Greetings Mayor and Council,

Please find attached a memo regarding the Hornby & Robson All Walk Phase vs Pedestrian Scramble. A summary of key points is below:

- Pedestrian Scramble introduces more delay to pedestrians
- The need for a diagonal crosswalk is low at this intersection connecting to Robson Plaza
- Implementation of an all walk phase is efficient and cost-effective

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Jerry Dobrovolny at 604.873.7331 or jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager
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Pronouns: he, him, his

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.
MEMORANDUM

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-Cradden, 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, Transportation
    Taryn Scollard, Director, Streets
    Margaret Wittgens, Director, Public Space and Street Use

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny,
      General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Hornby & Robson – All Walk Phase vs Pedestrian Scramble

July 24, 2019

This memo provides an update to the recent operational changes to the traffic signal at Hornby/Robson. The change created the opportunity for pedestrians to cross in every crosswalk simultaneously without vehicle conflict— an all walk phase— as vehicles on all approaches are stopped facing a red light.

A pedestrian scramble was considered in the design stage but the all walk phase provides increased walk time for pedestrians as they can also proceed in the south crosswalk with eastbound left turning vehicles (Refer to Appendix A Phase B). There is no vehicle/pedestrian conflict within the south crosswalk during this phase.

Because this intersection “bookends” the Robson Plaza (east leg – closed to motorists), pedestrians can walk in any direction in the plaza area before/after entering the intersection, making a potential ‘scramble’ at the intersection less useful.

In addition, implementation of the all walk phase was able to be done more efficiently and less expensively than a pedestrian scramble as changes were limited to signal re-timing and minor signal head adjustments. A pedestrian scramble would require new pavement markings, signs, and signal equipment to define all legal crosswalks, including diagonal crossings.
Operationally, a *scramble* would mean that pedestrians will only be permitted to walk during the scramble phase to avoid potential conflicts between eastbound left turning traffic and pedestrians crossing diagonally. This will result in an additional 20% pedestrian delay in the south crosswalk every cycle.

Staff are still evaluating whether a pedestrian scramble will be incorporated during the Robson Square Upgrade through traffic monitoring and reviewing public feedback.

For your reference, the all walk and pedestrian scramble signal phasing are illustrated side by side in Appendix A.

If you have any questions about this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jerry W. Dobrovolny, P.Eng., MBA
General Manager, Engineering Services
604.873.7331 | jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca
Appendix A: All Walk vs Pedestrian Scramble Signal Phasing – Hornby/Robson Intersection

All Walk (Currently in Operation)

Phase A: Northbound Phase

Phase B: Eastbound Phase

Phase C: All Walk Phase

Pedestrian Scramble

Phase A: Northbound Phase

Phase B: Eastbound Phase

Phase C: Pedestrian Scramble Phase