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Date: 11/20/2017 9:47:31 AM
Subject: Memo - Update on Bute-Robson Trial Plaza
Attachments: Memo to Mayor & Council - Update on Bute-Robson Trial Plaza.pdf

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Jerry Dobrovlny to provide an update on the Bute-Robson Trial Plaza, including a forthcoming Council recommendation to make the plaza permanent. A short summary of the memos is as follows:

- The half block on Bute Street from Robson south to the lane was identified as a potential street-to-plaza conversion in both the *Transportation 2040* plan and the *West End Community Plan*, approved in 2012 and 2013 respectively. The VIVA Vancouver team converted the space into a low-cost trial plaza in late June 2017 in partnership with the Robson Street Business Association.
- During the trial, the staff team tested different layouts, measured motor vehicle traffic impacts and behaviour in the space, and engaged with the community on a potential permanent plaza in this location. The results indicate the plaza is extremely well used by locals and visitors, with no adverse congestion impacts to the neighbourhood, and that there is strong overall support for a permanent plaza from the community, including the local BIA.
- Based on this review, staff are recommending that the plaza become permanent, and that the trial be extended until a final version is designed and constructed. This recommendation will be brought to Council on November 29, 2017 as part of an update on the 2017 VIVA Vancouver program. In the interim, staff have extended the trial, originally planned to run until mid-October 2017.

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.

Best,
Sadhu

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MEMORANDUM

November 16, 2017

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
Naveen Girn, Director of Community Relations, Mayor's Office
Margaret Wittgens, Director, Public Space and Street Use

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Update on Bute-Robson Trial Plaza

This memo provides an update on the Bute-Robson Trial Plaza, originally planned to run until October 2017. The trial plaza has been retained until Council can consider a recommendation to extend the current trial plaza until a final version is designed and constructed. This recommendation will be brought to Council on November 29, 2017 as part of an update on the 2017 VIVA Vancouver program.

Background

The half block on Bute Street from Robson south to the lane was identified as a potential street-to-plaza conversion in both the *Transportation 2040* plan and the *West End Community Plan*, approved in 2012 and 2013 respectively. The space was converted into a low-cost trial plaza in late June 2017 in partnership with the Robson Street Business Association (RSBA). During the trial, the staff team tested different layouts, measured motor vehicle traffic impacts and behaviour in the space, and engaged with the community on a potential permanent plaza in this location. Engagement included two open houses in the space, where staff interacted with more than 200 people, as well as an online survey that was completed by over 700 people.

The trial has shown that:

- The plaza is extremely well used by locals and visitors;
- There are no adverse congestion impacts to the neighbourhood; and,
- There is strong overall support from the community. Over 75% of survey respondents supported a permanent plaza in this location.

Although originally intended to run until fall 2017, after a review of impacts and given high levels of community support, staff recommends extending the current trial as an interim plaza until a final plaza is designed and constructed. Extending the trial provides an opportunity to gather more data and test design modifications to help make the space more inviting and comfortable during the fall and winter months. Further engagement on a permanent design is scheduled for 2018 as part of a larger public realm project encompassing Robson and Alberni streets from Bute to Burrard.

The report to Council includes additional detail on the data collection, analysis, and public engagement related to the project, as well as a letter of support from the RSBA.

Conclusion

Due to strong support for a permanent plaza at this location, staff will be recommending to Council on November 29, 2017 that the trial be extended through the permanent plaza design and construction process.

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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