

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"**

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

Date: 2024-06-23 9:27:52 PM

Subject: RE: Update: sewer main issue at Main St/Terminal Ave

Hello Mayor and Council,

By way of an update on the above-referenced matter, I can advise as follows:

- The conditions at the site are stable, with ongoing deterioration around the sinkhole identified on Friday. There is minor sewage overland flow coinciding with high tide and peak household use; these flow are being captured locally. There have been no releases to False Creek.
- This issue did not impact weekend events. Dragon Boat Festival wrapped up without interruption.
- I want to recognize our operations teams who have been mobilized around the clock since Friday and the excellent response from the leadership team from Engineering and several other departments who are supporting this effort.
- We continue to receive media inquiries regarding this matter and we have been indicating that our priority is the safety of public. We have indicated that we will share additional information once our assessment is completed.

The team has determined that it will take a few days to develop a plan for repairs. This planning is complicated by the requirement to coordinate and obtain permission from BC Hydro, given immediate proximity to their infrastructure, as well as uncertainty in relation to the ground conditions. Of note, the site is at sea level and the soil is often submerged notably around high tide, which presents challenges with dewatering for repairs.

Over the coming days, we will maintain the closure of the three eastbound lanes on Terminal Ave between Quebec St and Main St. Our crews will also be putting in place additional measures to limit sewage discharges and/or direct any sewage flow safely (e.g. sand bagging, containment booms) in case of a catastrophic failure while we continue to plan for the repairs.

We will provide further updates as the scope, timing and implications of the repair work is determined.

If you have any questions in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me or Lon.

Best,
Paul

From: Mochrie, Paul

Sent: Friday, June 21, 2024 11:32 PM

To: Direct to Mayor and Council - DL

Cc: City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL <CMCG@vancouver.ca>; LaClaire, Lon <lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca>; Zammar, Jimmy <Jimmy.Zammar@vancouver.ca>;

Scollard, Taryn <taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca>

Subject: Update: sewer main issue at Main St/Terminal Ave

Good evening Mayor and Council,

I am writing to provide you with an update regarding an emergent issue involving a City of Vancouver sewer main at Main St & Terminal Ave. In summary:

- Around mid-day today, our crews learned of a sewer main issue in the middle lane eastbound on Terminal Ave, between Quebec St. And Main St.
- City crews mobilized immediately to investigate and learned that a sewer forcemain (i.e. pressuring sewer pipe) leaked at that location. A sinkhole was forming.
- Using vacuum trucks, crews have been pumping any sewage flow that is approaching the street surface.
- Given proximity of a BC Hydro duct, our teams have coordinated with BC Hydro to develop a response plan.
- City teams informed and met with the Dragon Boat Festival team to share all the information available, event scenarios, and to align on approach for the weekend
- As of 11:00pm tonight, the sinkhole has been temporarily backfilled and is being actively monitored.

Out of abundance of caution, and after consultation with a multi-disciplinary technical team, and with Metro Vancouver and other partners, we decided to isolate the space around the incident to allow crews to investigate further, and mitigate the risk to the public, the nearby events, and the City's assets over the weekend. At this time, we do not have a clear picture as to the cause of this issue.

Three eastbound lanes are closed on Terminal Ave. between Quebec St. and Main St., and the area is cordoned off. The westbound lanes on Terminal Ave. will remain open, and cycling facilities on Quebec St. will also remain open.

The team has engaged VEMA and partners as well as a 24/7 monitoring team on site. As well, the team has developed high level response plan that may be deployed should issues arise on site.

In the unlikely scenario that a catastrophic force main leak occurs, there may be water quality impacts to False Creek, and impacts to the public realm surrounding the failure site. Mitigation actions are planned, and an extreme scenario may entail the cancellation of components of the events planned this weekend.

We appreciate you may have questions about this incident as it relates to the Dragon Boat Festival proceeding this weekend, given the proximity of this issue and earlier events. The event currently is proceeding as planned. Be advised that staff are in close communication with the event organizers. We kindly request any inquiries are triaged through the City team to coordinate responses appropriately during this busy weekend for that organization.

Below is an information bulletin that staff will issue tomorrow around 6 am as it relates to localized traffic impacts, along with corresponding social posts. Should you receive media inquiries, we kindly request that you direct them to media@vancouver.ca so we may respond with the latest information.

We will keep you updated through the weekend should there be any material updates, or change in assessment and next steps.

Should you have further questions about this matter, please direct them to Lon or me.

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 x m k y m (Musqueam), S wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and s lilw ta (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
Information bulletin
June 22, 2024

Traffic impacts at Main and Terminal due to localized sewer main issue

Drivers are advised to plan for traffic impacts around Science World during a busy events weekend and due to a sewer main issue identified on Terminal Ave. between Quebec St and Main St.

Three eastbound lanes are closed on Terminal Ave. between Quebec St. and Main St., and the area is cordoned off for further assessment and monitoring to determine required repairs to the sewer main.

The westbound lanes on Terminal Ave. will remain open, and cycling facilities on Quebec St. will also remain open.

The Main Street-Science World SkyTrain station and adjacent sidewalk space remains fully operational and open to the public. Drivers in the area should expect delays and plan travel time accordingly.

Planned weekend events in the area, including the Concord Pacific Dragon Boat Festival, will not be affected by the road closures.

For the latest updates, follow the City's social media channels.

Traffic tips

If you are travelling in and around the area, plan ahead and expect delays.

- Follow all detours and abide by "No Parking" signs in the area.
- Follow #VanTraffic or [use our traffic cameras](#) to check traffic conditions along your commute.
- Visit translink.ca/alerts for changes or disruptions to your bus service.

Media contact:

Civic Engagement and Communications

media@vancouver.ca

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver



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