

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

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

Date: 3/18/2026 9:22:46 AM

Subject: Memo to Mayor and Council - Canada Place - Summary of One-Way Pilot - March 18, 2026

Attachments: Memo - Canada Place - Summary of One-Way Pilot.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire summarizing the results of the pilot to convert Canada Place to a one-way traffic flow in 2025.

- The pilot was implemented on April 18, 2025 to convert Canada Place to one-way westbound between Howe and Burrard St.
- The portion of Howe St between Cordova St and Canada Place was converted back to two-way traffic on June 27, to restore a more direct connection to the airport for taxis and others.
- Since then, traffic has flowed smoothly, pedestrian safety has improved, and hotel and cruise passengers appreciate that ride-hailing pick-up is closer to the cruise terminal.
- The Port of Vancouver, Vancouver Convention Centre and 3 major hotels along Canada Place (Fairmont Waterfront, Fairmont Pacific Rim and Pan Pacific) support the current configuration and prefer keeping the operations as is.
- Staff will continue to monitor the operations closely and will be responsive to feedback as needed.

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

Thanks,

Donny

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



MEMORANDUM

March 18, 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: Canada Place – Summary of One-Way Pilot

RTS #: N/A

On April 18, 2025, Canada Place between Howe St and Burrard St was converted to a one-way westbound traffic flow as a pilot to improve safety and traffic operations during the cruise ship season. The pilot was planned to be in place until December 2025.

A number of adjustments were made during the course of the pilot to refine the operations, including:

- Adding a westbound left-turn signal on Canada Place at Burrard St;
- Maintaining two-way alternating traffic on Waterfront Road during roadway repairs; and,
- Converting Howe St between Cordova St and Canada Place back to a two-way road to enable a more direct route to the airport (see diagram in Appendix A).

The roadway has operated in its current configuration since June 27. Stakeholder feedback has been positive since that date, with no significant issues. As such, this will be the permanent configuration moving forward.

Monitoring and Refinements

The initial objectives of changing Canada Place to a one-way configuration were to:

- Reduce vehicle conflicts and simplify traffic operations, particularly at the driveway into and out of the Canada Place cruise ship terminal;

- Improve pedestrian safety at the mid-block crosswalk along Canada Place; and,
- Enable ride hailing customers to be picked up closer to the cruise ship terminal.

Staff monitored the operations closely and were quick to implement adjustments, with the most significant change being the conversion of Howe St between Cordova and Canada Place back to two-way. This change was primarily in response to feedback from the taxi and limo industries to have a more direct route to the airport, and to alleviate congestion at the Burrard and Canada Place intersection.

Since that change in late June, the traffic operations have been working much more smoothly. Traffic destined for the airport can now head directly up Howe St, hotel guests and cruise passengers using ride-hailing can continue to be picked up closer to the cruise ship terminal, and the safety benefits of the simplified operations at the terminal driveway have been retained. The number of VPD Traffic Authority needed to manage traffic on peak cruise ship days was able to be reduced, and the volume of complaints has significantly reduced as well.

Stakeholder Feedback

Staff have been in communication with the Port of Vancouver, SSA Marine, Vancouver Convention Centre, VPD Traffic Authority, Parking Enforcement as well as the three major hotels along Canada Place (Fairmont Waterfront, Fairmont Pacific Rim and Pan Pacific) throughout the pilot and met with them all at the end of the cruise ship season as well. All parties were satisfied with the current configuration and preferred to keep the operations as is.

Conclusion

Based on observations and stakeholder feedback, traffic operations on Canada Place remain in their current configuration. Staff will monitor the operations closely again this year and will be responsive to feedback as needed. The repairs to Waterfront Road are also anticipated to be complete by July, which will help improve access to and from this area.

Please contact me if you have any questions.



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

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