

Monday, March 3, 2014

Dear Resident and/or Business Owner,

RE: 4th AVENUE SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS

This letter is to let you know that staff have improved the signals along West 4th Avenue at Bayswater, Balaclava, Trutch and Blenheim to make it easier for drivers leaving the neighbourhood to make a left turn onto 4th Avenue. These changes mean you will no longer have to wait for a pedestrian to push the button in order for the light to change and will be in effect on weekdays between 7:00am-7:00pm and on weekends between 7:00am-6:00pm. These changes are a result of ongoing monitoring of the overall Seaside Greenway Completion and York Bikeway Project.

Prior to closing Point Grey Road to commuter through traffic, we anticipated that traffic patterns within the neighbourhood north of 4th Avenue and between Alma Street and Macdonald Street would go through an adjustment period as residents and visitors to the area adapted to the changes. While traffic patterns could take several weeks or even months to stabilize, we have been monitoring traffic patterns in and out of the neighbourhood and listening to feedback from residents. We have heard from many residents in the neighbourhood and appreciate the time it took to email or phone us to share your concerns. Over the last six weeks, two themes have emerged as key issues, and have been confirmed by our traffic monitoring efforts:

1. Traffic volumes on West 2nd and 3rd Avenues near Macdonald have increased noticeably.
2. Due to the closure of Point Grey Road to commuter traffic, drivers are finding it difficult to use West 4th Avenue as an alternative because it is more difficult to exit the neighbourhood by making a left turn onto West 4th Avenue.

Since the initial changes were made in mid-January, we have taken a number of actions to address issues and better understand the evolving traffic patterns in your neighbourhood, including:

- Installing temporary “Local Traffic Only” signs;
- Installing temporary signage to provide parking restrictions that improve sight lines from local roads at 4th Avenue intersections;
- Measuring the volume of vehicle traffic on many local streets, travel times and patterns in the broader neighbourhood and conducting site visits based on feedback, and;
- Monitoring all feedback from local residents received by email and phone.

Further, in the last week, the following changes have been made:

- All of the interim parking regulations to improve sight lines at 4th Avenue intersections have been made permanent;

- Countdown timers have been added at pedestrian and cyclist signals between Alma and Macdonald to better facilitate crossings and provide more information to drivers turning onto 4th Avenue, and;
- Traffic signal operations on 4th Avenue at Bayswater, Balaclava, Trutch and Blenheim have been adjusted on a trial basis to make it easier for drivers to turn onto 4th Avenue.

The changes above will make it easier to make a left-turn onto 4th Avenue between Bayswater and Alma and help encourage drivers to use 4th as the preferred route to get out of the neighbourhood instead of travelling along 2nd Avenue, Bayswater and 3rd Avenue. With these changes, 4th Avenue will be the fastest and most convenient route, taking some of the pressure off of the local streets. We believe that some of the current higher traffic volumes on 2nd and 3rd Avenues are a result of drivers having concerns about turning left onto 4th Avenue.

The new signal operations work automatically and do not require a pedestrian to push the button for it to change. As mentioned earlier, this will be in effect on weekdays between 7:00am-7:00pm and on weekends from 7:00am-6:00pm and the timing has been adjusted to work in coordination with the other signals along 4th Avenue to minimize impacts to arterial traffic. The audible crossing signal will still continue to work for pedestrians and cyclists who push the button to cross.

By making these improvements at several intersections, it will give residents more options to access arterial streets from the neighbourhood and will help distribute vehicles evenly, preventing significant increases on any one specific street. We will continue to monitor traffic patterns in and out of the neighbourhood and listen to input from residents to determine how effective these measures are and whether further changes are necessary. Traffic speed monitoring will also be conducted based on feedback we receive.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience or hardship this may have caused and appreciate your patience during this adjustment period. It's not the intention of any project to significantly increase vehicle volumes on otherwise quiet local streets. Our goal is to avoid creating any unnecessary traffic or livability impacts to residents in the neighbourhood.

If you want to know more about this project, please visit us at vancouver.ca/pointgreycornwall. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call 3-1-1 between 7:00am and 10:00pm and you will be connected to the appropriate person who can assist you. Alternatively, you can also email us at pointgrey.cornwall@vancouver.ca and someone will get back to you within 48 hours.

Sincerely,

Jeff Moi, P.Eng
Senior Transportation Engineer
City of Vancouver

This notice contains important information that may affect you. Please ask someone to translate it for you.

此通告刊載有可能影響閣下的重要資料。請找人為你翻譯。

ਇਸ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਲਈ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੋ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਉਲੱਥਾ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਆਖੋ।

Thông báo này có tin tức quan trọng có thể ảnh hưởng đến quý vị. Xin nhờ người phiên dịch hộ.

Este aviso contiene información importante que puede afectarles personalmente. Pídale a alguien que se lo traduzca.

Ce document contient des renseignements importants qui pourraient vous concerner. Veuillez demander à quelqu'un de vous le traduire.