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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
CC: ["City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"](#)
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Date: 12/8/2020 11:05:18 AM
Subject: Memo - New Rain-Friendly Pop-up Plazas Under Cambie and Burrard Bridges
Attachments: Memo - New Rain-Friendly Pop-up Plazas Under Cambie and Burrard Bridges.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire regarding New Rain-Friendly Pop-up Plazas. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- We will be implementing four new rain-friendly pop-up plazas under Cambie and Burrard Bridges this week;
- We will also extend nine pop-up plazas on commercial high streets, which were implemented this summer in collaboration with BIAs and local business partners;
- This work responds to Council's Notice of Motion (Sep 15, 2020), and builds on ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response work to support community needs through public space and road reallocation.

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

Best,
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager
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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.

MEMORANDUM

December 7, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Gail Pickard, Civic Engagement and Communications Acting Director
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: New Rain-Friendly Pop-up Plazas Under Cambie and Burrard Bridges

The purpose of this memo is to inform you that we have installed four new rain-friendly pop-up plazas under the Cambie and Burrard bridges, and have also extended nine of the ten temporary pop-up plazas on commercial high streets that were installed this summer.

With rain and colder weather upon us, there is a growing need for sheltered spaces to support outdoor activity through the winter. Using the overhead protection offered by bridges, the City of Vancouver is trialing new rain-friendly pop-up plazas at four locations:

- Cambie Bridge South #1 (outside the False Creek Neighbourhood Energy Utility at 1890 Spyglass Place)
- Cambie Bridge South #2 (between W 2nd Ave and W 1st Ave on the multi-use path)
- Cambie Bridge North (north of Cooper's Park)
- Burrard Bridge North (south of the Seawall)

In addition to these new rain-friendly spaces, we are extending 9 pop-up plazas that were implemented on commercial high streets this summer, in collaboration with our community partners (including BIAs and local businesses). One pop-up plaza has been requested to be removed for the winter by the partner, and it will be re-installed in the spring as a seasonal space. Over 2021, we will be making upgrades and adding amenities to the pop-up plazas to make them more robust and welcoming. Notification to the public and surrounding businesses is underway.

Pop-up plazas were launched this summer as part of our COVID-19 Restart Smart Vancouver program, to create more space for physical distancing, public life and local businesses recovery efforts. Feedback from our public engagement has indicated a very strong level of public support, with 87% of survey respondents answering that they would like the pop-up plazas to become permanent public spaces. Through this engagement, we also heard that rain protection during the winter season was amongst the most common requests for improvement to the plazas. Enhancing existing spaces under bridges is an efficient, low-cost way to trial weather protected plazas.

Council Directions

As well as responding to public feedback, the new rain-friendly pop-up plazas build on our ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response work, to support community needs and public health directives through adaptive re-use of street right-of-way. This work directly responds to Council's Notice of Motion, *'Extending Pop-Up Patios This Fall and Winter...'* (Sep 15, 2020), and advances long-term policy goals in the *Places for People Downtown Strategy (Strategic Direction 4.4 'Day-long, Year-long')*. It also aligns with other City of Vancouver policies and projects, including *Rain City Strategy* and the *Life Between Umbrellas* public space ideas competition.

The four new rain-friendly trial plazas will feature picnic tables and signage, and two of the four will have ping pong tables. Using Helena Gutteridge Plaza as a successful precedent, the ping pong tables will operate with a 'BYO' policy for bringing one's own paddles and balls. City staff will continue to collaborate with community partners and local stakeholders to ensure the plazas remain well cared-for, inclusive and comfortable.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.



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

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