Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Jerry Dobrovolny which provides information on interim improvements to the 800 Robson Plaza to improve functionality and accessibility ahead of construction of the permanent plaza.

The improvements will consist of raising the existing roadway to curb level with asphalt and painting a simple design on the raised surface.

A level surface will address a primary issue raised through public and stakeholder engagement and make the space more accessible, and easier to use.

The asphalt will provide a canvas for a simple painted design which will brighten and activate the space in the spirit of previous VIVA activations in the space.

Temporary levelling will take place in mid-August and will be followed soon after by application of a painted design.

Should you have any questions, please contact Margaret Wittgens at 604.673.8227 or Margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca.

Thank you,
Paul

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MEMORANDUM

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
    Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor’s Office
    Katie Robb, Director, Communications, Mayor’s Office
    Naveen Girn, Director of Community Relations, Mayor’s Office
    Margaret Wittgens, Director, Public Space & Street Use

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: 800 Robson Plaza Temporary Improvements

This memo provides information on temporary improvements to the 800 Robson Plaza to improve functionality and accessibility ahead of construction of the permanent plaza. This will consist of raising the existing roadway to curb level and painting a simple design on the raised surface.

800 Robson Plaza Project Background
Robson Square is a regionally-significant public space in the heart of downtown Vancouver, attracting residents and visitors for a wide range of uses and acting as an important connector of neighbourhoods and civic institutions.

On April 20, 2016, Council moved to create a permanent plaza on the 800 block of Robson Street, closing the street to vehicular traffic.

Since that time, City staff launched a public engagement process to gather input on the design and stewardship of the permanent plaza. This has included engaging key partners and
stakeholders including the Province, University of British Columbia, Vancouver Art Gallery,
and Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association for input.

Feedback from engagement was used to develop a design for the permanent plaza. The
design will provide a level surface in the familiar Robson Square paving treatment, improved
lighting, seating elements, and opportunities for public art. Staff provided an update on the
permanent plaza design concept and results of public engagement on December 14, 2016.

*Temporary Levelling and Street Paint Design*
The detailed design for the permanent plaza is advancing. In light of land ownership and
lease agreements governing the site, staff are in conversation with the Province to partner on
the delivery of construction of the permanent plaza.

In the interim, staff recognize a need to deliver a flexible, functional, level surface for public
use and enjoyment, and events for the remainder of the summer months and until
construction begins. A level surface will address a primary issue raised through public and
stakeholder engagement and make the space more accessible, and easier to use. Asphalt was
chosen as a cost effective infill material, as it is relatively easy to implement and later
remove and reuse when permanent plaza construction begins.

The asphalt will provide a canvas for a simple painted design which will brighten and activate
the space in the spirit of previous VIVA activations in the space.

The temporary levelling and street paint design were developed in consultation with key
partners and stakeholders including the Province, Vancouver Art Gallery, Downtown
Vancouver Business Improvement Association, University of British Columbia, Nick Milkovich
Architects as well as City of Vancouver Public Art Program.

Temporary levelling will take place in mid-August and will be followed soon after by
application of a painted design.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Margaret Wittgens, Director of Public
Space and Street Use, at 604-673-8227 or margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca.

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