

From: ["Levitt, Karen" <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>](mailto:karen.levitt@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council"](#)
Date: 3/28/2025 5:03:21 PM
Subject: Emerging Issue Note: Expo Deck closure and detour (ENG)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Staff have identified that there is renewed media interest in the Expo Deck closure and related detour path following recent media coverage and requests received through City's media@vancouver.ca email and directly by Councillors.

This morning CBC posted an [article](#) on the Expo Deck closure which questioned the lack of a commitment to alternative options to the cycling detour on Quebec Street. Staff have been working closely with our structural consultants since the emergency closure of the Expo Deck to determine next steps for the aging structure. We expect to provide a public update on an improved detour route and timing next week.

Later in the day, staff were made aware of a scooter accident near the detour and the entrance of the Science World parking lot. In response to the accident, an additional traffic control person will be located at the exit of the parking lot during Science World's operating hours to help direct traffic across the detour on Quebec Street.

Staff have updated the key messages and facts that were provided previously that may be helpful to you in conversations with stakeholders and constituents. As this is an evolving issue, we encourage you to direct media inquiries to media@vancouver.ca.
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Issue in brief:\u8239

- The Expo Deck has been closed between Creekside Community Centre and Science World until further notice. The closure has been in place while the City assesses the condition of the aging structure that supports this segment of the seawall pathway.\u8239 \u8239
- A temporary detour of the Seawall and Seaside Greenway pathways was implemented south of Science World. Vancouver Seawall and Seaside

- Greenway Path users have been temporarily rerouted via Ontario, Switchmen and Quebec Streets.
- Pedestrians are currently detoured along existing sidewalks.
- Cyclists are currently detoured along the existing bike lane on Ontario Street, the pedestrian path to Switchmen Street, and in the curbside southbound lane on Quebec. Cyclists are asked to dismount or slow their roll on the pedestrian path between Ontario and Switchmen streets.
- This interim detour route was selected as it was outside of the deck area of concern, located on City property, and could be implemented efficiently in response to the emergency closure.
- We know the interim detour is not ideal and we hope to provide a public update on an improved detour path later next week.



Communications approach:

When the emergency closure was implemented in February, an [information bulletin](#) was issued to media which included a media availability for questions, information was shared across our social channels, detour and informational signage was posted on-site. Since then, staff have responded to media inquiries and Lon LaClaire, GM Engineering, has been doing interviews with media.

Next week, we expect to be providing an update to the public and media on an improved detour path.

Key messages:

- Work to advance an improved detour path that is closer to the original path is well underway. We expect to share an update with the public next week.
- We thank everyone for using these detours during this time.\u8239
- The detours will remain until further notice while the City assesses the structure to determine next steps for these portions of\u8239 closed deck.\u8239
- The City thanks the public for their patience during this closure and for their co-operation in using the detour paths.\u8239 We ask that the public stays out of the fenced areas as this has been put in place for your safety.\u8239 \u8239
- 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 have been working closely with\u8239 various stakeholders and partners that use this space to minimize impacts to future events and ensure the best outcomes for everyone.\u8239 \u8239 \u8239 \u8239
- Access to Science World is maintained and while the temporary detour is in place an attendant is onsite to manage access to and from the Science World parking lot. Access to the dinghy dock south of Science World has been closed.\u8239 \u8239

Key facts:

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Myth: If the deck is not safe, Science World must be unsafe. \u8239

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. \u8239

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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.

Myth: *The City has known about deconstruction for a long time; why can't the City come up with a better detour?*\u8239

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 expect to be sharing an update on an improved detour path next week. We thank everyone for using these detours during this time.\u8239

Myth: *The City is not repairing the deck due to cost.*\u8239

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. \u8239

Related links:

- [Information bulletin: Expo Deck south of Science World to close indefinitely](#) (February 4, 2025)
- [CBC coverage on detour concerns](#) (March 28, 2025)

If you have any questions about the foregoing, please reach out to Angela at angela.mackenzie@vancouver.ca. We will provide another update later next week to align with communication activities related to the improved detour path.

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Thanks,

Karen

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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 wx\u817 _wú7mesh/Squamish and s lilw ta /Tsleil-Waututh nations

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