

**From:** "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>

**Date:** 9/8/2016 6:19:54 PM

**Subject:** Memo - 800 Robson Plaza Update

**Attachments:** [Memo to Mayor and Council - 800 Robson Plaza Update.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see attached memo from Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager-Engineering Services with an update on the near-term programming and temporary plaza on 800 Robson Street, as well as the design process for the permanent plaza.

A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- On April 20, 2016 Council approved the closure of 800 Robson to motor vehicle traffic to create a permanent public plaza. On June 24, 2016 the plaza was closed to vehicle traffic and is not expected to re-open.
- Staff is coordinating programming so that the 800 block functions as a temporary plaza between now and the construction of the permanent plaza, anticipated to begin in 2017.
- In the near-term, a temporary installation will be implemented as part of the public engagement on the design of the permanent plaza. This temporary installation will be in place by mid-September.
- Throughout the fall, staff will support programming in the plaza provided by independent and City-supported artists, event organizers and other parties.
- Design of the permanent plaza is also proceeding which will be informed by continued consultation with stakeholders and the public. A report back to Council is anticipated in December 2016.

Best,  
Paul

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ENGINEERING SERVICES  
Jerry Dobrovolny, P.Eng.  
City Engineer/General Manager

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## MEMORANDUM

September 8, 2016

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**CC:** Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk  
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications  
Mike Magee, Special Advisor, Mayor's Office  
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Katie Robb, Director, Communications, Mayor's Office  
Emma Lee, Director, Community Relations, Mayor's Office  
Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, Park Board  
Patrice Impey, General Manager, Finance, Risk and Business Planning

**FROM:** Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager of Engineering Services

**SUBJECT:** 800 Robson Plaza Update

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### Purpose

This memo provides an update on the near-term programming and temporary plaza on 800 Robson as well as the design process for the permanent plaza.

### Background

On April 20, 2016 Council approved the closure of 800 Robson to motor vehicle traffic to create a permanent public plaza and also directed staff to initiate a process for the design, construction and long-term management of the new plaza and report back to Council in December 2016. On June 24, 2016 the plaza was closed to vehicle traffic for Jazz Fest and the Province-led stair remediation project on the south side of the Vancouver Art Gallery. The street is not expected to re-open to vehicle traffic.

Due to the stair remediation project, recent activation has been focused on the east end of the plaza and includes bistro style tables, chairs and umbrellas. When the construction activity completes this fall, the full plaza may once again be used for programming.

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### **Near-term programming and temporary plaza**

Staff is coordinating programming so that the 800 block functions as a temporary plaza between now and the construction of the permanent plaza, anticipated to begin in 2017.

In the near-term, VIVA Vancouver is implementing a temporary installation as part of the public engagement on the design of the permanent plaza. The installation will place questions within the plaza to engage participants on how they use the space and opportunities for the permanent plaza.

The temporary installation will be in place in time for the Pro Walk/Pro Bike/Pro Place Conference and Placemaking week, September 12-17. The conference draws public space and transportation practitioners from around the world; it provides an opportunity to showcase this important public space as well as kick start the dialogue on the design of the permanent plaza. Several events that week will feature 800 Robson including the Happy City Tour led by Charles Montgomery and the Power of Placemaking Crawl.

Throughout the fall staff will support programming provided by independent and City-supported artists, event organizers and other parties. For example, the Burrard Arts Foundation projection art festival took place August 30-September 5 and the AMACON Christmas tree installation is planned for late November. Additional applications for public events will also be accommodated through the Film and Special Events branch.

### **Design of the Permanent Plaza**

Design of the permanent plaza is also proceeding this fall in close coordination with the North Plaza project as well as other projects on the site (e.g. works led by UBC and the Province of BC).

The design will build on past work on 800 Robson and will be informed by continued consultation with stakeholders and the public in fall 2016. Staff will work with TransLink to ensure that questions around transit are addressed concurrent with the design of the plaza. A report back to Council is anticipated in December 2016.

### **Conclusion**

Design of the permanent plaza at 800 Robson is proceeding this fall, including public and stakeholder consultation. Programming, special events and innovative public consultation planned for the site in the near-term will initiate the transformation of the space from a street to a plaza.



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