

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

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

Date: 3/4/2026 1:31:37 PM

Subject: Upcoming news release: Granville Street to transform into a pedestrian zone this summer
- March 4 2026

Dear Mayor and Council,

The City will be issuing the news release below today to announce this summer's Granville Street Pedestrian Zone.

This release will be issued alongside a media event with the Downtown Van BIA.

Chris will share the Vancouver.ca and social links when these are live.

Thanks,
Donny

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



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and s lilw ta (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
News release
March 4, 2025

Granville Street to transform into a pedestrian zone this summer

This summer, the City of Vancouver, in partnership with the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association ([Downtown Van](#)), will be transforming Granville Street into a vibrant pedestrian zone.

Between June 11 and July 20, while Vancouver is hosting the FIFA World Cup 2026™, the Granville Street Pedestrian Zone will welcome residents and visitors to a people-first street that supports local businesses and creates a dynamic, family-friendly destination space that showcases Vancouver and enhances the tournament experience. During this time, Granville Street between Georgia Street and Davie Street will be closed to vehicle traffic.

"Vancouver is proud to be a Host City for the FIFA World Cup 2026 and transforming Granville Street into a pedestrian zone is an exciting way to showcase the heart of our downtown to fans and visitors," said Mayor Ken Sim. "The Granville Street Pedestrian Zone will create a free and inviting space for everyone to come together, support local businesses, and celebrate the beautiful game together."

"Being a Host City is a unique opportunity to create lasting memories together as a community," said Jane

Talbot, President and CEO of Downtown Van. "Through this initiative, we're inviting Vancouverites to come downtown and experience the energy of the World Cup firsthand. Join us in the Granville Entertainment District to be part of the excitement and celebrate the pride and spirit of our city."

Creating an inviting atmosphere on Granville Street

The five-block Granville Street Pedestrian Zone pilot will feature:

- Additional public seating and expanded patios
- Vendors and food options
- Live music and cultural activations
- Placemaking and selfie spots

Downtown Van will oversee programming, activations and incorporating placemaking elements that will bring the pedestrian zone to life. The City will provide additional public seating, support community and businesses activations and enhance sanitation services throughout the period to ensure a comfortable and welcoming environment.

Transit and transportation

As part of the temporary street changes:

- Cross streets including Robson, Smithe, Nelson, and Helmcken will remain open to vehicle traffic throughout the pedestrian zone. Emergency vehicle access will be maintained at all times.
- TransLink buses that operate on Granville Street will be rerouted to Seymour Street and Howe Street, supported by new bus lanes for the duration of the pedestrian zone.
- The City and TransLink will share detailed timing, route information, and wayfinding between relocated bus stops and SkyTrain stations in advance of the changes.

Setup will begin the first week of June, and the street will fully reopen to vehicle traffic following the pedestrian zone.

Public safety remains the City's top priority. To support an enjoyable experience for everyone, we are working closely with partners, including the Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Fire Rescue Services.

This pilot will provide valuable learnings for the long-term vision of the Council-approved [Granville Street Plan](#), which aims to transform downtown Granville Street into a safer, more vibrant destination, with a bustling pedestrianized street linked with restaurants, entertainment, hotels, and more. The City will provide updates as implementation of the Granville Street Plan progresses.

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