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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

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

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Date: 3/4/2020 6:46:51 PM

Subject: Memo - Ontario Greenway Upgrades Project (2nd Avenue to 16th Avenue)

Attachments: ENG - Memo to Mayor and Council - Ontario Greenway Upgrades Project (2nd....pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

This memo provides an update on Ontario Greenway Upgrades Project (2nd Avenue to 16th Avenue):

- The proposed changes include transportation and public realm improvements, including a new public plaza, that will make walking, cycling and rolling more comfortable along Ontario St between 2nd Ave and 16th Ave and reduce impacts of potential motor vehicle shortcutting during construction of the Broadway Subway.
- The upcoming engagement is informed by feedback from the Mount Pleasant Industrial Transportation Strategy (spring 2019) and initial conversations with businesses and the public in fall 2019. For upgrades at Ontario St and 16th Ave, staff gathered feedback on three intersection design options in 2015 and have now selected a final design option.
- Four areas have been identified for improvement. Staff will make adjustments to the plan based on the feedback received and plan to implement the in summer 2020 and fall/winter 2020.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or [lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca](mailto:lon.laclaire@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

March 4, 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  
Winston Chou, Acting Director of Transportation

FROM: Lon LaClaire  
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Ontario Greenway Upgrades Project (2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue)

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The purpose of this memo is to provide information about the Ontario Greenway project including public engagement. The proposed changes include transportation and public realm improvements that will make walking, cycling and rolling more comfortable along Ontario Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and reduce impacts of potential motor vehicle shortcutting during construction of the Broadway Subway.

### Background

The Ontario Greenway is a 6km walking and cycling connection that features public art, seating, improved lighting and traffic calming. The route has been identified for All Ages and Abilities (AAA) improvements in the City's Five Year Cycling Network Plan (2018-2022) and this phase is part of a larger process to improve the Ontario Greenway for walking, cycling and rolling from False Creek to the Fraser River.

Upgrades between 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue are being prioritized in advance of Broadway Subway construction which is scheduled to begin in fall 2020 and continue until 2025. A key element of making the Ontario Greenway an AAA route is to bring motor vehicle volumes below 500 per day. On some blocks in the project area, motor vehicle volumes are five times this number. The upgrades will both reduce motor vehicle shortcutting in the area during construction and improve the route for people of all ages and abilities.

The proposed upgrades are informed by:

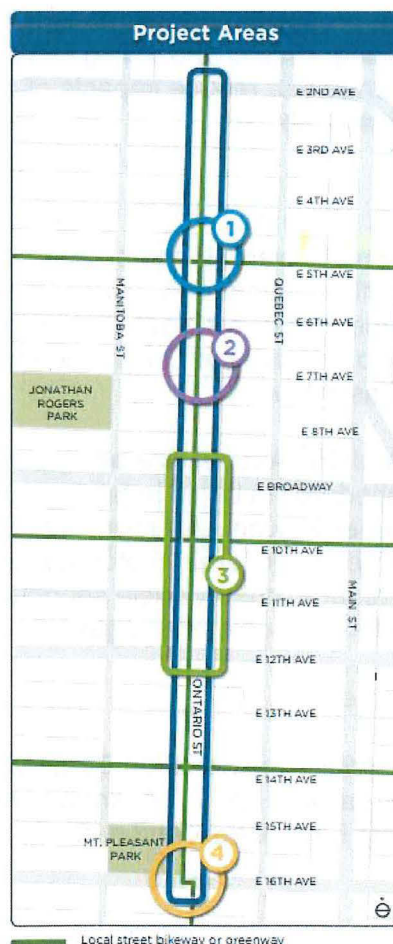
- The Mount Pleasant Industrial Transportation Strategy, which identifies upgrading Ontario Street between Broadway and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to meet AAA guidelines, improving connectivity with Southeast False Creek and recommends Manitoba Street and 7<sup>th</sup>

Avenue as key motor vehicle connections in the area.

- The City's Pavement-to-Plaza Program, which converts road space into low-barrier, high impact places for people to rest and gather within neighbourhoods while providing traffic calming on local streets and bikeways.

In this phase, four areas along Ontario Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue have been identified for improvements:

- **Area 1: Ontario Street at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue:** To lower motor vehicle volumes on Ontario Street, diverters would be installed to create a half block closure north of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The closure will maintain access to the lane for motor vehicles, while providing space for a new public plaza. The plaza's design, programming and stewardship will evolve over time based on community feedback.
- **Area 2: Ontario Street at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue:** To lower motor vehicle volumes on Ontario Street diverters would be installed to create a converging one-way street for motor vehicles. Two-way motor vehicle access will be maintained on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- **Area 3: Ontario Street between Broadway and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue:** With a number of existing traffic calming measures in the area, staff are interested in learning what is working well and areas of concern related to community mobility before recommending any changes.
- **Area 4: Ontario Street at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue:** A new intersection design will improve an offset crossing for all road users. Some additional parking changes are proposed at Quebec Street, Manitoba Street and Columbia Street near 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue based on feedback about concerns about visibility and comfortable passing distances for two vehicles.





## Engagement

Building on engagement that occurred as part of the Mount Pleasant Industrial Transportation Strategy, in fall 2019 staff had initial conversations about deliveries and access with local businesses between 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Broadway, as well as hearing from people cycling and walking along Ontario Street at a Fall Bike to Work Week pop-up event. During these conversations we heard support from businesses for using Manitoba Street and Quebec Street for north-south delivery access and support from both businesses and people walking and cycling for the proposed plaza space.

For upgrades at Ontario Street and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, staff gathered feedback from local stakeholders and the public on three intersection design options in 2015 and have now selected a final design option. Details about the selected option were shared with the Parent Advisory Council at Simon Fraser Elementary School in February 2020.

Local residents and businesses, as well as the broader public, are invited to attend drop-in sessions on March 4, March 6 and March 7 to discuss the proposed changes with staff. There will also be an online feedback form and the Ontario Greenway webpage ([vancouver.ca/ontario-greenway](http://vancouver.ca/ontario-greenway)) has been updated to include information about the upcoming engagement process.

## Next Steps

Staff will make adjustments to the plan based on the feedback received and plan to implement the changes at 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenues in summer 2020.

For changes between Broadway and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, staff will review community feedback and look for additional feedback from the community on any proposed changes in late fall 2020.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any further questions about these initiatives.

Sincerely,



Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.  
General Manager, Engineering Services

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