## Page 1

From: "Mochrie, Paul" < Paul. Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

Date: 12/13/2024 3:33:38 PM

Subject: Upcoming information bulletin: Plan ahead for traffic delays on East Hastings Street next

week (December 13, 2024)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below info bulletin later today advising residents of upcoming traffic impacts on East Hastings Street starting next week.

Lane reductions are required to ensure safe construction on the Hastings Viaduct while accommodating an important, Indigenous-focused affordable housing development project that will bring nearly 170 new homes and 80 shelter beds to Vancouver's Downtown Eastside community. The viaduct project, which is co-funded by TransLink, began in mid-November and is currently scheduled for completion in January 2025. Meeting these timelines ensure that TransLink funds can be used to cover costs that would otherwise be passed on to Vancouver taxpayers. More information about this work can be found in an update I shared from Lon LaClaire earlier this afternoon.

We recognize public frustration at the number of construction projects underway, particularly into the downtown core. Where there's potential for projects to have overlapping traffic impacts, Engineering works carefully ensures traffic management plans are coordinated so that impacts across the transportation network can be minimized as much as possible.

Below are some key messages to use, should they be helpful to you:

- Lane reductions are required on this section of East Hastings Street to ensure safe construction on the viaduct and accommodate ongoing development work in the area.
- The viaduct work has been undertaken as part of a funding partnership that requires project completion by early 2025, ensuring these costs are not otherwise passed on to Vancouver taxpayers.
- The City is working closely with Coast Mountain Bus Company and TransLink to manage impacts to bus services while work is underway.
- Where there's potential for projects to have overlapping traffic impacts, the City ensures traffic management plans are coordinated so that impacts across the transportation network can be minimized. This includes coordination across City and third-party construction projects.
- We thank everyone for their patience while ongoing critical rehabilitation projects take place around the city.

Please keep this news release embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account.

Maria will reply to this email with the relevant vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live.

Best, Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwəta‡ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver Information bulletin December 13, 2024

## Plan ahead for traffic delays on East Hastings Street next week

The City is advising the public to prepare for traffic delays on East Hastings Street in the Strathcona and Downtown Eastside areas starting Monday, December 16. Drivers are encouraged to plan ahead, expect delays, and use alternate routes where possible.

Traffic impacts are anticipated while the City's contractor continues rehabilitation work on the Hastings Viaduct, a six-lane structure that crosses over the CN rail line located between Glen Drive and Campbell Avenue. Lane reductions are required to ensure safe construction on the Hastings Viaduct while accommodating an adjacent affordable housing development project that is midstream.

The next phase of this viaduct work, which began in November 2024, is planned for two seven-day periods in mid-December and early January, weather permitting. Crews will work extended hours during this time to minimize traffic disruption. This work has been undertaken as part of a funding partnership that requires project completion by early 2025, ensuring these costs are not otherwise passed on to Vancouver taxpayers.

The following temporary traffic changes will be implemented:

- **December 16 to 22, 2024:** Traffic lanes will be reduced to two eastbound lanes and one westbound lane on East Hastings Street.
- January 6 to 12, 2025: Traffic lanes will be reduced to two eastbound lanes and one westbound lane on East Hastings Street.

The City is working closely with Coast Mountain Bus Company and TransLink to manage impacts to bus services while work is underway. Drivers will be notified of key traffic changes via on-site electronic signage and traffic advisories on the City's X account as work progresses.

We thank everyone for their patience while ongoing critical rehabilitation projects take place around the city.

## **Traffic Tips**

- Plan ahead and expect delays.
- Open your map app, follow #VanTraffic or use <u>traffic cameras</u> to check traffic conditions along your route.
- Follow all traffic signage and abide by "No Parking" signs.
- Learn more about <u>road closures</u> across the city.
- Visit <u>translink.ca/alerts</u> for changes or disruptions to your bus service.

-30-

## Media contact:

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