

From: "Levitt, Karen" <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

Date: 9/2/2025 11:37:09 AM

Subject: Memo to Mayor and Council - Update - Sewer Work on W 49th - Cambie and Main St - September 2, 2025

Attachments: ENG - Council Memo - W 49th Avenue and Alberta Street Upgrades – W 49th Avenue Traffic Impacts - GM signed.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the following update from Lon LaClaire in regard to W 49th Avenue and Alberta Street Upgrades – W 49th Avenue Traffic Impacts.

This email is to update you on the sewer work on W 49th Avenue between Cambie and Main Street. The work will require an extended closure of the intersection of W49th and Ontario street as well as the continuation of the bus detour for an additional one week until September 5th. More details on the work is in the attached Memo to Council that was provided to you in July this year.

Construction at this intersection has been extremely challenging due to the existing utilities in the road (including suspending two BC hydro power lines), the depth of the excavation and deteriorating soil conditions. Crews have been working 10 hour days and most weekends for approximately 3 weeks and, at times, in extreme heat.

The goal was to open the intersection by September 2nd but it was determined this was not possible to keep crews moving at this intensity and duration. This was a difficult decision as the extended closure will impact students and staff arriving at Langara for the first week of college as well as a higher volume of bus passengers after September 2nd. It will also further impact the residents along W48th Street where the detour, along with parking restrictions, will remain in place. However we feel this is necessary to keep crews safe and healthy.

The project team has been in communication with Langara College, Translink/CMBC, the local residents and other key stakeholders to update them on the extension of the road closure and continued impacts.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Lon at Lon.LaClaire@vancouver.ca

Thanks,

Karen Levitt, Acting City Manager

karen.levitt@vancouver.ca

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the traditional territories of

the x m k y m/Musqueam, S wxwú7mesh/Squamish and s lilw ta /Tseil-Waututh nations

MEMORANDUM

July 17, 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: W 49th Avenue and Alberta Street Upgrades – W 49th Avenue Traffic Impacts

RTS #: N/A

The W 49th Avenue and Alberta Street Upgrades Project (the "Project") is currently under construction and will install approximately 1.5 kilometers of new sewer pipe to accommodate growth and support sewer separation efforts. The project location and phasing details are illustrated in Figure 1. Currently, construction is on local streets and in late-July 2025 will advance to W 49th Avenue.

While this work has been planned to minimize traffic impacts where possible, starting in July 2025 partial and full closures along W 49th Avenue between Cambie Street and Main Street will be required to accommodate sewer construction in a safe and efficient manner.

Background

In May 2018, City Council approved the Cambie Corridor Plan with over 50,000 new residents anticipated in the area by 2041. Subsequently, the City created the Cambie Corridor Utilities Servicing Plan and Financial Growth Strategy to address required infrastructure upgrades, as well as a long-term capital program and the City-wide Utilities Development Cost Levy (Utilities DCL). W 49th Avenue and Alberta Street Upgrades Project is one of the priority projects identified as the existing combined sewer system was constructed in the 1950's and is undersized for the current demand. The Project is funded by the Utilities DCL with additional funding from local development projects.

Traffic Management

A full closure of W 49th Avenue is required to safely and efficiently construct the new sewers due to several construction complexities that exist within this intersection.

The excavation depth (7m) necessitates the use of larger equipment that require more work area, and soil conditions are also anticipated to be challenging which further increases the required work zone. The sewers are required to cross below two BC Hydro duct banks within the intersection which require the use of extensive support structures during this work. These items, when combined, require a work zone that exceeds what could be safely accommodated while maintaining any traffic along W 49th Avenue.

The number 49 bus is required to be detoured while the full closure is in place on W 49th Avenue. The project team have been working with closely CMBC since late 2024 to identify a suitable detour route including conducting a test run of the approved route in late June 2025.

Below is a summary of the upcoming traffic impacts:

- **July 2025 to August 2025:**
 - **Full closure of W 49th Avenue between Manitoba Street and Quebec Street to accommodate construction in the Ontario Street Intersection**
 - **Detour of the 49 Bus from W 49th Avenue to W 48th Avenue between Manitoba Street and Quebec Street (see attached Figure 2)**
 - **No parking at any time along the bus detour route**
 - **Local traffic only along W 49th Avenue between Cambie Street and Main Street**
 - The estimated schedule of the intersection closure is **four (4) weeks starting on July 21**; however, efforts will be made to reduce this duration.

- August 2025 to April 2026:
 - Local traffic only (including buses) along W 49th Avenue between Cambie Street and Main Street
 - Construction zone will be limited to Single Lane Alternating Traffic (SLAT) for buses only when geotechnical conditions require significant setback from edge of excavation.

- April 2026 – December 2026:
 - Local closures along Alberta Street between W 49th Avenue and W 44th Avenue

Public communication

The communication plan for this project includes:

- Advance notification letters to residents and businesses (completed).
- Additional notification letters highlighting upcoming traffic impacts and bus detour (completed).
- Project signage for people walking, cycling, and driving in the area.
- Project website allowing for regular project updates and links to related policies and projects.
- Day-to-day support of area businesses and residents provided by community liaison officer.
- Social media through the City's various channels; and,
- Coordination with other stakeholders/authorities (CMBC/Translink, Langara College, etc.).

Project inbox: w49thandalberta@vancouver.ca

Project website: vancouver.ca/w49upgrades

If you have any questions or would like more information on this project, please contact me directly.



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

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Figure 1: Project Overview. Upcoming work zone consists of the area along W 49th Avenue between Ontario Street and Main Street



Figure 2: 49 Bus Detour route

