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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)  
Date: 9/21/2021 9:00:10 AM  
Subject: [Upcoming IB: Streamlining Building Permits \(Sept 22, 2021\)](#)

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Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below information bulletin on Sept. 22 2021, pending Council's approval of the latest measure by the Task Force to improve permitting and reduce wait times.

With Council's approval, eligible projects would be able to apply to receive their building permit to begin excavation and shoring work before the development permit is issued. We anticipate this will provide increased flexibility and see projects completed sooner. The report also highlights the City's \$500,000 grant from UBCM, which will fund a new Interactive Digital Development Application designed to improve application process times and improve the customer digital journey.

Please keep this information bulletin embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account on Sept. 22, 2021.

Best,  
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), S<sub>k</sub>wəxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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**City of Vancouver**  
**Information Bulletin**  
**September 22, 2021**

## **'Ground-breaking' improvement from the City will help build social and rental housing faster**

To help make it faster to build social and secured rental housing, Council has approved another permit process improvement to allow projects to start digging sooner.

Eligible new developments may now receive their building permit to begin excavating and shoring earlier

in the construction process. This will allow these projects to be completed sooner, and give businesses more flexibility while other aspects of their project applications are finalized.

### **Eligible projects include:**

- ❑ Social housing;
- ❑ Secured market rental housing;
- ❑ Cultural and recreational spaces such as an artist studio, community centre or neighbourhood house, library, museum or archive, and park or playground; or
- ❑ Institutional spaces such as a school, hospital or child care facility.

Applicants are requested to contact the applicable Project Facilitator for more details, conditions on how to apply, and the requirement for proposals to be submitted by a Certified Professional.

### **Improving the digital journey**

Last month, the City was named the [recipient of a \\$500,000 development grant](#) from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. The grant will fund a new Interactive Digital Development Application designed to improve both the digital customer journey and application process times.

### **Next Steps**

The City Manager's Task Force has identified a large number of potential opportunities to reduce processing times. Further proposals for regulation and policy changes will be presented to Council in the coming months.

For more information and a complete list of actions to streamline the permit process, visit [vancouver.ca/permit-backlog](https://vancouver.ca/permit-backlog).

### **Background**

While addressing the development and building permitting process has been a top priority for the City for several years, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed underlying challenges with City processes, and application wait times have become increasingly unmanageable.

In a motion earlier this spring, [City Council made improving wait times and clearing the application backlog a priority](#) and established the City Manager's task force with a dedicated \$1 million dollars in funding.

In June 2021, [Council approved an initial set of regulatory and policy changes](#) that are expected to save up to 10,000 hours of permit review time on residential applications. Council has also referred a second set of regulatory changes aimed at streamlining permits for commercial renovations and business licensing for consideration at an upcoming Public Hearing.

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