

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

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

Date: 3/6/2026 1:15:08 PM

Subject: Memo - Neighbourhood Plazas Update

Attachments: Memo - Neighbourhood Plazas Update.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

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

- Permanent plaza upgrades are on track for spring 2026, with construction complete or nearing completion at all five sites in advance of FIFA World Cup 26™, and coordinated efforts underway with local partners to minimize impacts and prepare for reopening communications.
- Two 2025 pilot plazas (3rd & Main; Kitchener & Commercial) will transition to ongoing neighbourhood plazas, based on strong partner support and positive public feedback, while the 50th & Main pilot will be extended to fall 2026 to allow further stewardship development, programming improvements, and assessment of long-term community support.
- Four new pilot plazas are being advanced for 2026, with implementation details being finalized in collaboration with BIAs and community partners, alongside continued work to strengthen stewardship, address operational issues proactively, and keep plazas vibrant, inclusive community spaces.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca

Thanks, DvD

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



MEMORANDUM

March 6, 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
Chris Freek, Director of Civic Engagement & Communications
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Teresa Jong, Administrative 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: Neighbourhood Plazas Update

RTS #: N/A

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the Neighbourhood Plazas program and current pilot initiatives.

Background

In partnership with Business Improvement Associations (BIAs), local businesses and community organizations, the City manages 30 neighbourhood plazas across the city. These plazas support public life in neighbourhoods by providing space for gathering, outdoor dining, small events and markets, and cultural expression and community activities.

Current Work

Upgrades Underway to Permanent Neighbourhood Plazas

As shared in 2025, staff are advancing upgrades at five neighbourhood plazas to support their transition to permanent public spaces. Upgrades include electrical and water, paving treatments, fixed seating, green infrastructure, trees and landscaping. Construction on all plazas is complete or nearing completion this spring, in advance of the FIFA World Cup 26™:

- Bute Street at Robson Street, *completed December 2025*
- 14th Avenue at Granville Street
- 14th Avenue at Main Street
- 18th Avenue at Cambie Street
- Kamloops Street at Hastings Street

Staff are working closely with local businesses and area partners to minimize construction-related impacts and support continued access. Further updates and communications plans regarding the plaza reopenings will be shared with Council this spring.

2025 Pilot Plazas Update

In response to interest from businesses, community organizations and BIAs, three new pilot plazas were implemented in summer 2025:

- 3rd Avenue at Main Street – in partnership with Ethos Lab
- 50th Avenue at Main Street – in partnership with Punjabi Market Collective
- Kitchener Street at Commercial Drive – in partnership with Livia Forno e Vino and Commercial Drive Business Improvement Association

Throughout summer and fall 2025, staff monitored the plazas, conducted public surveys (1,135 responses in total) and engaged plaza partners, adjacent businesses, residents, and the broader community through online and in-person meetings.

Summary of key findings from monitoring and engagement:

- 3rd Avenue at Main Street: This youth-led plaza supports the City's Anti-Black Cultural Redress work and has strong partner support. Public response has been positive overall, particularly regarding the creation of gathering space, with some concerns related to noise and traffic impacts.
- Kitchener Street and Commercial Drive: This plaza supports the Grandview-Woodland Community Plan and has strong partner support. Public feedback was very positive and highlighted interest in additional programming that reflects neighbours' interests, increased cleaning and minimizing noise impacts to residents.
- 50th Avenue at Main Street: This plaza provides an intergenerational gathering space in South Vancouver and supports the City's South Asian Cultural Redress work. Public feedback was supportive but mixed and highlighted interest in additional programming, culturally appropriate furniture, and expanded partnerships, as well as concerns related to parking and traffic impacts.

Based on this analysis and feedback, staff will transition the 3rd Avenue at Main Street and Kitchener Street at Commercial Drive pilots to ongoing neighbourhood plazas. Ongoing plazas will receive upgrades over time to enhance the space and incorporate more fixed features.

The pilot of the plaza at 50th Avenue at Main Street will be extended through to fall 2026. The long-term viability of this public gathering space will depend on the establishment of a new stewardship partnership, the success of additional improvements and programming support, and whether there is general community support for the plaza.

New Pilot Plazas in 2026

Building on interest from businesses, BIAs, and community organizations, staff are currently advancing new pilot plazas for 2026:

- 17th Avenue at Fraser Street
- 27th Avenue at Dunbar Street
- 27th Avenue at Main Street
- Woodland Drive Pedestrian Bridge

Implementation timing and other details are being determined in collaboration with community partners.

Next Steps

Staff will continue working with partners to strengthen stewardship, keep plazas vibrant and active community spaces, respond proactively to issues and implement ongoing improvements.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lon LaClaire'.

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

604.873.7336 | lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca