

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

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

Date: 6/23/2025 12:27:29 PM

Subject: Memo - Canada Place One-Way Pilot Update

Attachments: Memo - Canada Place One-Way Pilot Update.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

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

- On April 18, Canada Place was converted to a one-way westbound road between Howe Street and Burrard Street to improve safety and operations during the cruise ship season.
- Initially, some vehicles were observed travelling the wrong way, so additional signage and barriers were installed to reinforce the new direction of travel.
- To address concerns of congestion on Burrard Street, a left turn signal has been installed at Burrard /Canada Place, and additional VPD Traffic Authority are stationed at Burrard/Cordova to facilitate traffic flow on peak cruise ship days.
- To provide a more direct route from the cruise terminal to the airport and alleviate some pressure on Burrard Street, Howe Street between Cordova Street and Canada Place will be converted back to a two-way road. This change will be implemented the week of June 23, in advance of the Canada Day festivities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca.

Best,

Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



MEMORANDUM

June 20, 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: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Canada Place One-Way Pilot Update

RTS #: N/A

On April 18, 2025, Canada Place between Howe St and Burrard St was converted to a one-way westbound traffic flow as a pilot to improve safety and traffic operations during the cruise ship season. Changing to a one-way configuration was anticipated to:

- Reduce vehicle conflicts and simplify traffic operations, particularly at the driveway into/out of the Canada Place cruise ship terminal;
- Improve pedestrian safety at both the Canada Place driveway and mid-block crosswalk by reducing the number of conflict points; and
- Enable ride hailing customers to be picked up closer to the cruise ship terminal.

Although the aforementioned objectives have been achieved, vehicles have experienced congestion on Burrard St between Canada Place and Cordova St, as well as when exiting office parkades at the end of the workday. To address these concerns, adjustments have been made to the traffic signal at Burrard St and Canada Place and to the operations along Waterfront Rd, as noted in Appendix A.

Upcoming Action – Two-Way Howe

To address feedback received from taxis and other vehicles about circuitous routing and longer travel times for those heading from the cruise ship terminal to the airport, Howe St between Cordova St and Canada Place will be converted back to a two-way road. This will provide a more direct route via Howe St and Granville St to the airport, alleviate traffic pressures on

Burrard St, and improve safety for buses loading/unloading adjacent to the Fairmont Waterfront. This change is not anticipated to negatively impact the intent of the pilot.

The graphic in Appendix B highlights the planned change, which will be implemented the week of June 23.

Since Howe St was planned to operate two-way on July 1 as a result of road closures for Canada Together festivities, this provides an ideal opportunity to have it continue operating two-way as the next refinement of the pilot. The Port of Vancouver, SSA Marine and Vancouver Convention Centre are supportive of this refinement, and the hotels along Canada Place (Fairmont Waterfront, Fairmont Pacific Rim and Pan Pacific), taxi companies and tour bus operators have been notified accordingly.

Conclusion

The Port of Vancouver and SSA Marine continue to be supportive of the Canada Place one-way pilot and have noted safety improvements for pedestrians crossing Canada Place, the elimination of U-turns, and simplified operations at the driveway into and out of the Canada Place cruise terminal. Positive feedback has also been received from cruise ship passengers about having the ride hailing pick-up zone be directly in front of the terminal rather than several blocks away.

Staff continue to monitor the Canada Place one-way pilot closely and will make adjustments as needed to ensure safety and operational benefits continue to be achieved. Please contact me directly should you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lon LaClaire'.

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

604.873.7336 | lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca

APPENDIX A – Concerns and Actions to Date

Concern	Action
Following implementation, numerous vehicles were observed travelling the wrong way	Additional signage and barriers were installed at driveways and at Burrard St/Canada Place on Apr 25 to reinforce the new direction of travel
Complaints from vehicles having to wait over 30 min to exit their parkades at the end of the work day due to congestion at street level and along Waterfront Road at the lower level	This impact was largely due to Waterfront Road operating in a one-way westbound configuration to facilitate the roadway repairs. Single-lane alternating traffic was reinstated on May 8 to alleviate this issue.
Congestion on Burrard St between Canada Place and Cordova St	A westbound left-turn signal was installed on June 6 at Burrard St/Canada Place. Additional VPD Traffic Authority are also stationed at Burrard/Cordova to facilitate southbound traffic flow on peak cruise ship days.

APPENDIX B – Canada Place One-Way Pilot with Two-Way Howe

