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

Date: 2/27/2025 5:02:00 PM

Subject: Emerging Issue Note: Terminal Avenue Sewer Main Repairs traffic impacts (ENG)

Dear Mayor & Council,

In response to media inquiries received by both the City media line and Councillors, staff have identified that there is renewed media interest in Terminal Avenue Sewer Main Repairs following months of lane closures and traffic impacts in the area. 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

In late-June 2024, a sewer main leak happened on Terminal Ave between Quebec and Main streets. Crews responded to the leak immediately, followed by investigation and repair work.

The response and repair work required a closure of the eastbound lanes on Terminal Avenue from Main Street to Quebec Street for an extended period of time. Additional lane closures were also required on Main Street to support the work. These closures impacted traffic for many months on a key arterial route.

The extended closure of Terminal Avenue eastbound was required following a geotechnical assessment that indicated there may be soil stability issues caused by the leaking pipe. Those issues have now been resolved and the geotechnical engineer has confirmed that in mid-February some lanes could safely reopen. One eastbound lane on the 100 block of Terminal Avenue reopened on February 14. Staff expect all eastbound lanes on Terminal Avenue to reopen next week.

We will need to return to this location at a later stage to do the final phase of repairs. The by-pass will continue to remain in place to support that work but pedestrian access on Terminal will be reinstated in tandem with the full reopening of Terminal Avenue.

We are exploring construction options for the next phase that will minimize impacts in the area as much as possible.

Communications approach in brief

Through the repair and investigation stage of this work, 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.

Early next week, to align with the reopening of Terminal Avenue and completion of this phase of work, the City will be issuing a news release to provide media and the public with an update on the work.

Key messages

- In late June 2024, a sewer main leak happened on Terminal Ave between Quebec and Main streets.
- Crews responded to the leak immediately, followed by investigation and repair work.
- First, crews excavated around the leak locations to assess the damaged pipe, determine the extent of repairs needed, and then began work to repair the pipe.
- Then, an above-ground sewer bypass system was installed along Terminal Avenue between Station Street and Quebec Street to facilitate repairs. The bypass system allows sewage to flow around a section of the pipe that requires assessment and repairs.
- Terminal Avenue remained closed to traffic for several months while we conducted further investigation and completed interim repair work.
- The extended closure of Terminal Avenue eastbound was required following a geotechnical assessment that indicated there may be soil stability issues caused by the leaking pipe. Those issues have now been resolved and the geotechnical engineer has confirmed in mid-February that some lanes could safely reopen.
- One eastbound lane on the 100 block of Terminal Avenue reopened on February 14 and we expect to reopen all eastbound lanes on Terminal Avenue next week.
- We will need to return to this location at a later stage to do the final phase of repairs. The by-pass will continue to remain in place to support that work.
- We are exploring construction options for the next phase that will minimize impacts in the area as much as possible.
- We thank the public for their patience while this work is underway.

Related media stories

Please note, Lon LaClaire was interviewed by Global on this subject this afternoon. As such, we will provide a link to this coverage and 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

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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.