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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council"

Date: 2/5/2025 6:15:20 PM

Subject: Emerging Issue Note: Expo Deck closure/detours (Feb. 5, 2025)

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Good evening Mayor and Council,

Following the memo and information bulletin you received on Feb. 4 related to the Expo Deck closure, staff have prepared a brief package with key messages and facts that may be helpful to you in conversations with stakeholders and constituents. As this is an evolving issue with new information that will develop over the next few weeks, we encourage you to direct media inquiries to [media@vancouver.ca](mailto:media@vancouver.ca).

Issue in brief:

- The Expo Deck will be closed between Creekside Community Centre and Science World until further notice. The closure will be in place while the City assesses the condition of the aging structure that supports this segment of the seawall pathway.
- A temporary detour of the Seawall and Seaside Greenway pathways will be in place south of Science World. Vancouver Seawall and Seaside Greenway Path users will temporarily be rerouted via Ontario, Switchmen and Quebec Streets.
- Pedestrians will detour along existing sidewalks.
- Cyclists will detour along the existing bike lane on Ontario Street, the pedestrian path to Switchmen Street, and in the curbside southbound lane on Quebec. Cyclists will be asked to dismount or slow their roll on the pedestrian path between Ontario and Switchmen streets.



Communications approach:

An [information bulletin](#) went out yesterday and Lon LaClaire, GM Engineering, conducted onsite interviews this morning with Global, CBC, CTV, City News and CKNW Jill Bennet show. This

information has also been shared across our social media channels.

#### Key messages:

- The detours will remain until further notice while the City assesses the structure to determine next steps for these portions of closed deck. The City is exploring alternative detour options closer to the existing paths.
- The City thanks the public for their patience during this closure and for their co-operation in using the detour paths. We ask that the public stays out of the fenced areas as this has been put in place for your safety.
- Beyond being a pathway for commuters, the Expo deck is also a key community space that supports events in Vancouver. As we learn more, staff will be working closely with various stakeholders and partners that use this space to minimize impacts to future events and ensure the best outcomes for everyone.
- Access to Science World is maintained and while the temporary detour is in place an attendant will be onsite temporarily (7am to 7pm daily) to ensure safe exit and entry from the Science World parking lot. Access to the dinghy dock south of Science World has been closed.

#### Key facts:

*Myth: If the deck is not safe, Science World must be unsafe.*

Fact: With the localized closure of the deck in place, the deck does not pose any safety risks. The Science World building itself is built on a separate structure from the deck, which is maintained by the Province. It's best to reach out to them for info.

*Myth: This is a permanent detour and the deck will be closed until 2032.*

Fact: The current detour is a temporary emergency detour put in place out of an abundance of caution while the City continues to assess the condition of the aging Expo Deck structure that supports this segment of the seawall pathway. We acknowledge that this is a popular pathway and over the next couple of weeks we will be working to come up with an improved detour option. The City is in early stages of long-term plans, so we are not able to share anything definitive at this time.

*Myth: The City has known about deconstruction for a long time; why can't the City come up with a better detour?*

Fact: This is a temporary emergency detour. The City initially projected that closures of the deck would be required starting in 2028 to facilitate the deconstruction of the deck. However, based on new information received in January 2025 and upon further review of the deck structure, the City's consultants recommended closure of the deck until further assessments are complete and out of an abundance of caution. We know this detour is not ideal and we are exploring alternative detour options that will be closer to the existing paths. We are hoping to have more information on this within a few weeks. We thank everyone for using these detours during this time.

*Myth: The City is not repairing the deck due to cost.*

Fact: This area of the seawall is important to the City and all residents. Over the years, repairs have been completed to the structures to ensure the deck remains safe for public use. However, as the

structures were intended to be temporary, and designed and constructed as such, there are limitations to the type of repairs that can extend their service life. The City is working with consultants to determine feasible next steps for the decks following testing and further assessment.

Related links:

- [Dragon Boat Festival Information Bulletin](#)
- [Vancouver Sun](#)
- [Global News](#)
- [Daily Hive](#)
- [CTV](#)

If you have any questions about the foregoing, please reach out to Maria at [maria.pontikis@vancouver.ca](mailto:maria.pontikis@vancouver.ca). As we learn more about the condition of the Expo deck and next steps, we will keep you apprised.

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Best,  
Paul \u8239

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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.