

From: **"Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>**
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**
Date: 12/20/2023 11:24:41 AM
Subject: ENG - Memo - A People-Focused Gastown – Update on Transportation Network Changes
Attachments: ENG - Memo - RTS 15793 - A People-Focused Gastown – Update on Transportation Network Changes.pdf

Good morning Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached Council Memo from Lon LaClaire regarding **A People-Focused Gastown – Update on Transportation Network Changes**. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- TransLink is supportive of changes that result in improvements for all sustainable mode shares
- Bus speed and reliability improvements on Hastings St and Cordova St (which carry a total of 13 bus routes between them) through bus priority measures has been identified by TransLink staff for further consideration
- During construction and the pilot, Cordova St is planned to remain one-way eastbound and Bus #50 will temporarily reroute from Water St to Hastings St. Staff will monitor transit and traffic network operations during this time. Staff will work with TransLink to analyze the results, and explore a two-way Cordova St and the associated implications for the traffic and transit networks.

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

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.

MEMORANDUM

December 20, 2023

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: A People-Focused Gastown – Update on Transportation Network Changes

RTS #: 15793

This memo provides an update on the ongoing conversations with TransLink regarding transportation network changes that would occur with the upcoming construction and pilot pedestrianization of Water St in summer 2024, as well as the potential shift to a two-way Cordova St in the longer term. This is in response to the Council Motion, "A People-Focused Gastown: A Bold, Forward-Looking Vision for a Vibrant and Prosperous Neighbourhood" approved on May 10, 2023.

Background

Council directed staff to initiate a planning and design process for improved streets and public spaces in Gastown, including providing "a bold vision to pedestrianize Water St and make it car-free or car-light either on a seasonal or year-round basis." In addition, the motion asked staff to look at the potential to change Cordova St from a one-way to a two-way street from the Powell St Overpass to Waterfront Station and directed staff to engage with TransLink on related bus infrastructure needs.

In response to Council's motion, staff have reviewed previous work completed in this area, including the Downtown Bus Service Review and previous consultant studies on potential network changes within Gastown and initiated conversations with TransLink.

In 2018, the City retained a consultant to conduct a multimodal transportation network assessment of the Gastown neighbourhood including modelling concept options of pedestrianizing Water St. One of the consultant's recommended options was to convert Cordova St from a one-way eastbound street into a two-way street. A westbound lane on Cordova St could replace the lanes on Powell and Water St, while also accommodating the existing transit route (Route #50), which currently runs on Water St.

Ongoing Work

In light of post-pandemic traffic volume changes, staff are in the process of collecting and analyzing new traffic data to confirm the 2018 consultant report findings and their applicability to current conditions. Based on this data, staff will collaborate with TransLink to explore a two-way Cordova St and the associated implications for the traffic and transit networks. This would include changes to transit routing and assessing transit travel times, service levels, and legibility. Initial meetings with TransLink have been held and more are planned as the project progresses. A monitoring plan has also been developed to assess traffic changes during next year's planned construction and summer pilot closure of Water St to motor vehicles, with a one-way Cordova St.

City staff and TransLink will evaluate the infrastructure implications of potential network changes if Cordova St is to be converted to a two-way street. These considerations include bus stop locations and amenities, trolley infrastructure, signal modifications and geometric changes to curbs. Potential transit priority measures will also be considered along Cordova St, Pender St and Hastings St. Hastings and Cordova St are both part of the Frequent Transit Network (FTN).

TransLink has indicated it is supportive of changes that result in improvements for all sustainable mode shares. It has also identified areas for further consideration:

- Bus speed and reliability improvements on Hastings St (under review in response to Council direction) and Cordova St through bus priority measures; and
- Future legibility of bus routes on streets through the neck of the downtown peninsula.

City Staff will also liaise with TransLink through the Burrard Peninsula Area Transport Plan (BP ATP) process which is expected to follow a similar timeline to the Gastown Public Spaces Plan.

Next Steps

Gastown Public Spaces Plan is wrapping up its first phase of public engagement on project goals, objectives and early ideas (timelines in Appendix A). In the next phase of work, the plan will explore high-level public space and transportation network options, including the range of options for pedestrianizing Water St. As part of next phase, a pedestrian street pilot is also planned for Water St in the summer of 2024, which will proceed after a construction period in Maple Tree Square that requires diversion of arterial traffic as early as March 2024. During this period, Cordova St will remain one-way eastbound and Bus #50 will temporarily reroute from Water St to Hastings St (as illustrated in Appendix B). Throughout the pilot, City staff will monitor the conditions and traffic operation of the network and work with TransLink to analyze the impacts. This will form a key input into identifying a preferred network option before entering phase 3 of the process. Final network recommendations will be made in collaboration with TransLink and other stakeholders as part of phase 3 of this work.

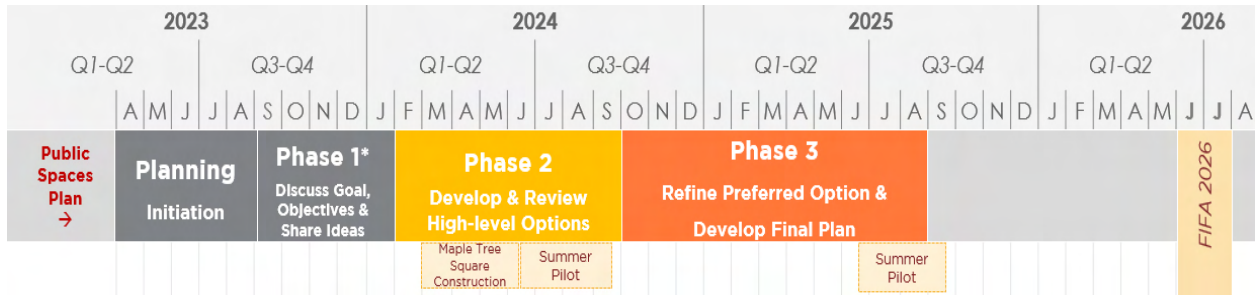
Please contact me directly should you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lon LaClaire'.

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

604.873.7336 | lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca

Appendix A: Gastown Public Spaces Plan Phasing and Timelines



Appendix B: Gastown Public Spaces Plan Scope and Street Network

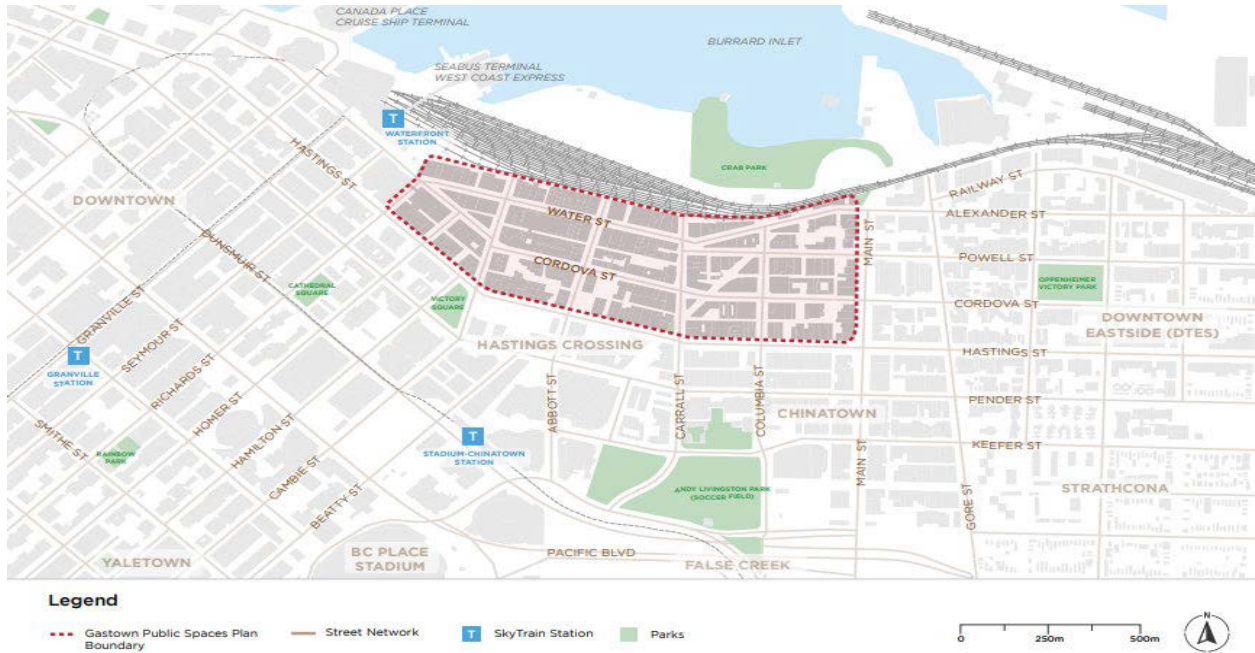


Figure 1: Gastown Public Spaces Plan Scope

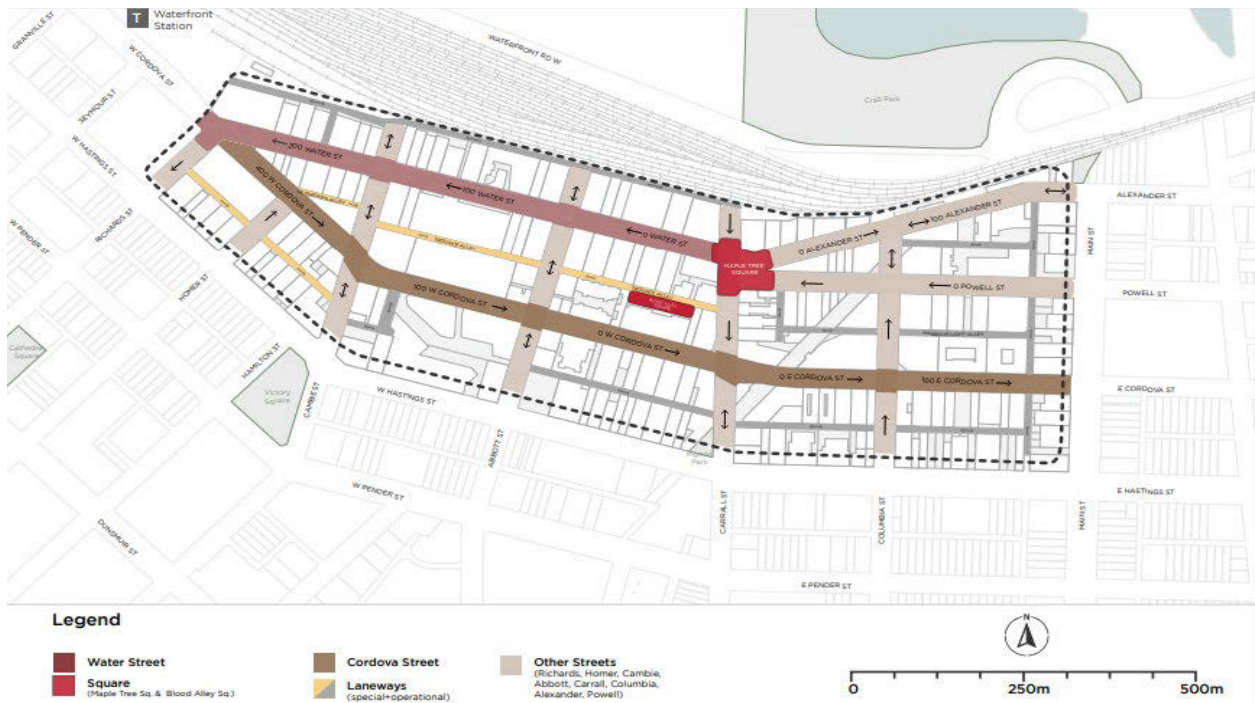


Figure 2: Gastown Streets Network

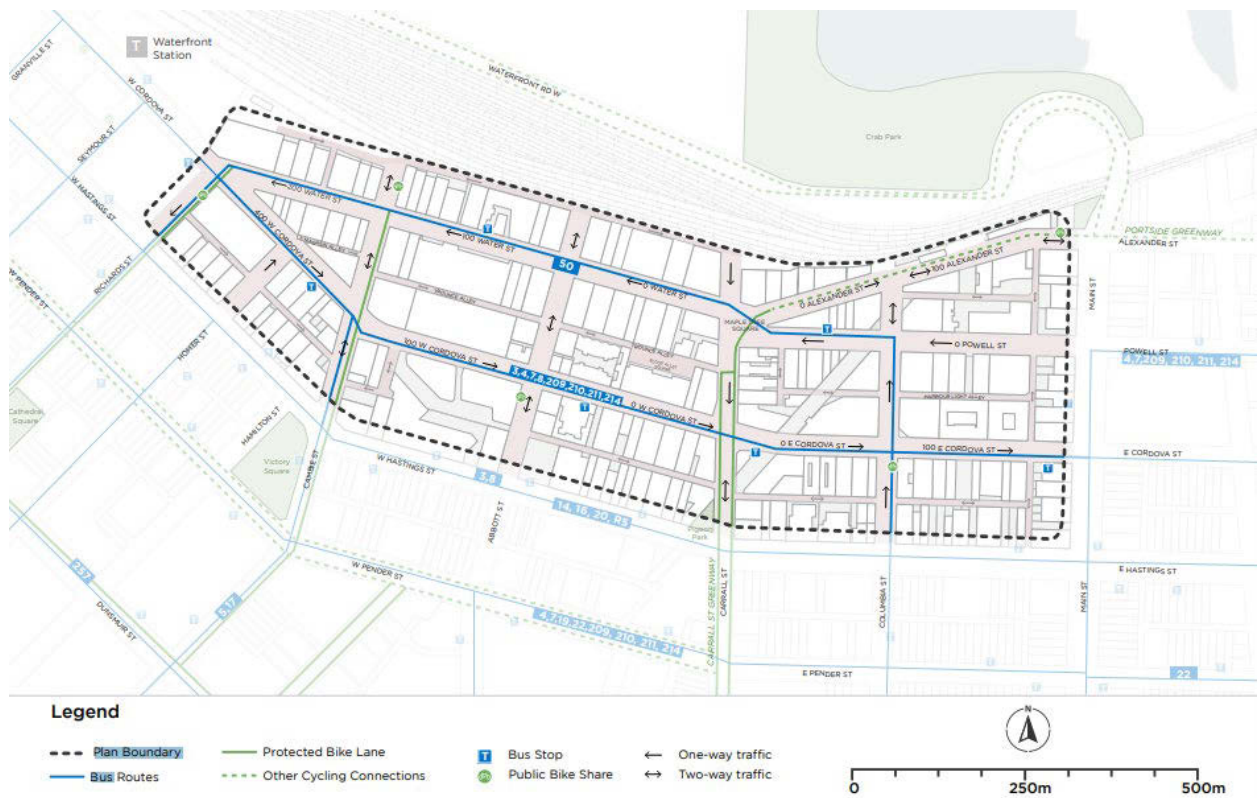


Figure 3: Existing Gastown Cycling and Bus Connections

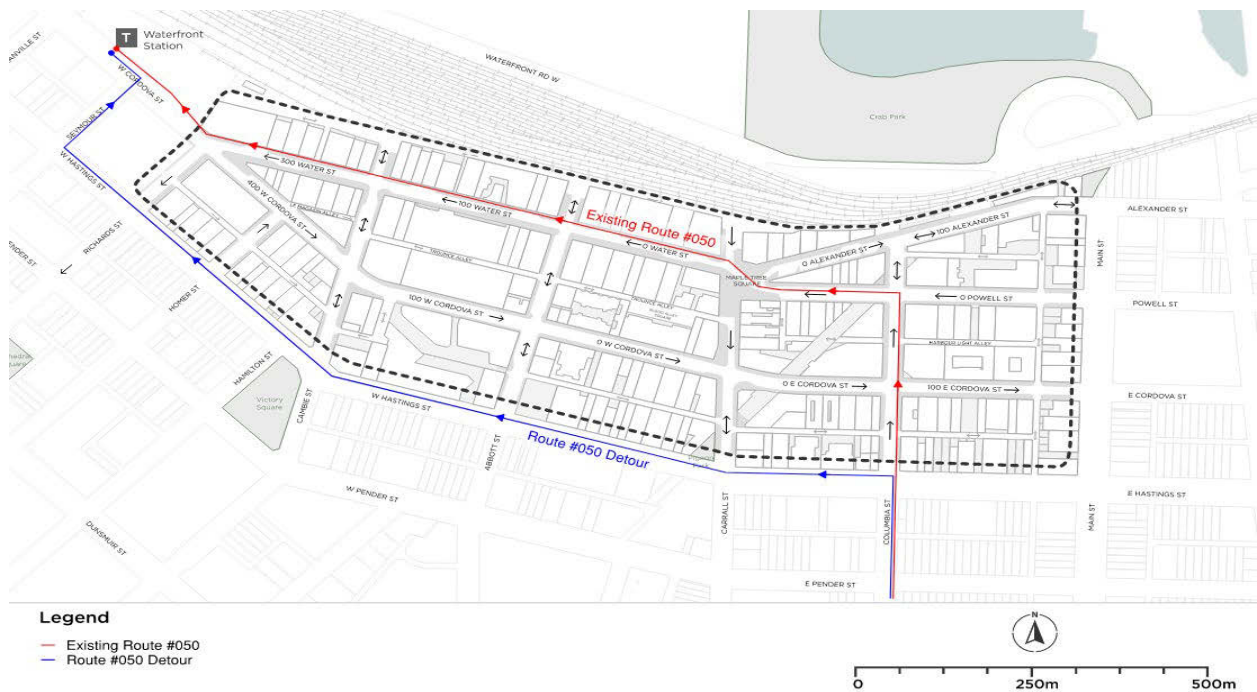


Figure 4: Bus Route #050 Detour During the Construction and Pilot