

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 1/16/2025 3:20:04 PM

Subject: Council Prep Package: 900 W Waterfront Road Emergent Issue (ENG)

Dear Mayor & Council,

Staff have identified that the current closure of a section of W Waterfront Road is emergent in the media and gaining significant interest across outlets. In response, staff have prepared a brief package with key messages, key facts and relevant Q&As that may be helpful to you in media interviews or conversations with stakeholders and constituents.

Issue in brief

On Tuesday, January 14 at approximately 8 pm, a section of Waterfront Road adjacent to the Pan Pacific Hotel receiving area and the Canada Place service road exit (located approximately at 900 West Waterfront Road) was closed to through traffic for emergency assessment and repairs. This closure is in place following a recent inspection where deterioration of this section of the roadway was observed. The City and its consultant will be carrying out a full assessment of the roadway to determine the cause and next steps for repair. More information on the cause and anticipated timelines for traffic impacts will be available once a full assessment of the structure has been completed.

City staff are providing updates to stakeholders in the area including the Port of Vancouver, who have shared that at this time, they don't expect any impact to Port operations from the emergency road closure.

Communications approach in brief

At this time our focus has been advising the public of traffic impacts through traffic advisory social media posts. We have also been responding to media inquiries reactively.

Key messages

- A section of Waterfront Road adjacent to the Pan Pacific Hotel receiving area and the Canada Place service road exit (located approximately at 900 West Waterfront Road) has been closed to through traffic for emergency assessment and repairs.
- This closure is in place following a recent inspection where deterioration of this section of the roadway was observed. The City and its consultant will be carrying out a full assessment of the roadway to determine the cause and next steps for repair.
- In the meantime, the City is advising non-local traffic to avoid the area if possible.

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- For access to the Seabus parking lot, drivers can use the Main St. ramp or E. Waterfront Rd. For access to the Canada Place parkade, drivers can use the Cordova ramp.

Key facts

One media outlet has asked if this issue is related to renovation work being done by the Port Authority. In response, we have shared that more information on the cause and anticipated timelines for traffic impacts will be available once a full assessment of the structure has been completed.

We have also been asked if this is a sinkhole. We have noted that in the past years, small sink holes have presented themselves along Waterfront road; however that is not believed to be the root cause of this particular closure.

Generally, the City is not in a position to comment further on speculation around the cause or nature of the issue until more detailed assessment is complete by our consultants.

Questions & Answers

Did Port Authority staff notified structural engineers with the City of this issue?

This closure is in place following a recent inspection where deterioration of this section of the roadway was observed. Concerns had also been shared with us by Port Authority staff. The City and its consultant will be carrying out a full assessment of the roadway to determine the cause and next steps for repair.

What are the structural and environmental concerns?

A portion of the Waterfront Road below Canada Place Street, including the section currently closed, is supported by a small aging concrete structure. This structure dates back to when the area was serving CP Rail. As these lands were redeveloped, the remnant structure was buried and a road was constructed over it.

Is this a sinkhole?

In the past years, small sink holes have presented themselves along Waterfront road; however that is not believed to be the root cause of this particular closure. The City is not in a position to comment further until more detailed assessment is complete by our consultants.

What is the cause and is there an estimation on how long the road closure will be in place?

More information on the cause and anticipated timelines for traffic impacts will be available once a full assessment of the structure has been completed. In the meantime, the City is advising non-local traffic to avoid the area if possible.

Related links

Link to our latest [traffic advisory post](#) on X.

Given this is an evolving issue, we will provide a follow-up note if context or messaging requires updates. If you have any questions about the foregoing, please reach out to Maria at maria.pontikis@vancouver.ca. You are welcome to direct any media inquiries to media@vancouver.ca.

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 x̱m̱əθḵʷəy̱əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

