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**From:** van Dyk, Donny  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 6, 2025 10:56 AM  
**To:** Direct to Mayor and Council - DL  
**Cc:** City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL; Freek, Chris  
**Subject:** DTES Directions and Initiatives: Actions Update information bulletin

**Importance:** High

**Categories:** Red Category

Dear Mayor and Council,

Following your approval with amendments at yesterday Council meeting, I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below information bulletin regarding DTES Directions and Initiatives Actions Update report.

As outlined in the report, the actions establish a cross-departmental approach to strengthening the DTES. This information bulletin provides a high-level overview of actions taken.

Maria will reply to this email with the relevant Vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live.

Thanks,  
Donny

Donny van Dyk (he/him)  
City Manager  
City of Vancouver

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**Information Bulletin**  
**City of Vancouver**  
**November 6, 2025**

**City advances new actions to strengthen the Downtown Eastside**

Yesterday, Vancouver City Council approved, with amendments, a coordinated set of actions to strengthen the Downtown Eastside (DTES), including new programs, policies and tools that support housing, local business, community wellbeing and public safety.

The actions align with the 2014 Downtown Eastside Local Area Plan (LAP) and bring together over a decade of Council-directed work through a new cross-departmental approach focused on four key

areas:

- **Healthy homes for all:** Council approved new investments to stabilize and improve Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing, including allocating \$2 million for SRO upgrading grants for urgent life-safety repairs. These actions are part of the broader SRO Revitalization Framework, which coordinates efforts across all levels of government. While the City's long-term goal is to replace aging SROs with safe, self-contained social housing, in the interim, SROs remain a critical part of the housing continuum and must be maintained to prevent room loss.
- **Vibrant and inclusive local economy:** To revitalize the DTES economy, Council endorsed a coordinated approach that lowers barriers for entrepreneurs and supports inclusive growth. This includes the Temporary Occupancy Permit Pilot (TOPP), which enables six common business types to activate vacant storefronts through a streamlined permitting process.
- **Improved wellbeing for all:** The City continues to invest in expanded mental health and substance use services in the DTES. Council directed staff to advocate for sustained provincial funding for two daytime drop-in spaces, ensuring continued access to washrooms, storage, and safe indoor space for community members.
- **Safe, accessible public realm:** Council requested federal bail and sentencing reform to ensure that high-risk, repeat violent offenders are not released into the community while awaiting trial, and encouraged the expanded use of diversion courts for appropriate low-risk, non-violent offenders to improve public safety.

Council also referred to public hearing the [DTES Housing Implementation Report](#), which proposes amendments to the Zoning and Development By-law and related policies and guidelines in order to advance DTES Plan goals to revitalize the neighbourhood without displacing existing residents. The public hearing is currently scheduled for December 9, 2025.

The City will continue working with the federal and provincial governments and community partners to deliver on these actions and will report back annually on progress and outcomes.

Read the full [DTES Directions and Initiatives: Actions Update Council report](#).

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#### **Notes to editors:**

Please see amended directions below. This is a draft copy provided for your understanding. The published minutes are the official record of the meeting.

[HYPERLINKED BUTTON TO PDF]

#### **FINAL MOTION AS AMENDED**

R3. DTES Directions and Initiatives: Actions Update

A. THAT Council receive for information the DTES Actions Update as outlined in Appendix A of the Report dated October 27, 2025, entitled “DTES Directions and Initiatives: Actions Update”.

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back by the end of February with an update on the Balmoral Interim Site activation, including data and analysis from the City’s Integrated Response Team, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services, and the Vancouver Police Department, outlining any emerging public safety or health risk trends and related measures to ensure the safety of nearby residents, visitors, and City staff.

*Healthy Homes for All*

B. THAT Council receive for information the SRO Revitalization Framework, as set out in Appendix B of the Report dated October 27, 2025, entitled “DTES Directions and Initiatives: Actions Update”, and direct staff to continue to pursue partnership with and funding from the provincial and federal governments to implement the Framework.

D. THAT Council refer the 2025 Impact Analysis of SRA Vacancy Control Policy, as set out in Appendix D, back to staff for additional data-based analysis following a further full year's worth of data collection and report back to Council at that time.

E. THAT Council revise the 2023-2026 SRO Upgrading Grants Program (SUGP) to include private owners as eligible applicants and allocate up to \$2,000,000 of the SUGP to private owners under this program, as described in the Report dated October 27, 2025, entitled “DTES Directions and Initiatives: Actions Update” subject to future Council approval of individual grants.

*Vibrant and Inclusive Local Economy*

F. THAT Council approve the Downtown Eastside Temporary Occupancy Permit Pilot (TOPP) as described in this report and in Appendix E of the Report dated October 27, 2025, entitled “DTES Directions and Initiatives: Actions Update”.

G. THAT pending approval of F above, Council approve the resolutions, attached as Appendix F of the Report dated October 27, 2025, entitled “DTES Directions and Initiatives: Actions Update” to not enforce for a period of two years, applicable requirements of the Zoning and Development By-law and the Building By-law, to enable inclusion of Artist Studio Class A in the Downtown Eastside TOPP as described in the same report.

H. THAT Council receive for information the planned DTES economic actions as outlined in the Report dated October 27, 2025, entitled “DTES Directions and Initiatives: Actions Update”, and Appendix G of the same report, and direct staff to report back in Q1 2026, and with additional analysis and strategies for supporting and including low income and equity denied residents.

*Improved Wellbeing for All / Improved, Safe & Accessible Public Realm*

I. THAT Council direct staff to advocate to the provincial government for sustained funding for programming for at least two day-time respite sites in the DTES that include providing access to washrooms and storage, such as the programming being delivered at 390 Main Street.

J. THAT Council request that the federal government reform bail and sentencing provisions in the Criminal Code for repeat, violent offenders to ensure that high-risk offenders are not being released into the community while awaiting trial, and encourage the expanded use of diversion courts for appropriate low-risk, non-violent offenders.

K. THAT Council request the federal government prioritize the DTES in funding from the Build Canada Homes Initiative, and that the federal government provide an additional \$500 million towards the outstanding \$800 million required for the replacement of 1,500 government-owned SROs.

*Administrative*

L. THAT no legal rights or obligations are created by the approval of C or E above, unless and until the Grant Agreement and future grant agreements are executed and delivered by the City.

M. THAT Council direct staff to report back in early 2026 on the implementation and outcomes of the St. Paul's Hospital Social Impact Assessment (SIA), which was approved by Council in 2017;

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to convene a meeting with Providence Health Care and all other relevant stakeholders, including community-based organizations, social enterprises, arts organizations, small businesses, and residents, to assess the status of the mitigations and community impacts outlined in the SIA and to explore potential collaborations;

AND FURTHER THAT staff collaborate with the St. Paul's Working Group to co-facilitate a public forum in early 2026 in the DTES to support the report back process and to set up a Community Advisory to support follow up and further engagement.

N. THAT Council reaffirm its commitment to a balanced approach to public and community safety—one that upholds public order with compassion;

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor be requested to write letters to the Vancouver Police Department, the Vancouver Police Board, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, and the City of Vancouver's Integrated Response Team acknowledging their continued efforts to uphold public order with compassion; and to the newly opened Gastown Hastings Crossing Community Policing Centre, commending the team for their strong start, early success in fostering community relationships, and meaningful contributions to a safer, more connected neighbourhood.

**Media contact:**

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