

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"Bromley, Malcolm" <Malcolm.Bromley@vancouver.ca>

Date: 12/9/2019 12:08:32 PM

Subject: Memo - Street Median Maintenance & Impediments for Park Board

Attachments: PB - GMO - Street Median Maintenance - Impediments for Park Board - Memo....pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Malcolm Bromley, General Manager of Park Board, in response to Recommendation B of the Council motion titled "Back to Basics: Prioritizing Public Realm Maintenance and Cleanliness in Vancouver".

Should you have any questions, please contact Malcolm Bromley at 604.257.8448 or Malcolm.Bromley@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

Sadhu Afochs 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.



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

December 6, 2019

MEMO TO : Mayor & Council

COPY TO : Sadhu Johnston - City Manager
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Andrew Naklicki - Chief Human Resources Officer
Shauna Wilton - Deputy General Manager, Vancouver Park Board
Howard Normann - Director of Parks

FROM : Malcolm Bromley - General Manager, Vancouver Park Board

SUBJECT : **Street Medians Maintenance – Impediments for Park Board**

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing in response to the motion titled "Back to Basics: Prioritizing Public Realm Maintenance and Cleanliness in Vancouver" [approved by Council on October 2, 2019](#). Recommendation B directed staff to report back on any impediments impacting the Park Board's ability to maintain the city's street medians, and to provide recommendations for how they can be overcome. The biggest challenges we currently face are the operational, financial, and safety impacts resulting from the regular weekend overtime shifts required to comply with lane closure restrictions.

The Park Board's Street Horticulture team, comprised of four full-time and ten temporary staff members, maintains 1483 horticultural assets along Vancouver's city streets and corridors. In addition to planted centre medians, these assets include arterial greenways and local gardens (plantings between sidewalks/roadways and in boulevards/roundabouts), bike lane planters, turf areas, and some large landscapes. Due to the nature of this work, it is best done during daylight hours and depending on location, typically requires partial lane closures so that staff can safely perform their duties. To reduce impacts to traffic on main arterials, the Traffic and Data Management (TDM) branch limits these temporary lane closures to weekends only. As per the Collective Agreement, these weekend shifts fall outside regular work hours and therefore result in staff overtime.

Overtime shifts increase the potential for worker fatigue and injury, result in additional operational and backfilling costs, and impact crew scheduling. In 2019, the Street Horticulture team was paid approximately \$110,000 in overtime, which does not include 135 banked days accrued by the full-time staff. This banked time roughly equates to an additional month and a half of paid time off for each crew member (on top of their regular vacation/leave quotas).



As well, when lane closures are limited to weekends, a longer period of time is required to complete the work. For example, medians on Knight Street, West 6th Avenue and Cambie Street took over two months to complete because work could only be scheduled on weekends. If crews were able to work during regular hours, this type of maintenance could have been completed within two weeks.

With the current weekend scheduling restrictions, the Park Board only has the resources and capacity to service assets within Vancouver's high traffic areas once a year. If exceptions could be made to allow for partial lane closures during regular working hours, this maintenance work could be completed sooner and within more reasonable time frames. Resources could then be made available to support more frequent visits to these areas and others during the year. If the current process continues, we are forecasting increased operational costs for 2020 to address efficiency challenges and safety concerns.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malcolm Bromley".

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
604-257-8448

/ag/es/clc