

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"**
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**
Date: 2024-04-05 2:37:30 PM
Subject: Port Checkpoint on Waterfront Road
Attachments: Waterfront Road Westbound 24 Hour Profile.png
Checkpoint Location.png
2024-04-03 Letter - Tenant notification re Waterfront Rd checkpoint_.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

As a result of the traffic management plan (TMP) implemented to support Maple Tree Square construction and the upcoming Water Street Pedestrian Zone pilot, both the City and the Port of Vancouver have observed significant increased traffic volumes along Waterfront Road. The Port is concerned that the increase traffic and associated delays will impact cruise ship operations. As mitigation measures put in place by the City have not been effective to date and with cruise ship season starting in approximately two weeks, the Port has indicated that they will be implementing a checkpoint at the foot of the Main Street overpass to allow only vehicles through which have a need to be in the area. Staff will be continuing to work with the Port on monitoring and responding to this issue. The notice from the Port, a summary of vehicle volumes on Waterfront Road and approximate checkpoint location are attached.

On March 2, 2024 the City implemented a comprehensive traffic management plan (TMP) to facilitate construction in Maple Tree Square and the upcoming Water Street Pedestrian Zone pilot. A major component of this TMP is the closure of Powell Street at Main St to through traffic - all vehicle traffic must divert northbound or southbound. As this was implemented, the Port also set up a changeable message board sign at the top of the Main Street Overpass indicating to drivers that Waterfront Road should be used only by Port Traffic/Local Traffic.

Prior to the TMP implementation the Port of Vancouver expressed concerns regarding the impact of increased traffic on Waterfront Road on cruise ship operations. As a result, staff have been monitoring the impacts to Waterfront Road in collaboration with the Port in order to identify if any interventions were required.

Data collected by the City on Waterfront Road, attached, shows significant traffic increases (30%+) on Waterfront Road in the westbound direction. This is indicative that more drivers are using Waterfront Road as a new route to access Downtown Vancouver. In addition, both the City and Port have observed significant queuing on Waterfront Road.

To attempt to reduce volumes on Waterfront Road, staff implemented changes on Powell Street at Gore intended to reduce vehicular capacity to this area and encourage more vehicles to choose routes to the south. This intervention, however, has not been successful in reducing traffic diverted to Waterfront Road.

With cruise ship season starting in earnest in Vancouver in about two week's time, the Port has indicated to the City that they will be undertaking more aggressive measures to reduce volumes on Waterfront Road by instituting a checkpoint at the intersection of Waterfront Road and Main Street (landing of the overpass). At this checkpoint all commercial vehicles, taxis and rideshares, as well as those accessing Harbour Air, Helijet and CRAB Park, will be permitted pass as well as vehicles with proof of business to be in the area. Vehicles not meeting this criteria will be turned around. More details of this checkpoint can be found in the attached letter from the Port. Port of Vancouver staff will be administering the checkpoint; however, City staff have arranged for VPD officers to be present in the area to help encourage orderly behaviour by the public.

Staff will continue to work with the Port to monitor the how traffic patterns and behaviours respond to the checkpoint and will make adjustments as necessary.

Should you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Lon LaClaire at lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca.

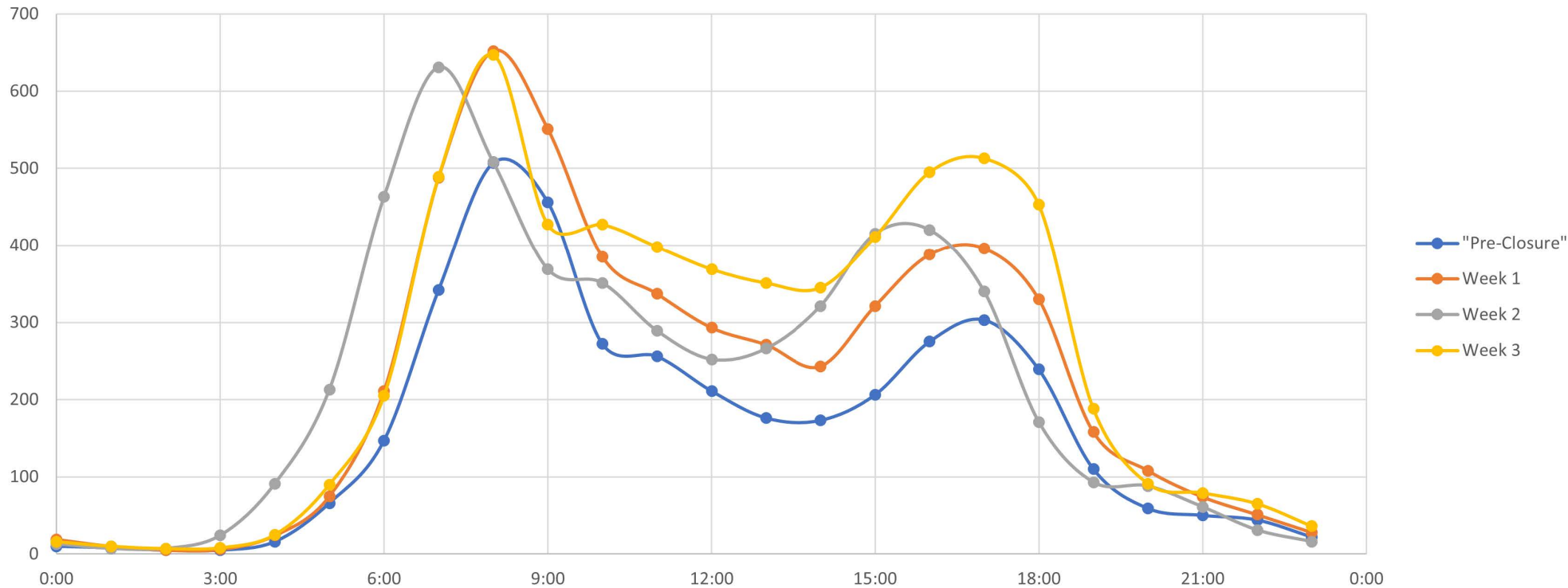
Best,
Paul

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



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷm̓ k̓ y̓ m (Musqueam), Sḡwx̱w̱̓ʷmesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

100 Waterfront Road Westbound Volumes
Daily Average Weekday 24 HR Profile





Approximate
checkpoint
location

Turnaround

Main St

Main St

Main St

Main St

Main St

Main St

Main St

Main St

Lot #1216

Impark Parking

W Waterfront Rd

W Waterfront Rd

Waterfront Rd

KEY Marketing

Wendy Poole Park

The Ironworks

Alibi Room

Cutler

Alexander St

Alexander St

Alexander St

Alexander House

Deacon's Corner

Indigenous Community
Legal Clinic



April 03, 2024

Re: New checkpoint for traffic accessing Waterfront Road via Main Street overpass

In March, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority implemented through-traffic restrictions for drivers using the Main Street overpass and Waterfront Road to access downtown Vancouver. This included the installation of “Port Traffic – Local Access Only” signs to deter motorists.

The restrictions were put in place to ensure cruise operations were not impacted by traffic diversions related to the City of Vancouver’s closure of Maple Tree Square in Gastown for repairs and the Water Street Pedestrian Zone Pilot in Gastown over the summer. The traffic restrictions are expected to remain in place for the duration of the city’s Gastown roadworks and pedestrian pilot, which run until the end of August.

- **More information:** <https://www.portvancouver.com/about-us/information-updates/through-traffic-restrictions-for-main-street-overpass-and-waterfront-road-in-vancouver-to-support-cruise-operations>
- **More information:** <https://vancouver.ca/news-calendar/water-street-pedestrian-zone-summer-2024-Feb-2024>

We've been monitoring traffic since the beginning of March and have found that Waterfront Road has experienced a significant increase in traffic and congestion since the city’s traffic diversions started.

To support ongoing efforts to restrict through-traffic access and relieve congestion, we will be installing a checkpoint at the intersection of the Main Street overpass and Waterfront Road, effective Monday, April 8. Drivers of non-commercial vehicles wishing to access Waterfront Road will need to demonstrate proof of business. Those without it will be turned around.

All commercial vehicles, taxis and rideshares, as well as those accessing Harbour Air, Helijet and CRAB Park, will be permitted access without proof of business.

Proof of business can include the following:

- Employee ID (with address bordering Waterfront Road)
- Business card that matches photo I.D., i.e. a driver’s licence
- Parking decal for a Waterfront Road parking lot
- Exhibitor pass for the west or east convention centres

We appreciate your cooperation during this time. If you have any questions, please contact Vancouver Fraser Port Authority’s land operations centre at 604-665-9086.