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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
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Date: 9/18/2020 3:47:26 PM
Subject: Prior-Venables Underpass Update

Dear Mayor and Council,

At a recent meeting Council asked about the status of the Prior-Venables Underpass project.

In October 2019, Council supported the False Creek Flats grade separated road alignment report. The report included recommendations to progress an underpass along the Prior/ Venables Street alignment, as well as the implementation of a pilot to reduce traffic volumes and speeds along Prior/ Venables Street.

Pilot Reducing traffic volumes and speeds along Prior Venables Street

Staff have made progress in implementing the pilot for Prior Street enhancements. The pilot was launched in January 2020 with the change to full-time parking along Prior Street and the creation of a 30km/hr zone adjacent Strathcona Park. Immediately after implementation, the City observed an initial 20% decrease in traffic volumes, 10% decrease in speed and a 5-7% increase in parking.

Prior/ Venables Street Underpass

Staff have been working with the Port of Vancouver to submit a funding application to the National Trade Corridor fund, which will seek federal investment for the design of the project. The National Trade Corridors Fund targets projects such as the Prior/ Venables Street Underpass, where it has the potential to improve performance and strengthen resilience across the transport system, supporting the physical movement of goods and people in Canada. We expect to submit a funding application in the form of an expression of interest next month. From there, if successful, the City will be invited to submit a comprehensive project proposal. Initial discussions are also underway with other potential partners for the project, including TransLink and CN Railway.

Staff will continue to engage with Strathcona residents on this work as it move ahead, and coordinate it with other projects in the area including the Neighbourhood Traffic Management program.

Please let us know if you have any further questions on this.

Best,
Sadhu

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Pronouns: he, him, his



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.