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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 2/8/2023 7:21:36 AM
Subject: Upcoming News Release: Transportation upgrades to begin on Granville Bridge (Feb. 8, 2023)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the news release below later today to provide information on the first phase of Granville Connector construction, which is set to begin this month. This work will transform the way we use the Granville Bridge by creating safer, more convenient access to active transportation and transit while enabling future improvements.

During this work, the following measures will be in place to manage traffic:

- Two lanes will be retained in both directions on Granville Bridge throughout construction.
- Some lane and street closures will be in effect to facilitate construction.
- For up to six months, the portion of Granville St between the Howe and Seymour Street ramps and Drake Street will be temporarily closed.
 - o During this time, pedestrians, vehicles and transit will be detoured to the Howe Street and Seymour Street ramps.
- Sidewalks on both sides of the bridge and the Howe and Seymour ramps will remain open as much as possible throughout construction.

This news release will be sent tomorrow morning **following a 9:30 am virtual media tech briefing led by Paul Storer, Director of Transportation and his team.** Mayor and Council are welcome to attend this briefing and listen in. Should you wish to attend, please email Godfrey Tait (Godfrey.tait@vancouver.ca) and he will provide you with the MS Teams details for the briefing.

Best,

Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

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City of Vancouver

News release

February 8, 2023

Transportation upgrades to begin on Granville Bridge

This month, the City will begin work to upgrade the Granville Bridge to create a safer, more accessible crossing for walking, rolling and cycling.

The work is part of the [Granville Connector](#) project, which includes converting two west-side travel lanes on the bridge to separated walking, rolling, and cycling routes, similar to the protected lanes on the Burrard Bridge.

Additional improvements include the addition of new traffic signals, wayfinding signage and the creation of an all-ages-and-abilities pedestrian and bicycle connection to the Arbutus Greenway at the south end of the bridge.

“Making these much-needed safety and accessibility improvements to Granville Bridge will mean the bridge can truly serve as a vital connection for all modes of travel between the growing commercial and job centres of the Broadway corridor and the downtown core,” says Mayor Ken Sim.

The City will also be removing the loops that connect to Pacific Street at the north end of the bridge and replacing them with a new street network. The loops were originally designed for a high-volume freeway that was never built. The new street network will create opportunities for housing and local services on the City-owned land currently occupied by the loops.

The first phase of the work starts on the north end of the bridge with anticipated completion of the project by fall 2024.

Traffic management

Two lanes of traffic will be retained in both directions on Granville Bridge throughout construction.

As work progresses, some lane and street closures will be in effect to facilitate construction. For up to six months, the portion of Granville Street between the Howe and Seymour Street ramps and Drake Street will be temporarily closed. During this time, pedestrians, vehicles and transit will be detoured to the Howe Street and Seymour Street ramps.

- Winter 2023 – East loop closure
- Spring 2023 – West loop closure
- Summer 2023 to fall 2023 – temporary Granville Street closure with detour in effect
- Spring 2024 – opening of the new downtown street network

Sidewalks on both sides of the bridge and the Howe and Seymour ramps will remain open as much as possible throughout construction.

Background

Constructed in 1954, Granville Bridge was originally designed for freeways that were never built, which tends to promote high vehicle speeds. Its current form is not accessible and presents a number of challenges for people who want to walk, bike or roll across the bridge.

In September 2020, Council endorsed the long-term design concept for the Granville Connector and directed staff to proceed with the interim Granville Connector construction. [Learn more about the Granville Connector project](#)

To stay ahead of road closures throughout the city, visit vancouver.ca/road-closure or download the [Van311](#) app for information on the go.

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Media availability

Paul Storer, Director of Transportation, will be available for interviews from noon to 1:30pm at Crossroads, 507 W Broadway, 3rd Floor.

Media contact

Civic Engagement & Communications

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