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**Date:** 11/28/2017 10:43:22 AM  
**Subject:** Confidential Memo - FortisBC Natural Gas Line Upgrade Project on East 1st Avenue  
**Attachments:** Memo to Mayor & Council - FortisBC Natural Gas Line Upgrade Project on E....pdf

\*\*\*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL \*\*\*\*\*

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Jerry Dobrovolny providing an update on the FortisBC natural gas line replacement project on East 1st Avenue next year. **Please note that FortisBC is also providing an update to the British Columbia Utilities Commission on November 30th and as such, this memo shall be kept confidential until that date.** A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- This memo is to notify you of an upcoming FortisBC project to upgrade their intermediate pressure natural gas line from Vancouver to Coquitlam.
- This gas line which current runs along E 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave from Woodland Dr to Boundary Rd in Vancouver, provides natural gas to all of Vancouver.
- The line has reached the end of its life and needs to be replaced with a safer more reliable line which will be constructed next year located on E 1<sup>st</sup> Ave for the majority of its length.
- The schedule of the FortisBC work has also been closely coordinated with other city and third party projects so as to not create compounding traffic impacts in the city.

Should you have any questions, please contact Margaret Wittgens, Director of Public Space and Street Use, at 604-673-8227 or [margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca](mailto:margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca).

Best,  
Sadhu

**Sadhu Aufochs Johnston** | City Manager  
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## MEMORANDUM

November 23, 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  
Katie Robb, Director, Communications, Mayor's Office  
Naveen Girm, Director of Community Relations, Mayor's Office  
Margaret Wittgens, Director, Public Space and Street Use, Engineering Services

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: FortisBC Natural Gas Line Upgrade Project on East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Vancouver

This memo is to notify Mayor and Council of an upcoming FortisBC project to upgrade their intermediate pressure natural gas line from Vancouver to Coquitlam. This gas line, which currently runs along East 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue from Woodland Drive to Boundary Road in Vancouver, provides natural gas service to all of Vancouver. The line has reached the end of its life and needs to be replaced with a safer more reliable line. The new line will be constructed next year and it will be located on East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue for the majority of its length. Please see the attached Appendix A for the project overview map in Vancouver.

### Project Background

FortisBC is regulated by the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC). BCUC through the Utilities Commission Act (UCA) regulates and approves any extension or replacement of utility lines. FortisBC went through a lengthy and rigorous application process with the BCUC for the approval of this line upgrade project in Vancouver. The process began in 2013 with initial consultation with the affected municipalities including Vancouver, and reached its approval milestone in 2015.

As part of that initial process that concluded with BCUC approval in 2015, FortisBC was required to extensively study route options for the natural gas line upgrade. FortisBC considered route options on East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, East 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and East 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue among others. Factors included in route selection were community and environmental impacts and

engineering/constructability issues among others. East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue was selected as the preferred route for several reasons, most notably the safety and constructability on East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and the minimal impacts to trees.

Given the powers and authority provided to FortisBC by the UCA, the city's role is to work with FortisBC to support their project, manage the city's interests including infrastructure and traffic impacts and provide permits as necessary. Engineering Services staff has worked extensively with FortisBC since 2013 to look after the City's interest while supporting the overall project.

### **Construction Impacts**

Construction of the new natural gas line will begin in April of 2018 and will be completed in December of 2018. During construction traffic will be limited to one lane in each direction on East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue with the exception of a full closure of East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue from Nanaimo Street to Clark Drive from July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. Staff are working with FortisBC on a number of measures to manage traffic and community impacts. These include, but are not limited to:

- Trenchless construction across major intersections to avoid impacts on north/south arterials;
- Signage changes on East Broadway and East Hastings Street to extend HOV hours and increase capacity;
- Traffic calming measures on Adanac Street;
- Dedicated funding for VPD to enforce detour signage and deter short-cutting;
- Installation of a new left turn bay on Renfrew Street at East Hastings Street; and,
- Extensive communications strategy to inform the public of construction activity and traffic impacts.

The schedule of the FortisBC work has also been closely coordinated with other City and third party projects so as to not create compounding traffic impacts in the city.

After completion of the new natural gas line construction, Engineering Services crews will restore the roadway to its original conditions including a full repave on East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue from Nanaimo Street to Clark Drive and minor safety improvements throughout the corridor.

For questions, please contact Margaret Wittgens, Director of Public Space and Street Use, at 604-673-8227 or [margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca](mailto:margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca).



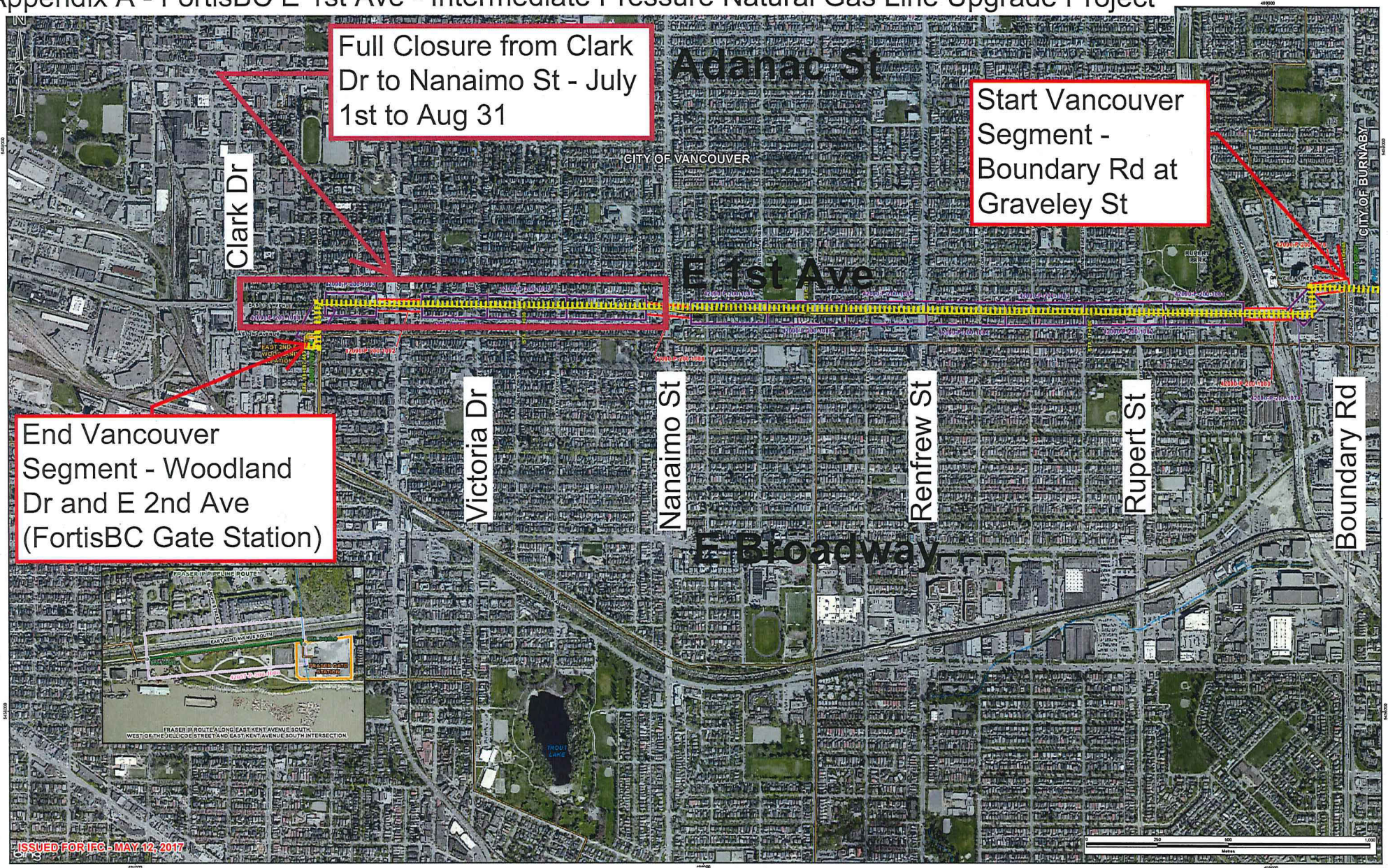
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Appendix A - FortisBC E 1st Ave - Intermediate Pressure Natural Gas Line Upgrade Project



ISSUED FOR IFC - MAY 12, 2017

FortisBC Natural Gas Line Alignment

FORTISBC ENERGY INC.		DRAWN: FB	PROJECTION: UTM 10N	 LOWER MAINLAND IP SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT VANCOUVER CONSTRUCTION ALIGNMENT SHEETS INDEX MAP
		CHECKED: JW	DATUM: NAD 83	
		APPROVED: SBA	SCALE: 1:8,000	 WorleyParsons PROJECT NUMBER: 407016-00212
		DATE: 12/05/2017	PAGE SIZE: A1	
NOTES: - IP Route updated on April 27, 2017 (REV P) plan file-Routes and Lateral Alignments updated on March 20, 2017. Stations correspond to stack alignment and were created using LIDAR Data provided by McQuay Consulting Services. - The existing FortisBC IP gas pipeline system was provided by FortisBC. - Highway & topographic data displayed is National Highway Network (NHN) data provided by Natural Resources Canada, current to July 2015. Images have been provided by Bing. - Produced by WorleyParsons Canada. The information used to create this product is based on the most current data available on the date of issue and is considered reliable only at the scale at which the data was created and the scale at which the map was published. - This drawing is prepared solely for the use of the contractual customer of WorleyParsons Canada and WorleyParsons assumes no liability to any other party for any representations contained in these drawings. - This map must be approved at least 100% by the client for the work to be in control.		WorleyParsons PROJECT NUMBER: 407016-00212-13-GM-MAP-0003		REV: 0