

From: "[Mochrie, Paul](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "[Direct to Mayor and Council - DL](#)"
Date: 9/10/2024 5:04:23 PM
Subject: Oak St sewer work - traffic impacts

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

I am writing in follow up on the efforts of our team to mitigate the traffic impacts of the Oak St sewer upgrades project on adjacent residents and businesses.

We acknowledge that Phase 3 (the current phase) of the Oak St project has led to traffic impacts to the community and commuters. We also appreciate that member of Council are engaged and supportive of the work while advocating for improvement of the conditions locally. Our team has been closely monitoring the field conditions as well, and working tirelessly to devise the interventions that are most impactful.

Context:

- This area has some of the highest traffic volumes in the City as it's the primary funnel to the Oak Street Bridge which carries about 120k vehicles per day, twice the volume of our busiest arterial street in the City. As such, it is hard to do significant construction work in the area without serious impacts to traffic;
- The project's work is taking place within a context of fatigue for the community due to the stressors associated with ongoing development work along and around Oak St and the Cambie corridor, recent closures following W41st Ave crane collapse, as well as the busyness of the return to school period;
- Recognizing that it is not possible to eliminate the impact to traffic, and in devising a traffic strategy for the project, the team has directed their focus to the following goals:
 - Reducing shortcutting on local streets to minimize impacts on local residents;
 - Prioritizing buses to maximize the number of people travelling through the area; and
 - Minimizing impacts on peak travel times to reduce impacts to commuters.
- Measures currently in place to support traffic flow and residents include:
 - Digital messaging boards on key routes in the area to advise drivers of the work and suggest finding alternative routes
 - Implementing "Local traffic only" signs on residential streets
 - Proactive communications (media and social media) on the project and lane closures, including regular traffic advisories on X/Twitter

Proposed measures to mitigate traffic impacts by end of week:

To address issues we've seen over the last few weeks, we are taking the following additional steps to support traffic flow and residents to be implemented by end of the week:

- Implementing new directional closures at some key egress points along W 70th Ave and Oak St to reduce congestion and minimize shortcutting;
- Increased VPD patrol presence at egress points with turning restrictions to address illegal turns that impede traffic flow, noting that VPD's resources are constrained;
- Installing a bus queue jumper lane for Oak St from Park Drive to support transit flow and reliability;
- Expanding signs to cover more adjacent routes alerting the public of road closures further away from the project area;
- Amplifying our messaging around increased VPD presence to improve compliance by commuters.

We will continue to work closely with partners at YVR, MOTI, the City of Richmond, CMBC, and TransLink with regards to these works and traffic impacts. We will also continue to keep the public informed through traffic advisories on social media and on our website: www.vancouver.ca/oakstupgrades. We have shared these updates with the Marpole BIA as well.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or Jimmy Zammar.

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 x̱m̱ ḵ y̱ m̱ (Musqueam), S̱ wxw̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and s̱ lilw̱ ta̱ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.