

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

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

Subject: Memo - 49th Avenue Bus-Priority Improvements

Attachments: [Memo - 49th Avenue Bus-Priority Improvements.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire regarding the 49th Avenue Bus-Priority Improvements. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- In 2026, bus lanes are planned on 49th Ave between Cambie St and Fraser St in coordination with the water and sewer upgrades. TransLink is planning bus stop balancing along all of Route 49 in Vancouver.
- Stakeholder and public engagement will begin in February 2026, and staff will mitigate parking impacted by the bus lanes through feedback received.
- Further opportunities for bus improvements along 49th Ave are being explored for future phases, in coordination with other utility and roadway projects.
- This project advances Council's October 2023 direction to improve bus travel times and reliability, and is funded through TransLink's 2024 Investment Plan.

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



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.

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MEMORANDUM

February 2, 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: 49th Avenue Bus-Priority Improvements

RTS #: N/A

Public engagement for bus-priority improvements on 49th Avenue is planned to begin in February 2026. The project advances [Council direction from October 2023](#) directing staff to work expediently with TransLink to plan and deliver Bus Speed and Reliability projects. This memo describes the proposed bus-priority measures, parking impacts, project timelines and engagement plan.

Background

On 49th Avenue, more than 35,000 daily trips on bus routes 49 and 430 are affected by traffic delay. Route 49 has the third-highest ridership in the region and connects neighbourhoods in the south of Vancouver, UBC, Langara College, Metrotown, various commercial areas, and the Canada and Expo SkyTrain Lines.

On most of 49th Avenue between major intersections, buses share a single lane with all traffic and are delayed by vehicles making left-turns and parking. Segments of weekday peak period bus lanes approaching some arterial streets between Main St and Boundary Rd were installed in 2020, and between Oak St and Cambie St in 2024. Funding to further expand bus speed and reliability improvements has been approved through TransLink's [2024 Investment Plan](#).

Project Overview

Staff have been working with TransLink and Coast Mountain Bus Company (CMBC) to plan improvements that support more reliable bus service and shorter transit travel times on 49th

Avenue. Improvements along 49th Avenue will be phased in coordination with other roadway projects on the corridor.

The first project phase in 2026 aligns with ongoing sewer separation and water upgrades and includes:

- Installing new bus lanes on 49th Ave between Cambie St and Fraser St from 7am to 10pm, seven days a week in both directions (see **Appendix A**); and
- Improving bus stop spacing on Route 49 along 49th Ave and portions on Dunbar St and 41st Ave (see **Appendix B**).

Removing parking on 49th Ave may be a concern to some residents, and opportunities to mitigate impacts by adjusting resident parking regulations on side streets will be explored based on engagement feedback.

Other opportunities to improve bus travel times and reliability on 49th Ave are being reviewed, such as extending bus lane hours, connecting sections of existing bus lanes, and intersection improvements. Coordination opportunities to install bus improvements as part of other utility or roadway rehabilitation projects in late 2026 and 2027 are being reviewed.

Upcoming Engagement and Implementation

The following engagement and implementation milestones are planned:

January 2026	Presentations at Council Advisory Committees
February to March 2026	Stakeholder and public engagement including notifications to residents, feedback survey, and meetings with Langara College, BIAs, and Movement YVR.
May 2026	Installation of new and upgraded bus stops
June 2026	Bus stop spacing changes take effect
Summer to Fall 2026	Installation of bus lanes and curbside parking changes between Cambie St and Fraser St, in coordination with roadway restoration

Further information about the project and a survey will be made available in February on the City's webpage (vancouver.ca/49ave-transit). Members of the public, businesses and stakeholders can contact project staff via email (49buspriority@vancouver.ca).

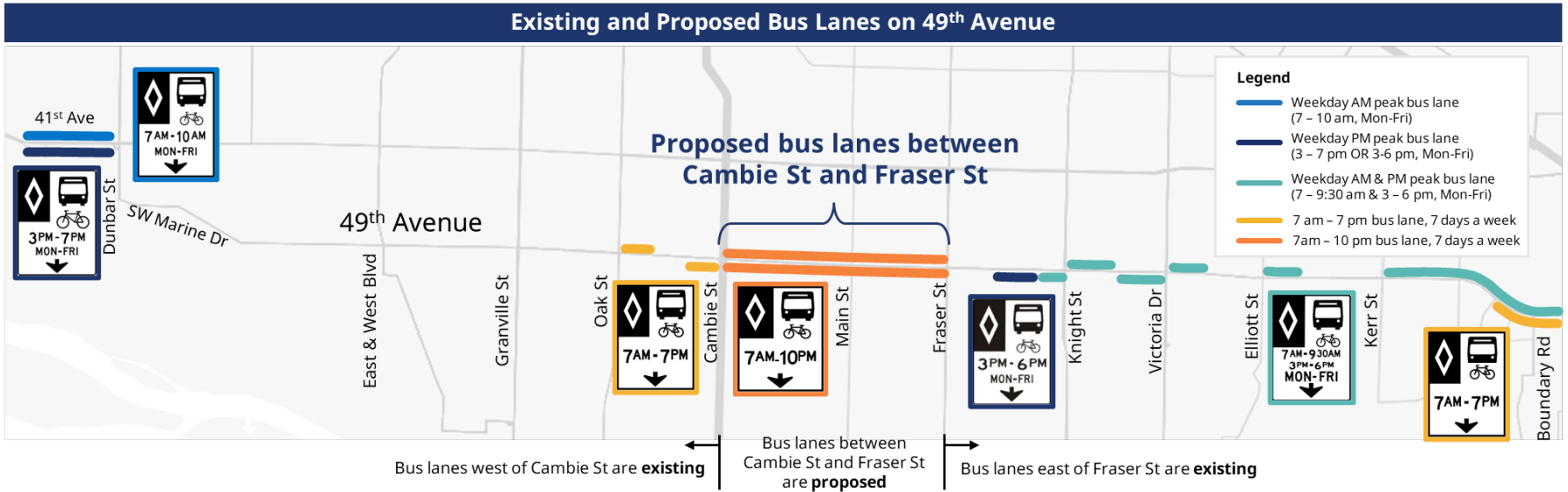
Further information and a survey about TransLink's bus stop changes can be found on their webpage (translink.ca/route49) and via email (buspriority@translink.ca).

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.



Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering Services
604.873.7336 | lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca

Appendix A – Bus Routes and Bus Lanes (Existing and Proposed) on 49th Avenue



Appendix B – Bus Stop Spacing Changes on Route 49

More than half the bus stops on route 49 are spaced closer than TransLink guidelines. To make trips quicker and more reliable while maintaining convenient access to transit, TransLink is proposing to reduce the total number of bus stops on route 49 from 123 to 98 stops. The average stop spacing within Vancouver would increase from 280m to 375m and better align with TransLink stop spacing guidelines. While all transit riders will benefit from faster and more reliable trips, about 10% of riders would need to use a different bus stop, most of which within 175m of existing stops.

The route 49 bus stops changes are along 49th Ave between SW Marine Dr and Boundary Rd, and portions on Dunbar St and 41st Ave. Several stops on routes 41 and 26 are also affected. The changes including cancelling 28 stops, installing 3 new stops with accessible landing pads, and upgrading 3 existing stops for accessibility and enable ramp deployment.

TransLink has considered trade-offs, such as access to key destinations and safe pedestrian crossing locations, and will consider public feedback before changes are implemented. TransLink is reaching out to customers and key interest groups.

Map of proposed bus stop changes on Route 49

