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

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

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**Date:** 1/6/2020 2:43:51 PM

**Subject:** Memo - Punjabi Market Update and Recommended Next Steps - RTS 13287

**Attachments:** Memo to Mayor Council - Punjabi Market Update and Recommended Next Step....pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from the General Managers of PDS, ACCS, and ENG regarding Punjabi Market - RTS 13287. A brief summary is as follows –

- Staff from these different departments held a series of engagement events with the community to raise awareness around the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the Market and to gather preliminary input into potential improvements in the Market area
- A series of draft recommendations have been developed, and staff will be sharing these with the community in early January
- A revised project timeline will see staff provide a report on these matters to Council in mid-February

Please contact Gil Kelley (604.873.7456 / [Gil.Kelley@vancouver.ca](mailto:Gil.Kelley@vancouver.ca)), Sandra Singh (604.871.6858 / [Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca)), or Cheryl Nelms (604.873.7348 / [Cheryl.Nelms@vancouver.ca](mailto:Cheryl.Nelms@vancouver.ca)) should you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Paul

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

## MEMORANDUM

January 3, 2020

**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  
Susan Haid, Deputy Director - Long Range and Strategic Planning  
Neil Hrushowy, Assistant Director, Community Planning  
Margaret Wittgens, Acting Deputy General Manager of Engineering  
Lisa Parker, Branch Manager, Street Activities  
Mary Clare Zak, Managing Director, Social Policy & Projects Division  
Wilma Clarke, Assistant Director, Social Policy and Projects Division  
Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director of Cultural Services  
Lara Honrado, Assistant Director, Cultural Services

**FROM:** Gil Kelley, General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability  
Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services  
Cheryl Nelms, Acting General Manager of Engineering

**SUBJECT:** **Punjabi Market Update and Proposed Revisions to Timeline - RTS 13287**

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This memo provides an update on our ongoing interdepartmental work on the Punjabi Market.

### Community Engagement Events

In October and November 2019, staff held a total of six engagement events, three with area merchants and business property owners, and three with the broader community. As noted in our previous memo (dated October 25, 2019), the purpose of the events was to:

- Provide the community with more information about the Council motion and upcoming opportunities related to the Punjabi Market's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary;
- Review ideas and priorities related to public space improvement options for the Market area; and,
- Share thoughts on the future of the Punjabi Market – and for merchants, the ways that merchants can work together to improve business conditions, and how the City can help build business capacity.

Approximately 75 representatives from the local business community and roughly 350 community members provided input. Key feedback included:

- Strong interest in the renewal and regeneration of the Market area, and in seeing the Market - as an epicenter of Vancouver's South Asian communities as well as a destination for South Asian communities across the Lower Mainland - honoured into the future;
- Input on an array of issues and opportunities related to the commercial area (including matters related to enhanced retail and service mix, transportation, safety, public spaces, beautification, and a number of other issues);
- Support for, and assistance with, the prioritization of potential public realm interventions; and,
- Interest in business-to-business capacity building, and efforts to strengthen the business supports and stewardship opportunities for the Market area.

At the same time, a number of questions and considerations for future work were also identified:

- The potential to clarify and strengthen the role of the Market's core commercial area vis-à-vis a diverse surrounding neighbourhood, changing local needs, and shifting daily and destination-serving activity;
- Opportunities to attend to questions of redress and reconciliation, particularly in light of the Council motion on Historical Discrimination Against People of South Asian Descent;<sup>1</sup>
- Additional ways and means of supporting Punjabi Market as a cultural and economic destination by working with broader community to co-create the Market's future; ; and,
- Related, the need to work with the community to ensure that the City's interventions are not limited to the 50th Anniversary, but are part of a deeper process of engagement with members of Vancouver's South Asian communities.

Input from these conversations has been used to inform a set of recommended approaches that staff will include in the formal report to Council. It is also being used to inform upcoming "deep dive" events associated with the Vancouver Plan and other concurrent planning work.

### **Next Steps**

We are proposing to test the draft recommendations with community members through two additional activities in January 2020, tentatively scheduled to take place at the following dates/times:

**Thursday, January 9, 2020**  
5:30-8:30pm  
Himalaya Restaurant  
6587 Main Street

**Sunday, January 12, 2020**  
10:00am-12:30pm  
Ross Street Temple  
8000 Ross Street

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<sup>1</sup> <https://council.vancouver.ca/20190723/documents/regu20190723min.pdf>

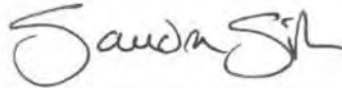
While these were not part of the original timeline, we believe the additional "check in" with community members and businesses will help to ensure a more collaborative process, enable recommendations to be further refined, and strengthen levels of trust with the anticipated next steps.

To that end, our original timeline has been refined slightly. Where the Council motion of June 19, 2019 directed staff to provide an update in Q4 2019, we are proposing to report back to Council in February 2020.

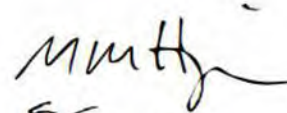
Please don't hesitate to contact the General Managers if you have questions or input



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