

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

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

Date: 4/25/2025 4:41:06 PM

Subject: Memo - 2025 Gastown Pilot - Update

Attachments: Memo - 2025 Gastown Pilot - Update.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Taryn Scollard. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- This memo provides updates on implementation timelines of 2025 Gastown Pilot and its key components.
- Implementation of temporary two-way Cordova St and Powell St traffic changes will begin in early May, with partial road closures and parking removals for two to three weeks.
- Implementation of Water Street public space enhancements will begin in late May and are anticipated to be completed by June 6th. Pedestrian Zone Sundays will launch on Sunday June 15th.
- Notification letters for upcoming traffic changes in Gastown are being sent to residents and businesses in the area.
- Staff will monitor the traffic changes and public realm enhancements during the 2025 Gastown Pilot, to help inform future investments through the Gastown Public Space Plan.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Taryn Scollard at 604-873-7789 or taryn.scollard@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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

April 25, 2025

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Taryn Scollard
Deputy General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: 2025 Gastown Pilot - Update

RTS #: 16464

This memo provides an update on the status of the 2025 Gastown Pilot, including details on the implementation of two-way Cordova St and supporting changes on Powell St, preparations for the Water St public realm enhancements, and Pedestrian Zone Sundays. Additional background can be found in the February 25, 2025 Council report, ["Report Back: Gastown Water Street Pedestrian Zone Pilot Update"](#).

Implementation of Two-Way Cordova St and Powell St Changes

In early May, crews will begin the pilot conversion of Cordova St between Richards St and Gore Ave to two-way traffic and the reconfiguration of lanes on Powell St. This work includes changes to traffic signals, modification of lane markings and signage, and installation of barriers. It is anticipated to take two to three weeks (weather dependent).

Staff have developed work sequencing and traffic management plans to mitigate the impacts of construction as much as possible. However, some intermittent road closures are required in early May, followed by the closure of the north side of Cordova St between May 12 and May 24, including the temporary removal of parking and loading. Near the end of this time period, the right turn from Water St to Cordova St will be prohibited. Staff will monitor the work closely and remain in close contact with area businesses to manage impacts.

Preparations for Water St Public Realm Enhancements

Public realm enhancements on Water St this summer include public seating, extended patios, plantings, placemaking nodes, and programming focused at key locations that can be enjoyed both during the week when there are vehicles on Water St and on car-free Pedestrian Zone Sundays. Additionally, an eastbound on-street bicycle lane will be introduced from Richards St to Alexander St.

To prepare for these changes, in early May, Alexander St west of Columbia St will become two-way and will no longer be accessible by motor vehicles from Maple Tree Square. In late May, crews will begin painting road markings and installing traffic barriers, furniture, and planters. Some extended patios and business uses may be installed in April in advance of these works, while others will be installed after traffic safety barriers are in place. Implementation of the Water St public realm improvements is anticipated to be complete by Friday, June 6, 2025.

Pedestrian Zone Sundays

The Water Street Pedestrian Zone Sundays will operate from Richards St to Columbia St between 10 am and 6 pm from June through the September long weekend. Staff are collaborating closely with Gastown Business Improvement Society (GBIS) to plan the Pedestrian Zones, with the first Pedestrian Zone Sunday scheduled for **Sunday, June 15, 2025**. Staff are also working with the local Nations, community organizations, event organizers and local businesses to create a welcoming and inviting experience on Water St this summer, both throughout the week and on Pedestrian Zone Sundays. Information on the traffic management plan for the Pedestrian Zone Sundays will be circulated to the neighbourhood in advance.

Engagement and Monitoring

Staff have worked closely with the GBIS and design consultant, Hapa Collaborative, to prepare for the Gastown summer 2025 pilot. Staff have also conducted outreach to residents and businesses to communicate the changes in Gastown for this summer, including in-person pop-ups at the Woodward's Atrium, meetings with local businesses and other stakeholders, and a notification letter about the conversion of two-way Cordova St and upcoming traffic changes (see Appendix A: Letter to Residents and Businesses).

Staff will be monitoring the transportation changes, listening to business and resident feedback and will make modifications where necessary. Staff will also be monitoring public life on Water Street during the week and on Pedestrian Zone Sundays. Learnings from this summer's pilot will inform the Gastown Public Spaces Plan, which will guide future investments in the area.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions.



Taryn Scollard, P.Eng., MBA
Deputy General Manager, Engineering Services

604.873.7789 | taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca

Appendix A Gastown Pilot 2025 – Letter to Residents and Businesses



ENGINEERING SERVICES Public Space & Street Use

IMPORTANT INFORMATION Please have this translated

معلومات مهمة: البحث على الترجمة
重要资讯: 请找人為你翻譯
重要資訊: 請找人為你翻譯
اطلاعات مهم: لطفا درخواست کنید
که این اطلاعات را برای شما ترجمه کنند

RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS Prière de les faire traduire

重要な情報: これを翻訳してください
중요정보: 번역해주세요
INFORMAÇÃO IMPORTANTE
Favor solicitar tradução

ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਵਾਓ

INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE
Busque a alguien que le traduzca
MAHALAGANG IMPORMASYON
Mangyaring isalin ito
TIN TỨC QUAN TRỌNG
Xin hãy dịch sang tiếng Việt

April 28, 2025

Dear Resident and/or Business Owner,

RE: Preparations begin for two-way Cordova Street and Sunday Water Street Pedestrian Zone Pilot for summer 2025

This summer, three changes are coming to your area: Cordova Street will become two-way; Water Street public realm enhancements will be installed; and Water Street will become a Pedestrian Zone on Sundays. This letter outlines what you can expect to see in the coming weeks as we prepare for the summer. Thank you in advance for your patience as we undertake this work.

Cordova Street will be converted to a two-way street between Gore Avenue and Richards Street. Additionally, traffic lanes on Powell Street between Gore Street and Columbia Street will be modified to encourage through-traffic to divert to Cordova Street. These temporary changes aim to improve access for residents, service providers and visitors, and will support public realm enhancements on Water Street and Water Street Pedestrian Zone Sundays.

Public realm enhancements on Water Street this summer include public seating, extended patios, plantings, placemaking nodes, and programming focused at key locations that can be enjoyed during the week and on car-free Pedestrian Zone Sundays. Additionally, an eastbound on-street bicycle lane will be introduced from Richards Street to Alexander Street.

The Water Street Pedestrian Zone Sundays will be car-free, with events and community programming. It will operate from Richards Street to Columbia Street on Sundays (10am–6pm) from June through September long weekend, with the first occurring on **Sunday, June 15**. More details on the traffic management plan for the Pedestrian Zone Sundays will be shared next month.

A map showing the changes planned for this summer's pilot has been attached to this letter. Learnings from this summer will inform the Gastown Public Spaces Plan, which will guide future investments in the area.

City of Vancouver, Engineering Services
320-507 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Z 0B4 Canada
vancouver.ca



Upcoming Changes to Cordova Street and Powell Street

In early May, crews will begin construction on the conversion of Cordova Street to two-way traffic and the reconfiguration of lanes on Powell Street. This work includes changes to traffic signals, updating lane markings and signage, and the placement of barriers. It is anticipated to take two to three weeks.

During this time, you can expect the following:

- **Impacted area:** Cordova Street from Richards Street to Gore Avenue and Powell Street from Gore Avenue to Columbia Street
- **Work hours:** Work will generally take place Monday to Friday, 7am to 5pm. Some extended work hours may be needed overnight or on weekends.
- **Noise, dust and vibration:** Some noise and dust can be expected while the work is underway.
- **Property access:** Pedestrian access to residences and businesses will be maintained at all times.
- **Parking and loading:** Watch for No Parking signs throughout the area as work progresses.
 - In particular, parking along the north side of Cordova Street from Richards Street to Gore Avenue will be temporarily removed from **May 12 to May 24**.
 - Access to all driveways and public parkades will be retained.
 - Additional temporary loading zones will be in place at Cambie Street, Abbott Street, Columbia Street and Main Street.
 - There will be no parking or loading on the south side of Cordova Street during rush hour (weekdays 3-7pm) in order to create a second eastbound travel lane.
- **Transit:**
 - Shortly after Cordova Street reopens as a two-way street, Route 50 will move from Water Street to Cordova Street, with bus stops located west of Columbia Street and west of Abbott Street. There will be no impacts to schedule or service hours.
 - Visit [TransLink.ca/alerts](https://translink.ca/alerts) for changes or updates to your bus service.
- **Traffic:**
 - **Early May:** Intermittent closures for survey and removal of line markings.
 - **May 12 to May 24:**
 - Closure of two lanes on the north side of Cordova Street
 - One eastbound traffic lane will be retained along Cordova Street, during rush hour (weekdays 3-7pm), the south side curb lane of Cordova Street will become a second eastbound vehicle travel lane
 - Intermittent closures on Powell Street
 - Near the end of this time period, the right turn from Water Street to Cordova Street will be prohibited

Once construction is completed in late May, Cordova Street will re-open as a two-way street for the summer. During this time, the City will be monitoring the performance of the street.

Preparing Water Street for Summer 2025

In May, crews will be preparing for public space enhancements on Water Street and the Water Street Pedestrian Zone. This work will also include the introduction of an eastbound on-street bicycle lane from Richards Street to Alexander Street.

During this time, you can expect the following:

- **Early May:** Alexander Street west of Columbia Street will become two-way and will no longer be accessible by motor vehicles from Maple Tree Square.
- **Late May:** Line painting and installation of barriers, furniture, and planters along Water Street will take place. Drivers can expect intermittent closures along Powell Street and Water Street from Columbia to Richards Street. While there may be momentary disruptions, access to residences and businesses will be maintained at all times.

The implementation of public space enhancements along Water Street is anticipated to be completed by **June 6**.

We look forward to welcoming visitors to the Gastown neighbourhood this summer!

Questions?

Have a question? Get in touch at gastownpublicspaces@vancouver.ca.

If you need language interpretation services, please call 3-1-1.

Sincerely,







Lisa Parker, BCSLA
Director of Public Space & Street Use, Engineering Services





2025 Gastown Pilot | June to September 2025

Traffic Circulation

-  Lane reductions - adding left turn lanes
-  Turn restrictions
-  Water Street Pedestrian Zone - every Sunday
-  Two-way traffic on Cordova St
-  Route #50 bus detoured to Cordova St from Water St
-  Eastbound on-street bicycle lane

**Throughout the summer, staff will monitor these changes and make adjustments as needed.*