

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

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

Date: 1/29/2026 6:10:07 PM

Subject: IMPORTANT EMBARGOED: Memo - FIFA Pedestrian Zone on Granville Street - January 29, 2026

Attachments: Memo - FIFA Pedestrian Zone on Granville Street.pdf

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EMBARGOED UNTIL EOD FRIDAY JANUARY 30, 2026

Council –

We have discovered that the note below and attached memo were sent to you prematurely, in that the FWC26 Host Committee has not yet queued up the wrap-around public communications.

Please treat the information in this memo as **confidential** until end of day tomorrow, Friday January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks/apologies,

Karen

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Karen Levitt, Deputy 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 wxlu817 \_wú7mesh/Squamish and s lilw ta /Tsleil-Waututh nations

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From: van Dyk, Donny

Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:26 AM

To: Direct to Mayor and Council - DL

Cc: City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL

LaClaire, Lon <lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca>

Subject: Memo - FIFA Pedestrian Zone on Granville Street - January 29, 2026

Dear Mayor and Council,

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

- This memo provides an update on the plan for Granville St during the FIFA World Cup 2026.
- Granville St from Georgia St to Davie St is planned to be closed to vehicular traffic to create a pedestrian zone from approximately June 6 to July 20.
- The intersecting cross streets – Robson, Smithe, Nelson and Helmcken – will remain open to traffic, and TransLink buses that operate on Granville St will be rerouted to Seymour St and Howe St for the duration of the pedestrian zone.
- The pedestrian zone will feature additional seating, expanded patios, vendors, placemaking elements and spaces for other light activations, in collaboration with the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DTVAN)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or

[lon.laclair@vancouver.ca](mailto:lon.laclair@vancouver.ca).

Thanks,  
Donny

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

## MEMORANDUM

January 29, 2026

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: FIFA Pedestrian Zone on Granville Street

RTS #: N/A

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This memo provides an update on the plan for Granville St during the FIFA World Cup 2026™ (FWC26). In partnership with the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DTVAN), Granville St—from Georgia St to Davie St—is planned to be a pedestrian zone for the duration of the tournament, creating a people-first space that welcomes visitors and locals, and supports businesses as Vancouver hosts this major international event. The pedestrian zone is part of the City's crowd management strategy during the FWC2026. This work is also aligned with the Granville Street Plan's policy directions, approved by Council in June 2025, which sets a 20-year vision to re-establish downtown Granville St as a welcoming and vibrant pedestrian destination.

### **FIFA Pedestrian Zone Approach**

From approximately June 6 through July 20 during the FWC26 tournament period, Granville St from Georgia St to Davie St is planned to be closed to vehicular traffic and become a pedestrian zone. These five blocks of Granville St will feature additional seating, expanded patios, vendors, placemaking elements and spaces for live music and other activations. Placemaking and programming will be led by DTVAN, with some funding and permitting support from the City. Throughout the FWC26, the City will also provide enhanced sanitation services to help maintain a welcoming and comfortable public realm.

## **Transit Operations**

TransLink buses that currently run on Granville St will also be rerouted to Seymour St and Howe St where all day (24/7) bus lanes will be installed. Staff will use this opportunity to observe bus lane operations to inform future stop improvement needs, such as potential bus bulbs. Staff plan to improve wayfinding between relocated bus stops and SkyTrain stations, and detailed timing and route maps will be shared in coordination with TransLink.

## **Access and Traffic Management**

Set-up and preparations for the pedestrian zone are expected to begin the first week of June. While vehicle traffic will be restricted along Granville St, the cross streets intersecting the pedestrian zone (Robson St, Smithe St, Nelson St and Helmcken St) will remain open to vehicles throughout the tournament. Granville St north of Georgia St will remain open to authorized vehicles, as per the existing Granville Mall by-law. In collaboration with DTVAN, staff will be working with Granville St businesses to manage key loading, delivery and access priorities. Starting July 20, after the end of the FWC26 tournament period, the pedestrian zone will be removed, and regular vehicle traffic will return to Granville St.

An overview of the access and traffic management plan can be found in Appendix A.

## **Emergency Services and Crowd Management**

As with other pedestrian areas across the City, access for emergency services and Vancouver Fire Rescue Services (VFRS) will be maintained at all times within the pedestrian zone. Safety and crowd management will be managed through the VPD, with the Host Committee also involved for match days and other days when large crowds may be expected to gather across the city.

Following the conclusion of the FWC26 and the Granville Pedestrian Zone, staff will share learnings from this work with Council.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any further questions about this project.

Sincerely,



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

604.873.7336 | [lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca](mailto:lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca)

## Appendix A: Granville FIFA Pedestrian Zone

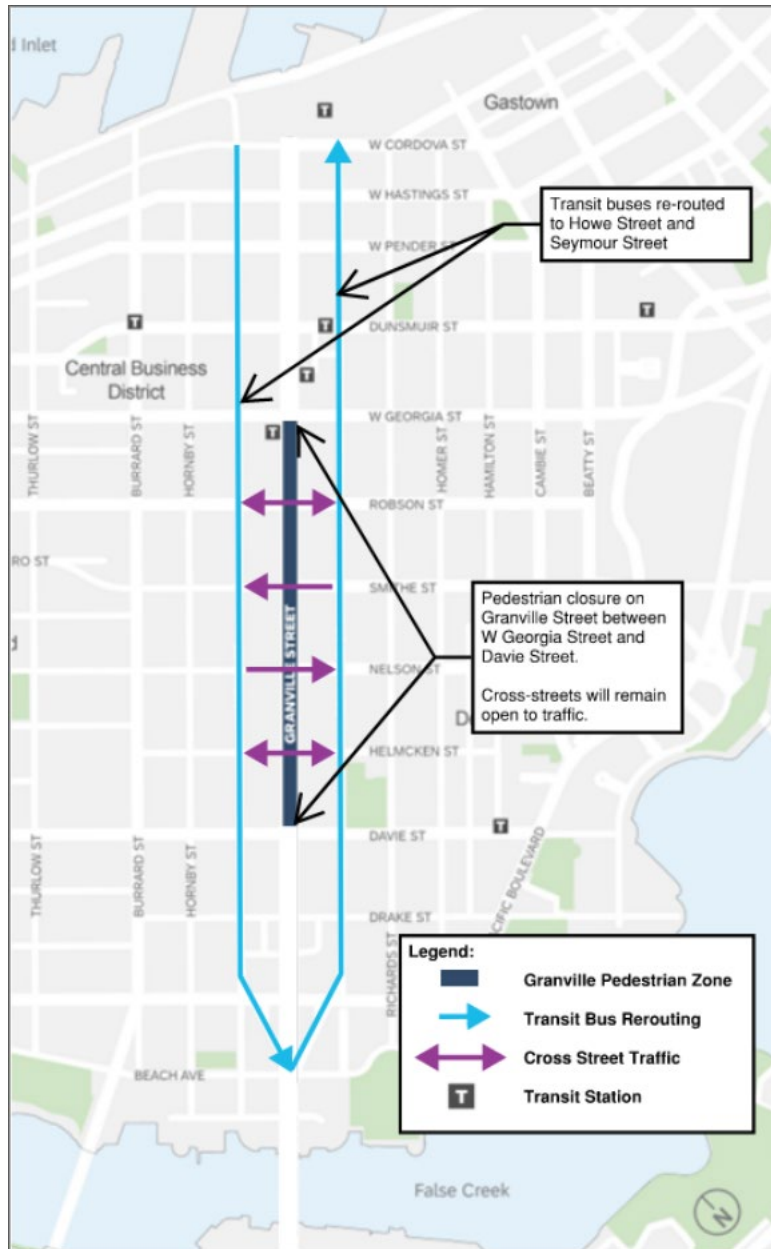


Figure 1: Granville FIFA Pedestrian Zone and bus re-routing