

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 10/15/2021 7:48:21 AM
Subject: Upcoming information bulletin: Permitting Task Force Update (October 15, 2021)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Following on the approval at last night's public hearing, I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below information bulletin this morning, Friday, October 15 regarding the latest actions from the Permitting Task Force. To help businesses recover from the pandemic, these actions will reduce commercial permit application costs, give business more flexibility in using or updating their commercial spaces, and save nearly 3,800 weeks of application processing.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
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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.

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City of Vancouver
Information Bulletin
October 15, 2021

Additional cuts to permitting red tape supports business recovery

Development permits can now be submitted online

At a public hearing last night, City Council approved the next set of actions to help improve wait times for permits and business licensing. To help businesses recover from the pandemic, these actions will reduce application costs, give business more flexibility in using or updating their commercial spaces, and save nearly 3,800 weeks of application processing.

Approved actions include:

- Reducing requirements for many businesses changing use and/or occupancy: **8 – 20 weeks faster**
- Allowing commercial spaces to subdivide into multiple suites without automatically triggering expensive building improvements: **17 weeks faster**
- Simplifying the permitting process for qualifying small suite applications: **17 weeks faster**

Council also heard of additional items already under way:

- Freeing up more office staff to review applications and help clear the backlog by transferring some detailed review to inspectors in the field: **4 weeks faster**
- Simplifying application requirements for residential and commercial renovations drawings: **1 week faster**

Digital Development Applications

As part of the Electronic Permits Plan (ePlan) Project, Development Permit applications can now be accepted, paid and processed electronically. These improvements will save businesses time and money, and reduce the reliance on paper-based work and in-person visits.

Applicants can apply online by visiting vancouver.ca/development-permit

Next Steps

The City Manager's Task Force continues to review potential opportunities to reduce processing times. Recommendations to speed up permitting for residential applications will be brought to Council early next year.

For more information **and** a complete list of actions to streamline the permit and licensing process, visit vancouver.ca/permit-backlog.

Background

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.

Last month, Council approved a '[ground-breaking](#)' improvement to help build social and rental housing faster by allowing eligible projects to receive their building permit to begin excavating and shoring earlier in the construction process.

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