

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

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council"

Date: 2/28/2025 4:37:52 PM

Subject: Upcoming information bulletin: Terminal Avenue open following sewer repairs (February 28, 2025)

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Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below information bulletin this afternoon, February 28, 2025, regarding the re-opening of Terminal Avenue following sewer main repairs. Please keep this news embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account later this afternoon.

This information bulletin follows yesterday's emerging issues note on the same subject. In that note, included below for reference, it was mentioned that Lon LaClaire had been interviewed by Global News. Today, he also was interviewed by CBC News. Here is a link to the Global story which was published last night - <https://globalnews.ca/news/11052557/vancouver-broken-sewer-main-update/>

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

Best,

Paul

City of Vancouver  
Information bulletin  
February 28, 2025

## Terminal Avenue now fully open following sewer main repairs

Traffic flow and pedestrian access has now been fully restored along the 100 block of Terminal Avenue following an extended closure for sewer main repairs.

In late June 2024, a sewer main leak was detected on Terminal Avenue between Quebec Street and Main Street. Crews responded immediately to the leak, investigated the issue, and performed interim

repairs. This included installing an above-ground sewer bypass system to direct sewage to flow around the damaged section of pipe allowing crews to work on it.

The planning for the repairs was complex as the location of the leak is close to 3<sup>rd</sup> party infrastructure and is impacted by tidal conditions. The extended closure of Terminal Avenue eastbound was required to investigate the potential causes of the failure and to assess and address any soil stability issues caused by the leaking pipe. Those issues have now been resolved, and geotechnical engineers have confirmed that all eastbound lanes can reopen.

Early investigation results revealed that corrosion to the 26-year-old pipe likely caused the sewage leak. Sewer infrastructure is designed to have a life expectancy of 100 years so the failure was unexpected. Investigations to determine the cause of the corrosion are ongoing and results will help guide the design of permanent repairs.

The City appreciates residents, businesses and commuters for their patience and cooperation during this critical repair work.

#### Next steps

The next phase of the work on Terminal Avenue, expected to begin later this year, will focus on a permanent repair of the damaged sections of pipe. The bypass sewer system will remain in place and operational to support that work until the permanent repairs are complete.

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Media contact:  
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From: Mochrie, Paul <[Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)>  
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 4:02 PM  
To: Direct to Mayor and Council  
Cc: City Manager's Correspondence Group -  
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](mailto:maria.pontikis@vancouver.ca). You are welcome to direct any media inquiries to [media@vancouver.ca](mailto:media@vancouver.ca).

Best,

Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

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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.