

From: ["van Dyk, Donny"](#)

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

Date: 11/20/2025 1:02:17 PM

Subject: Memo to Mayor & Council - Reassessing Streetcar Viability in Southeast False Creek - Nov 20 2025

Attachments: ENG - Memo to Mayor and Council - Reassessing Streetcar Viability in Southeast False Creek - Nov 20 2025.pdf

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Dear Mayor & Council,

Please see attached Memo to Mayor & Council from Lon LaClaire, providing an update regarding the assessment of an unsolicited proposal for a streetcar pilot in False Creek South. A brief summary of the memo is outlined below:

- The City has determined that undertaking a streetcar trial is not feasible at this time.
- A key factor is the work underway to assess the development plans for False Creek South that will be taking place over the next few years.
- Staff will explore how transit will be integrated into this development plan as it evolves.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or [Lon.LaClaire@Vancouver.ca](mailto:Lon.LaClaire@Vancouver.ca).

Thanks,  
Donny

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

## MEMORANDUM

November 20, 2025

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager  
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Maria Pontikis, Chief of External Relations  
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: Assessment of an unsolicited proposal for a streetcar pilot in False Creek South

RTS #: N/A

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In December 2024, staff provided a memo to council highlighting the interest of three proponents to operate a streetcar within the False Creek South area. In the memo it was noted that staff would be providing a requirements letter to those proponents to guide their proposals. Since then, further work has been undertaken to assess the merits of a trial including the required staff time, the integration with adjacent land development and city transit priorities. Based on this assessment staff are not planning to proceed with a trial and will also be reviewing what role streetcar plays in the future development plans of False Creek South. This memo provides a summary of the considerations and next steps.

### Background

In December 2024, staff provided an update to council called "Unsolicited Proposals to Use City Owned Rail Tracks in South False Creek to Operate a Streetcar Trial". Since that time further work has been undertaken to assess the benefits and viability of progressing a streetcar trial along the existing tracks within the area.

## **Streetcar Trial Assessment**

Following internal review and analysis, the City has determined that undertaking a streetcar trial is not feasible at this time. Several factors informed this decision.

The existing rail corridor intersects with areas expected to undergo significant redevelopment as part of the City's long-term planning for False Creek South. This introduces long-term uncertainty around right-of-way retention and construction phasing. Although the tracks and station infrastructure are already in place, upgrading the existing rails and maintenance shed would still require substantial capital investment and thoughtful coordination with utilities and future development. These conditions are not currently aligned with project planning.

Streetcar service would offer limited operational flexibility compared to bus service. Bus infrastructure offers a more adaptable and lower-cost alternative that can be phased in as needed and adjusted in response to evolving demand and development staging. It also has more flexibility to directly connect major destinations such as the Señákw transit hub, the downtown, and Granville Island.

City staff will continue to collaborate with TransLink to ensure future transit improvements in False Creek South are aligned with the area's long-term development plan and integrated into the regional transit network.

## **False Creek South Planning**

Staff are currently working on an updated landowner's development plan for False Creek South, per March 2024 Council direction. As this plan evolves, staff will explore how transit will be best integrated into this development plan.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me directly.



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

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