

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>  
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council"  
Date: 5/5/2025 4:29:03 PM  
Subject: Bill 15 - Infrastructure Projects Act

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Dear Mayor and Council,

On May 1, 2025, the Government of BC introduced the [Infrastructure Projects Act](#) to deliver key infrastructure projects that provide schools, hospitals and other core services, as well as provincially significant projects delivered by the private sector that drive economic growth.

The Act is primarily intended to authorize the new Ministry of Infrastructure ("MOI") to take control of designated infrastructure projects from other provincial ministries (namely hospitals, schools, and post-secondary; "category 1 projects"), pull them into the jurisdiction of the centralized MOI, and then give MOI the power to override other ministries and push ("streamline") these provincial projects through the necessary approvals processes. This Act substantially incorporates and will replace the old [Significant Projects Streamlining Act](#), which was brought in in 2003 to facilitate the construction of the Canada Line.

City of Vancouver Staff Assessment:

The apparent goal of the introduced Act is to deliver more provincial infrastructure projects, faster.

There is some potential impact to COV:

1. In addition to designated provincial projects, certain municipal infrastructure projects could be designated as "category 2 projects" if they are for "provincially significant infrastructure". This would give MOI substantial powers to step in and take control of these designated projects.
2. A new section allows Council to "make a request" to Cabinet to exempt a designated infrastructure project from almost any City or Provincially mandated processes or requirements under our Planning & Development powers (e.g. ODP, zoning, DP). Cabinet can then make an exemption or modify the requirement, and then establish terms and conditions.
3. The Minister may require COV to ensure decisions related to designated infrastructure projects are made "expeditiously" and that COV facilitate the "expeditious completion and intended operations" of the project. There is a 3-step process if a "constraint" is identified that is holding up a designated project:
  - a. The person in charge of the project must consult with COV to try and reach agreement on how the project can proceed while meeting COV's "reasonable" requirements.
  - b. If the parties can't reach agreement, the Minister can appoint a facilitator to try and get an agreement.
  - c. If no agreement is reached, the Minister may step in and override COV's jurisdiction in order to allow the project to proceed.

The news release can be found [here](#).

The full text of the bill can be found [here](#).

The progress of bills [here](#).

Analysis of the bill prepared by UBCM can be found [here](#).

Best,

Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

City Manager

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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.