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**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

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**Date:** 11/26/2018 8:50:21 PM

**Subject:** Memo - Richards Street Protected Bike Lane

**Attachments:** ENG - TDE - Memo to Mayor and Council - Richards Street Protected Bike L....pdf

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Greetings Mayor and Council,

Please see attached a memo from Jerry Dobrovolny regarding the Richards Street protected bike lane. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- City staff are planning for the upgrading and extension of the Richards Street protected bike lane, with a final report on the recommended design expected to be completed by April 2019.
- Most recently, on November 25, 2017, Council received a *Five-Year Cycling Network Additions and Upgrades (2018-2022)* map, which identified Richards Street as a transportation upgrade zone.
- At present there remain significant sections of the painted bike lane where potentially hazardous interactions between motorists and cyclists occur due to the narrow bike lane and painted separation; City staff are seeking to address these issues and create a safer and more comfortable cycling route via consultation with businesses and residents regarding a new proposal for Richards Street.
- To date, City staff have issued a notification letter to the businesses fronting Richards Street to inform them about the project and upcoming opportunities to provide feedback on it; the issuance of the notification letter was followed by in-person visits from staff, with residents also being notified about a public open house slated to occur on December 6, 2018.
- The proposed Richards Street upgrades will also support planned improvements to the Granville Bridge connection via Drake Street, sewer upgrades on Richards Street south of Davie Street, and waterworks upgrades on Drake Street where it intersects Richards Street.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire, Director of Transportation, at 604.873.7336 or [lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca](mailto:lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca).

Best,  
Sadhu

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## MEMORANDUM

November 23, 2018

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Civic Engagement and Communications Director  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Lon LaClaire, Director of Transportation

FROM: Jerry Dobrovoly, General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Richards Street Protected Bike Lane (Cordova Street to Pacific Street)

To improve safe and accessible travel options along Richards Street, City staff are planning to upgrade and extend the Richards Street protected bike lane to provide better cycling access in the downtown area. Consultation has resumed on revisions to a 2016 proposal, and staff are expecting to complete a final report with the recommended design in April 2019.

### Background

In 2012, Council adopted the Transportation 2040 plan which included Richards on its five year map of all ages and abilities cycling priorities. In 2013, the City converted five blocks of the Richards Street painted bike lane to a protected bike lane as part of the repaving coordination.

In 2016, staff held an open house on extending the Richards protected bike lane as part of the 2016 Downtown Bike Network Expansion, and also met with interested organizations and businesses. Feedback supported revisions such as relocating the protected bike lane to the east side of Richards Street, accommodating northbound cycling, adding physical separation, and further extending the bike network within downtown; as a result, implementation was deferred and a revised design developed.

On November 25, 2017, Council received for information an updated *Five-Year Cycling Network Additions and Upgrades* map (2018-2022), which continued to identify Richards for upgrades.

There remain significant sections of painted bike lane where uncomfortable interactions with people parking occur due to the narrow protected bike lane and painted separation. To address these concerns and move towards a safer and more comfortable cycling route for people of all



ages and abilities, staff have resumed consultation with businesses and residents on a new proposal for Richards Street.

### **Revisions to the Proposal**

City staff have reviewed and assessed potential opportunities for Richards Street that include the following changes:

- Install a protected two-way bike lane on the east side of Richards Street.
- Improve north-south connections by extending the Richards Street protected bike lane facility from Cordova Street to Pacific Street.
- Create protected intersections for cycling to connect various east-west cycling routes and to reduce conflicts with vehicles.
- Where possible, add a row of trees and a raised cycling route to provide an improved streetscape.
- Retain sufficient road space for current motor vehicle volumes with one through lane, plus turn lanes, and rush hour parking restrictions between Dunsmuir Street and Nelson Street.
- Retain most parking spaces (approximately 85%) and other curb-side uses while physically separating them from the bike lane.
- Relocate four existing Mobi bike share stations to accommodate the new cycling route, and install two new Mobi stations to plan for future demand on the network.

The transportation improvements above are in alignment with policies identified in Transportation 2040 and the Five-Year Cycling Network map.

### **Coordination and Implementation**

These Richards Street upgrades also support planned improvements to the Granville Bridge connection via Drake Street, which will be the subject of reports to Council in 2019. As part of the City's coordinated planning, they also provide an opportunity for sewer upgrades on Richards south of Davie Street, water upgrades on Drake where it intersects Richards, and other streets and electrical work as appropriate. Construction would begin in fall 2019 and continue through 2020.

### **Civic Engagement and Communications**

In the fall of 2018, staff resumed consultation focusing specifically on businesses, residents and people travelling along Richards Street. To inform businesses about the project and upcoming opportunities to provide feedback, staff sent a notification letter and followed up with in-person visits to the businesses fronting Richards Street. In addition, staff notified residents along the route, inviting them to a public open house on December 6, 2018.

To ensure both online and in-person opportunities to provide feedback were made available, staff created an online survey for businesses and residents to submit feedback and a project webpage available at [vancouver.ca/downtown-bike-network](http://vancouver.ca/downtown-bike-network). The webpage also features information about the project and a dedicated email [downtownbikenetwork@vancouver.ca](mailto:downtownbikenetwork@vancouver.ca) for contacting the project team directly.

## Conclusion

This project is an opportunity to upgrade and extend the Richards Street protected bike lane to provide better cycling access downtown, and a safer and more comfortable cycling route in response to public and stakeholder concerns around safety and the reallocation of road space.

Should you have any questions, please contact Lon LaClaire, Director of Transportation, at 604.873.7336 or [lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca](mailto:lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca).

Sincerely,



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