

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)  
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)  
Date: 9/21/2021 10:39:37 AM  
Subject: FW: Orpheum Accessibility vs Smithe bike lane

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Good morning Mayor and Council,

As the issue referenced in the messages from Councillors Fry and Kirby-Yung below, I am writing to provide in advance of our regular weekly Q&A report to confirm the relevant details.

As the image in the Twitter post shows, the zone was previously signed as "no parking" with periods of "no stopping". With the pilot Smithe protected bike lane, it will now be an full-time accessible passenger zone.

As a pilot, the project overall is a lower build working within the existing roadway, and most of the bike lane will be at-grade. Our discussions with the Orpheum through the process helped us understand the wide range of user groups that use this curbside space, which include nearby theatres and other downtown destinations. This led us to raise the bike lane in this location to provide barrier-free accessible pick-up and drop-off.

The new design uses the mountable curbs Engineering has standardized to serve as both a cue to cane users of the presence of the bike lane and to facilitate mobility aids, such as wheelchair users. In this case it helps delineate the bike lane versus the sidewalk even during large events. It also considers both passenger-side and rear ramp deployment, including marked crosswalks.

Engineering will be working with Civic Theatres on their public-facing information and with ACCS for timing for a report-back on the Accessibility Strategy and respond separately to those questions.

Best,

Paul

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**From:** Kirby-Yung, Sarah <[Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 20, 2021 3:30 PM  
**To:** Fry, Pete <[Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca](mailto:Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca)>; Mochrie, Paul <[Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)>; LaClaire, Lon <[lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca](mailto:lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca)>  
**Cc:** Direct to Mayor and Council - DL  
**Subject:** RE: Orpheum Accessibility vs Smithe bike lane

Thanks Pete.

Seconding this request. And to be clear, I'd appreciate specific info back on if accessible access was removed, what is planned to replace that access?

Cheers,

Sarah Kirby-Yung, MBA she/her  
Councillor – City of Vancouver  
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I am humbly thankful that I live and work on the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm ([Musqueam](#)), Sḵwx̱̓u817\_ wú7mesh ([Squamish](#)) and səł̓əlwətaʔt̓ / səł̓əlwítulh ([Tsleil-Waututh](#)) Nations.

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**From:** Fry, Pete <[Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca](mailto:Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca)>

**Sent:** Monday, September 20, 2021 1:33 PM

**To:** Mochrie, Paul <[Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)>; LaClaire, Lon <

**Cc:** Direct to Mayor and Council - DL

**Subject:** Orpheum Accessibility vs Smithe bike lane

Hi

It was highlighted in a [Twitter post](#) that the new bike lane being constructed on north side of Smithe will impact accessible drop-off/pick-up to the Orpheum.

I note from the VCT website that the accessible entrance and elevators are on Smithe, but there is no explicit direction as to accessible drop-off/pick-up. Can we get an update, please:

1. How does this bike lane contemplate accessible access (and drop-off/pickup) to the theatre, and in particular during busy theatre opening/closing times?
2. Noting other VCTs describe drop-off areas, does the City have a policy to consistently identify and give direction for accessibility on our public facing webpages?
3. Are we still expecting scheduled Accessibility Strategy update in fall 2021?

**Pete Fry** | City Councillor

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