

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 5/26/2023 12:52:05 PM
Subject: Upcoming news release: West 54th Avenue Upgrades (May 26, 2023)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release this afternoon (May 26) regarding sewer and green rainwater infrastructure upgrades along West 54th Avenue. Please keep this news release embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account.

This project will increase sewer capacity to meet growth needs while reducing local flood risk and advancing regulatory requirements to eliminate CSO contributions by 2050. The majority of the project is funded through Utilities Development Cost Levies (UDCLs) and developer contributions.

Other communications tactics include local project signage, notification letters and traffic posts on social to help mitigate issues and resident concerns around noise, access and traffic.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
News release
May 26, 2023

City launches sewer and green rainwater infrastructure upgrades for Cambie Corridor

Starting this week, the City will begin work to expand sewer capacity and build new green rainwater infrastructure [along West 54th Avenue](#), part of a series of infrastructure upgrades underway to support population growth along the Cambie Corridor. Work includes replacing the existing sewer along West 54th Avenue from Cambie Street to Neal Street with a separated and larger-capacity system, with one pipe for rainwater runoff and another pipe for sewage. This work will reduce the risk of localized flooding as well as the risk of increased combined sewer overflows into the Fraser River.

The total project investment is \$10.3 million, with the majority funded through Utilities Development Cost Levies (UDCLs) collected through new development to partially fund engineering infrastructure delivered by the City's capital program, and developer contributions.

"Upgrading our sewer system is essential work that protects public health and allows our city to grow and adapt," says Mayor Ken Sim. "This project directly addresses Vancouver's infrastructure deficit; allowing

for more housing to be built while making our infrastructure more resilient in the face of extreme weather events caused by climate change.”

Green rainwater infrastructure (GRI) and pedestrian safety upgrades will also be incorporated into this project through the installation of four green rainwater curb bulges. GRI uses engineered soil and plants that work with the built environment to naturally capture and clean rainwater, helping to prevent pollutants carried by rainwater from entering waterways and reducing the volume of rainwater entering our pipe system.

Vancouver has legacy combined sewers that carry both sewage and rainwater in the same pipe. During heavy rains, these pipes can become overwhelmed resulting in combined volumes of rainwater and sewage spilling into receiving waters like the Fraser River. The City is working to mitigate combined sewer overflows and improve aquatic water quality.

Background

In 2018, Council approved the Cambie Corridor Utilities Servicing Plan, which includes upgrades of the existing underground utility system and green rainwater infrastructure to help the growing Cambie Corridor meet increasing servicing needs for new developments. The West 54th Avenue Upgrades project is currently being delivered as part of this plan.

Plan ahead

- To safely accommodate construction, some lane and street closures will be in effect block-by-block with access for pedestrians retained at all times. Find out about ongoing construction work using our [road ahead map](#).
- Residents and visitors to the area can expect parking restrictions along West 54th Avenue, and the adjacent side streets, between Cambie Street and Neal Street and on Cambie Street directly adjacent to West 54th Avenue.
Visitors are asked to park on neighbouring streets.
- Access to Cambie Park and Cambie Park Community Garden will be maintained at all times. There will be no impact to park amenities during construction.
- Construction will generally take place Monday to Friday, from 7 am to 5 pm and on weekends as needed. Learn more about [West 54th Avenue Upgrades](#) or [email us your questions](#).

-30-

Media contact:

Civic Engagement and Communications

media@vancouver.ca