



August 13, 2021

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Donnie Rosa - General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Metro Vancouver Stanley Park Water Supply Tunnel Project Update – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on Metro Vancouver's Stanley Park Water Supply Tunnel project and the communications and public engagement activities for the current phase of this project. The activities are designed to inform and update local residents, business, stakeholders, and park users about the project and provide opportunities to gather public feedback. Park Board staff will be presenting recommendations to the Board for consideration later this year.

Background

As outlined in the January 2018 Board report titled [Metro Vancouver Stanley Park Water Supply Tunnel – Public Engagement & Next Steps](#), Metro Vancouver is planning to construct a major water infrastructure project deep underneath Stanley Park to meet the growing demand for drinking water in the region. The new water supply tunnel will replace the existing water main that was built in the 1930s and is at the end of its service life. Once complete, the new Stanley Park Water Supply Tunnel will meet current seismic standards, help ensure the continued reliable delivery of clean, safe drinking water to the region, and increase the capacity of the existing system for the region's growing population.

This project involves tunneling deep underground. To excavate the tunnel, three shafts will be constructed in Stanley Park. The shafts will be built at the following three key locations: near the Chilco and Alberni Street intersection (Chilco Street Shaft), north of the Stanley Park Service Yard (Central Shaft) and near Tunnel Trail (Burrard Inlet Shaft). At all sites, the construction areas will be restored to equal or better condition.

Key considerations during the planning stages of this project have included maintaining access for park users, protecting the park's public amenities and First Nations sites, and minimizing construction duration and impacts.

Metro Vancouver Communications and Engagement Activities

Metro's communications and public engagement activities for the Stanley Park Water Supply Tunnel began in 2017, with the goal to provide ongoing project updates through to the project's completion. The current phase of communications and engagement activities, which rolled-out this summer, are designed to notify, inform and update stakeholders, residents, businesses, park users and the wider public about the project. Targeted activities include: direct mailings to local residents, virtual public open houses, a public comment period, stakeholder meetings, web updates, social media posts, and onsite information signage. Additionally, Metro has designated a Community Liaison who will serve as the dedicated point of public contact, supporting the project team by responding to enquiries and directing communications for the duration of the project.



Following is an overview of the communication and engagement activities that occurred this summer:

- **Stakeholder Outreach and Meetings (June/July)**
Metro Vancouver, in consultation with Park Board staff, reached out to key stakeholders to provide a project update and listen to feedback. These stakeholders include the businesses and organizations operating in and around Stanley Park and in close proximity to the tunnel shaft sites. Invitations to participate were circulated by email and meetings held virtually.
- **Public Comment Period (July)**
Over the course of three weeks (Jul 5-26), Metro Vancouver posted self-guided project information materials to solicit public feedback and comments via an online comment form posted on the project webpage. Invitations to participate were included on the direct mailout, onsite signage, eNewsletters and posted on [Metro Vancouver's project website](#) and social media channels.
- **Direct Mailout (July)**
Approximately 12,000 West End residents and businesses located near the Chilco Street Shaft Area, were mailed an invitation to participate in the public comment period and virtual open house. Invitations included details about the project and information on how to participate in engagement activities.
- **Virtual Open Houses (July)**
Members of the public, including residents and businesses situated near the Chilco Street Shaft Area were invited to participate in two virtual open houses (Jul 13 & 15). The meetings were held live, in a Zoom webinar format and included an opportunity for the public to provide feedback and ask questions. Details of how to participate were included on the direct mailout, on-site signage, eNewsletters and posted on the [project website](#) and social media channels.

Based on feedback from the Virtual Open Houses, an additional virtual information session has been scheduled for **Monday, August 16, 6:00pm-7:30pm**. The Zoom link for this session is posted on the [project website](#) should Commissioners be interested in participating.

Timeline/Next Steps

This major water infrastructure project is currently in the detailed design phase with construction planned for late 2022 through to 2027. Park Board staff continue to work closely with the Metro Vancouver project team and plan to present recommendations to the Board this fall.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donnie Rosa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donnie Rosa (*they/she*)
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/MV/fk/is/clc

Copy to: PB Leadership Team, Park Development Project Team, PB Communications