

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

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

Date: 4/7/2025 4:27:17 PM

Subject: Memo to Mayor & Council - Expo Deck Closure - Improved Detour - April 7, 2025

Attachments: ENG - Memo to Mayor and Council - Expo Deck Closure - Improved Detour - Final - April 7 2025.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- Following the closure of a section of the Expo Deck on February 4, the City's structural consultant has undertaken further structural investigation of the deck. Based on their findings, portions of the deck are recommended to remain closed permanently. Limited portions of the deck can be reopened for public access, but with reduced allowable weight.
- City staff are proceeding with construction of an improved reroute of the Seaside Greenway through the section of deck that can be reopened. The weight restrictions limit the construction equipment that can be used on the deck. As such, sections of the new path cannot be paved and will be constructed with finely compacted granular material.
- Construction will begin later this week and is anticipated to be completed by late May. The existing on-street detour will remain in place until construction is completed and the new path is opened.
- Staff will provide an update to Council Committees on this work.
- An information bulletin announcing construction of the new path will be shared with media and the public on the morning of Wednesday, April 9. Lon LaClaire, GM, Engineering, will be available for media that afternoon. Communications will provide updated key messages along with the information bulletin.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lon directly at lon.laclaire@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 xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

April 7, 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
Steve Jackson, General Manager, Parks and Recreation

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Expo Deck Closure and Reroute of the Seaside Greenway

RTS #: N/A

Purpose

This memo provides an update on the closure of the Expo Deck and Seaside Greenway pathway between Creekside Community Centre and Science World. This section of the Expo Deck has been closed since February 4, 2025, while the City has undertaken further assessment of the aging structure that supports this segment of the seawall pathway.

Background

The Expo deck structures were built in 1984 as temporary structures for the 1986 World Expo. The deck structures comprise of concrete slabs founded on timber piles. City conducts regular inspections of the 40+ year old deck structures. Over the years, repairs have also been completed to the structures to ensure public safety. 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.

In recent years, the City's consultants have recommended that these structures be deconstructed due to potential public safety risks and growing cost of maintenance. Deconstruction of marine structures located in a highly urban environment can be complex and requires thoughtful planning and coordination.

Prior to emergency deck closures, the on-site work for the deconstruction was anticipated to commence in 2028, after City's consultants conducted all necessary planning and design work.

Emergency Deck Closure on February 4th, 2025

Independent of the deconstruction planning work, the City implemented an emergency closure of two sections of the deck in response to the findings of a recent structural inspection. The major closure, effective February 4, 2025, was implemented out of an abundance of caution to allow the City to undertake further assessment of the structure and determine whether portions of the deck could be safely reopened to the public.

In coordination with the closure, a temporary detour of the Seaside Greenway was put in place south of Science World routing pedestrians and cyclists safely around the closure. Pedestrians are currently directed to existing pathway and sidewalk facilities along Quebec and Switchmen St. One lane of Quebec St. is closed to vehicle traffic between Switchmen St and Terminal Ave to accommodate a bidirectional cycling detour. Access to Science World, and the Seawall and Seaside Greenway pathways north of Science World have been retained. The deck closure also necessitated closure of the water access to and from a public dingy dock south of Science World.

Structural Assessment and Improved Path Planning

The City's structural consultant has undertaken further structural investigation of the deck. To summarize their findings:

- Portions of the deck are recommended to remain closed permanently, as shown in Appendix A. This permanent closure impacts sections of the existing Seaside Greenway pedestrian and cycling paths.
- Limited portions of the deck can be reopened for public access, but with reduced allowable weight. These weight restrictions pose no public safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists. However, the weight limits place significant restrictions on construction equipment access, which constrains the constructability of an improved detour route for the Seaside Greenway.

City staff have explored various options to implement improved pedestrian and cyclist detours through the area, while respecting the weight limitations of the structure. Staff are now proceeding with construction of a wide, comfortable and separated path that works with the required permanent deck closure, brings Seawall users closer to the water and eliminates the need for an on-street detour. Some sections of the new detour will not be paved with asphalt but will be constructed with compacted granular material like the seawall path at Vanier Park, because of restrictions on the type of construction equipment that can access the site.

The improved detour route is illustrated in Appendix A and will generally consist of separated pedestrian and cycling compacted granular paths that connect to the existing Seaside Greenway paths at Ontario St and north of Science World. In order to construct this path within the sections of deck suitable to be reopened, some additional work is required including modifications to City-owned Easy Park Lot 195 and the removal of some conflicting trees and light poles. The impacted trees are all on top of the deck structure and would not have been able to be retained through deck deconstruction.

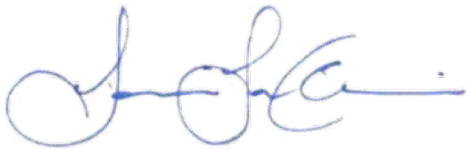
Next Steps

Early works, including survey and tree removals have begun to support the construction of the improved path around the smaller area of the deck that will remain closed to the public. Full construction mobilization is anticipated for later this week.

The current closure and temporary detour will remain in place until construction of the new path is complete. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by late May.

The City has been working closely with event organizers and impacted parties who use the Expo Decks, such as the Dragon Boat Festival and the Vancouver Farmers Market. Alternative plans are being discussed to facilitate events.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.



Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering Services

604.873.7336 | lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca

Appendix A – Map of Permanent Closure Area and Improved Detour Route

