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**To:** ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)  
**Date:** 5/31/2023 1:04:13 PM  
**Subject:** Upcoming news release: Vancouver streets see increase in post-pandemic traffic volumes and public space use (May 31, 2023)

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Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release today featuring highlights from the 2023 Transportation and PSSU Directors' update to Council this morning. The release highlights transportation volumes, key City priorities, active transportation projects as well as noting Council's commitment to fostering safe and vibrant public space and street use projects.

Best,  
Paul

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

**City of Vancouver**  
**News release**  
**May 31, 2023**

## **Vancouver streets see increase in post-pandemic travel volumes and public space use**

Vancouver continues to see an increase in post-pandemic travel volumes, while also embracing streets as spaces for vibrant public life.

**Transportation volumes and priorities**

Data from the annual Vancouver transportation survey presented at City Council today shows that the number of people walking, biking, rolling, and taking transit is on the rise year over year. Overall, the number of daily trips is still below pre-pandemic levels but is showing continued growth.

- **Pedestrian:** Walking trips increased to 28% of mode share, up from 26% in 2021, which is similar to pre-pandemic levels.
- **Cycling:** Volumes increased to 7% of mode share, nearly reaching pre-pandemic levels.
- **Transit:** Regionally, transit ridership has recovered 82%, leading the way compared to North American peer cities. In Vancouver, transit mode share increased to 16%, with an additional 48,000 daily transit trips compared to 2021.
- **Vehicles:** Use is slightly above pre-pandemic levels but has decreased 6% from 2020 and 2021 levels. Overall, fewer trips are being taken by car than pre-pandemic.

As part of its transportation priorities and plans, the City remains committed to eliminating transportation-related fatalities and injuries, while supporting efficient, healthy, and cleaner modes of transportation that benefit communities, businesses and the environment.

Key projects under the City's current Capital Plan that that will offer safer, more comfortable and easier access to active transportation routes include:

- [Granville Connector](#)
- [Portside Greenway](#)
- [Bute Greenway](#)

“We’re pleased to see this continued work from staff. These forward-looking plans surrounding active transportation, pedestrian infrastructure, and public space activation will play a significant role in the future of our city,” says Mayor Ken Sim. “These improvements will go a long way towards helping building healthier, more prosperous, and vibrant neighbourhoods across Vancouver.”

### **Public space programming and uses**

When streets are activated as shared public spaces through special events, plazas and patios, they become places of opportunity to enrich public life and support Vancouver’s diverse communities and businesses. The City is committed to fostering safe, welcoming, accessible and vibrant public spaces where there is something for everyone.

Key upcoming public space and street use planning projects include:

- [West End Commercial Streets](#)
- Gastown Streets and Public Spaces Plan
- Granville Street Planning

Many 2022 and 2023 public space initiatives helped to enhance the quality of life and vitality of local businesses in Vancouver:

- 24 public plazas, 13 parklets and 12 social service parklets were maintained by the City and community stewards
- 1,500 metres of curbside patios were permitted in 2023, representing 175 summer patios and 69 curbside patios
- 312 special event permits were issued in 2022

Streets continue to be one of the City's biggest assets. We are working to ensure our transportation and public space networks support a growing and livable city.

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