

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"**

To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**

Date: 3/1/2024 12:08:22 PM

Subject: False Creek seawall - temporary detour - updated timeline

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Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to provide you an update on the detour that is currently in place on the seawall (Seaside Greenway) between Cambie Bridge and Hinge Park. The City has temporarily closed off this segment of the seawall based on an independent review by our structural consultant, as the existing wall that retains a portion of the seawall pathway is in poor condition and has recently shifted. Please see the below email from January 24, 2024 for additional information.

In previous years, funding to address the structural needs of the wall was not available due to other emerging infrastructures needs. City's strategy to date has been to monitor the structure. A recent assessment of the wall by has concluded that monitoring is no longer sufficient.

**Detour and next steps:**

- For safety, seawall users are currently re-routed to West 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue between Columbia Street and Skyglass Place. In order to create a comfortable and safe space for people to walk, roll and bike, West 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue has been closed to westbound vehicles between Columbia and Wylie Streets.



- Informational signage is in place advising pedestrians and cyclists that the detour will be in place until further notice.
- City staff are working with consultants on defining a timeline for the long-term seawall repairs in this area and will provide updates to the public signage in the coming months.
- To facilitate the removal of the 1st Ave detour, City staff are planning to realign the impacted section of the seawall pathway to approximately 10m south of its current position and will utilize part of a City-owned parcel.

- City staff are aiming to complete the realignment of the pathway and the removal of the 1st Ave detour by the end of April.

This is a significant detour to an important Vancouver amenity and are working to create a better detour route as soon as possible.

Please contact Lon LaClaire if you have any additional questions.

Best,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie** (he/him)  
City Manager  
City of Vancouver

**From:** Mochrie, Paul

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 5:56 PM

**To:** Direct to Mayor and Council - DL

**Cc:** City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL <[CMCG@vancouver.ca](mailto:CMCG@vancouver.ca)>; LaClaire, Lon <[lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca](mailto:lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca)>; Scollard, Taryn <[taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca](mailto:taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca)>

**Subject:** False Creek seawall - temporary detour

**Importance:** High

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

We are writing to alert you to an evolving structural situation on False Creek seawall.

The Cambie sheetpile wall (the wall) is located between Cambie Bridge and Habitat Island (see Figure 1 and 2 below for location and extents). The deteriorating condition of the wall may potentially lead to public safety concerns. City's structural consultant has recommended that a seawall detour is implemented as soon as possible to mitigate this potential risks.

#### **Background information**

- The wall is in very poor condition. It consists of steel panels with horizontal soil anchors. The wall is meant to retain the soil along the shoreline.
- An aging combined sewer outfall also runs through the wall (see Figure 2).
- Replacement of the wall was flagged as a priority during the last capital plan process. Funding was not available as other emerging infrastructures needs were prioritized.
- In recent years, additional fencing was installed to keep people out of the risk area and to limit more weight that may exacerbate the issue. Engineering's risk management plan up until now has been mainly to monitor the structure. A recent assessment of the wall by the marine structural consultant has concluded that monitoring is no longer sufficient.

### Next steps

- Immediate Action: Crews have implemented a detour from the seawall onto 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue (see attached detour map) utilizing existing sidewalks. Corporate communications has been working with the team on the appropriate messaging should we receive any public inquiries.
- Near Term: Staff will work to replace the temporary detour with a realignment of the seawall pathway to the south (there is a City owned parcel directly south of the existing alignment)
- Engineering will also initiate work to more permanently address risks associated with the existing wall.

Please contact Lon LaClaire if you have any additional questions.



Fig. 1 – Cambie sheetpile wall: approximate area of concern shown in red

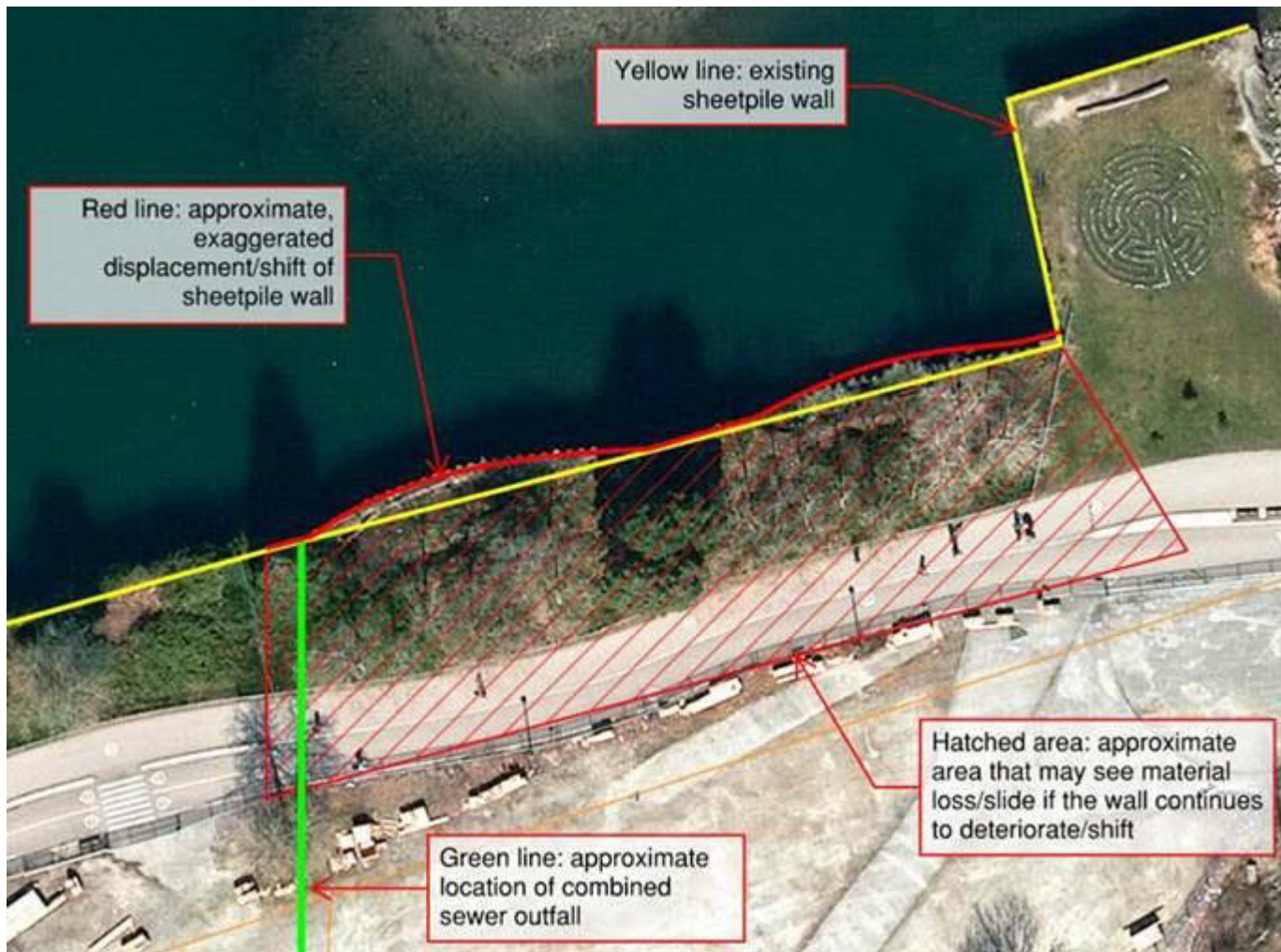


Fig. 2 – Site specifics and approximate extent of impact (to be confirmed by City's consultant)

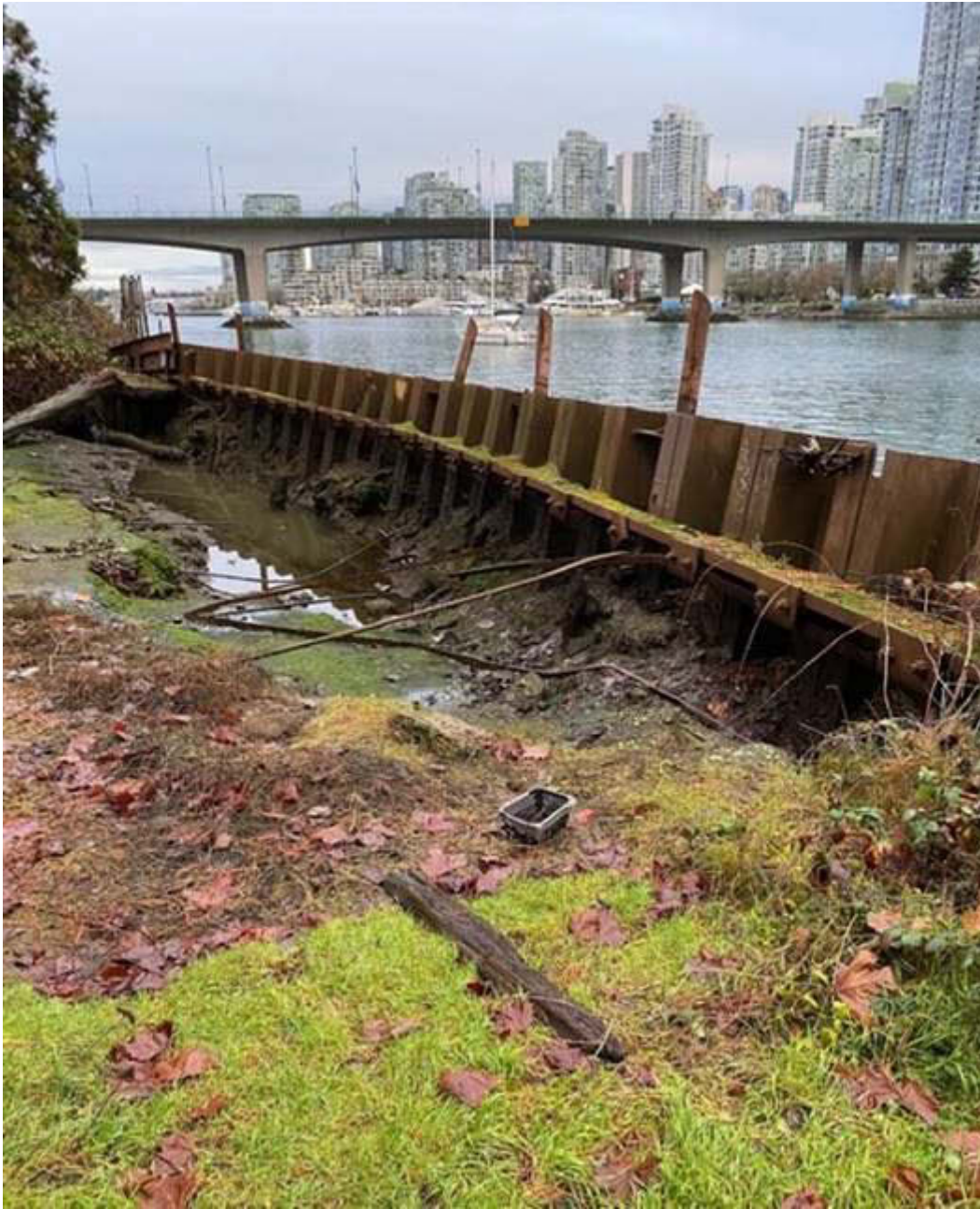


Fig. 3 – Existing condition of the wall

Best,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie** (he/him)  
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