards and traffic cones at laneways to discourage use of the Yew Street during pedestrian/cyclist only times and placing additional seating and a temporary drinking water fountain along the corridor.

Re-imagining the space as a plaza would require a re-think of the space and more detailed design, operational and stewardship conversations with the businesses along the street. In light of this, staff have determined that the best path forward is to conclude the current pilot project the week of August 7.

Although staff are wrapping up the Yew Open Street pilot the week of August 7, much of the feedback has been strongly supportive of the potential for more public space in this area. Overall, we heard consistently from visitors and residents of the area that people were keen on a space that functioned more like a plaza with more programming, activations and beautification, instead of a pedestrianized street. This feedback will help inform future work in the area.

Should you have any follow-up questions on this matter, please feel free to reach out to me directly.



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

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