Welcome

Georgia Street is a busy transportation corridor and an important gateway into the city of Vancouver. But traffic can be a challenge, and the street can be uninviting for people walking, rolling, and cycling. We are beginning a transportation planning process to explore how to make Georgia a Complete Street - a street that is safe, efficient, and welcoming for people of all ages and abilities, and using all modes of travel.

Why Georgia Street?

• Georgia Street is an important gateway into the city.
• More people will make this area and region home.
• We have an important opportunity to make sustainable travel reliable, safe, and comfortable.
• We want to make a plan for the transportation network that will move more people, goods, and services smoothly and efficiently.

What’s happening today?

This open house is an opportunity to:
• Learn about the project
• Explore the issues
• Ask questions & share feedback

Feedback from this open house will help the transportation planning team understand the issues and explore solutions.

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November 2017

Phase 1
Listen & Learn
Learn from road users, businesses, and residents about their experience, and how Georgia Street could be improved.

Phase 2: Explore Options & Design Choices
Work with residents, businesses, and road users to assess the transportation network options and street design choices that will work best for Georgia Street.
Policy Context

Transportation 2040
Adopted by City Council in 2012

Targets:
• By 2040, at least two-thirds of all trips will be made on foot, bike, or transit.
• Move toward zero traffic-related fatalities.

Directions:
• Make walking and cycling safe, convenient, comfortable, and fun for people of all ages and abilities.
• Support transit improvements to increase capacity and ensure service that is fast, frequent, reliable, fully accessible, and comfortable.
• Manage the road network efficiently to improve safety and support a gradual reduction in car dependence.

West End Community Plan
Adopted by City Council in 2013

The population of the West End is estimated to grow from 45,000 to over 52,000 residents in the next 30 years. Much of this growth is expected to occur near Georgia Street. Strategies to manage growth include:
• Maintain, upgrade and expand walking and cycling networks to make it easier, safer and more comfortable to get around.
• Work with TransLink and Coast Mountain Bus Company to maintain and enhance a well-defined transit network.
• Enhance waiting areas at transit stops with targeted improvement such as better sidewalks, seating, improved signage and wayfinding.

Renewable City Strategy 2015-2050
Adopted by City Council in 2015

Renewably powered transportation priorities include:
• Enhance and accelerate the development of complete streets and green infrastructure.
• Optimize the road network to manage congestion, improve safety, and prioritize green transportation.
• Improve frequency, reliability, and capacity across the transit network.
• Develop a transit-supportive public realm with improved multimodal integration and comfortable waiting areas.
• Develop supporting infrastructure that meets the needs of renewably powered vehicles.
What are Complete Streets?

Complete Streets are streets designed for everyone. They are designed thoughtfully to integrate neighbourhood context, transportation, vibrant public space, green infrastructure, and sustainability. They are safe and comfortable for people of all ages, abilities, and modes of travel.

Key Design Principles of a Complete Street:

- Fits with the neighbourhood context – no one-size-fits-all approach!
- Ensures people of all ages and abilities can access homes and businesses
- Improves safety and comfort, especially for those walking, rolling, cycling or taking transit
- Supports the movement of goods, services and emergency vehicles
- Aims to enhance public life and make streets inviting places
- Considers green space, such as street trees and gardens
- Explores opportunities for flexible design so streets can be adapted for special events, celebrations, and emerging technologies
- Explores opportunities to integrate sustainable design, such as rainwater management

What do some elements of a Complete Street look like?

There are many elements and design features that can make a Complete Street. Every street is different; there is no one-size-fits-all solution.

- Public art
- Accessible & safe crosswalks
- Safe & comfortable cycling
- Dedicated bus lane
- Parklet
- Wayfinding signage
Guiding Principles

What can we do to make Georgia a Complete Street? We will explore the unique challenges and opportunities of Georgia Street. So far, we have identified the following principles to help guide the transportation planning process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Safety</th>
<th>Improve safety along Georgia Street.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sustainable Travel</td>
<td>Make transit, cycling, rolling, and walking more reliable, comfortable, and enjoyable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Connections &amp; Access</td>
<td>Enhance walking and cycling connections to Stanley Park, as well as the West End, Coal Harbour, and Downtown. Ensure access to and from homes and businesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Clarity &amp; Predictability</td>
<td>Make Georgia Street a more clear and predictable street.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gateway</td>
<td>Celebrate Georgia as a gateway to the city and enhance the feel of the street.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Safety

We want to make Georgia Street safer for everyone. Although pedestrians and cyclists are involved in only 2% of vehicle collisions citywide, they make up the majority of traffic fatalities. When designing the street, we want to give special consideration to the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Pedestrian, bike, and vehicle collisions 2011-2015

Tell us what you think!

How do we make Georgia Street safer and more comfortable?

Please add your comments here
Sustainable Travel

Over the last ten years, the number of vehicles travelling on Georgia Street has not increased, mainly because the Lions Gate Bridge is often at capacity.

Although there’s little room for more vehicles on Georgia Street, there is room to move more people. For example, buses can move more people than cars in the same amount of road space.

Georgia Street can be unpleasant for walking, rolling, and cycling. However, if the street felt safer and more inviting, it’s likely that more people would choose to walk, bike or roll.

How can we make sustainable travel a more attractive and realistic choice for Georgia Street?

Tell us what you think!

Please add your comments here
Transit

Georgia Street is a very well-used transit corridor. But buses can be overcrowded, and they can also be delayed by other traffic. We want to make it faster, easier, and more reliable to take transit on Georgia Street.

How can we make taking public transit a more attractive and comfortable experience along Georgia Street?

Average Number of People Getting On and Off at Bus Stops per day

Tell us what you think!
Cycling

For people cycling, Georgia Street can be a challenge to navigate, and can feel unsafe and uncomfortable. We want to make cycling along Georgia Street more attractive for people of all ages and abilities (AAA).

**What is AAA?**
All Ages and Abilities is a term used to describe the City of Vancouver’s vision to make cycling safe, convenient, comfortable, and fun for people of all ages and abilities.

**How can we improve AAA cycling connections in this area?**

Georgia Street is also a popular tourist destination, with several bike rental shops and Mobi bike share stations near Stanley Park. We want to create better cycling connections across Georgia Street, as well as to the Seawall, Stanley Park, and the downtown core.

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Map of broader AAA cycling network

- Stanley Park
- To downtown
- To the Seawall

**Cycling upgrades to the Stanley Park causeway were completed in 2016**

- Smooth paving
- Separated from pedestrians

**Possible cycling path on Georgia St (north) using streetcar right-of-way**

- Separated from road

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**Tell us what you think!**

Please add your comments here
Walkability

Georgia Street is often thought of as simply a busy vehicle corridor. However, Georgia Street is also a walking connection between Stanley Park and the Seawall to Coal Harbour, the West End, and downtown. Parts of Georgia Street are great for people walking or using mobility devices today, but there is significant room for improvement. Some sidewalks are narrow and uncomfortable, some routes to the water are hidden or confusing, and some crossings can feel very unsafe.

How can we encourage more walking on Georgia Street?

Please add your comments here

Tell us what you think!

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Connections & Access

As part of the transportation planning process, we need to explore how to better coordinate the road network and consider new developments. We will need to maintain good access to and from homes and businesses, and balance the efficient movement of people, goods, and services with the desire to keep traffic out of residential neighbourhoods.

How can we make the streets work better as a network?

Tell us what you think!

Please add your comments here
Clarity & Predictability

A well-designed street is free of clutter and easy to navigate by foot, bike, transit, or car. Right now, this is a challenge on Georgia Street. If we can make Georgia Street easier to navigate, this can help make the street safer and more enjoyable to travel on. It can also help to make travel times more predictable. For instance, if buses no longer shared road space with cyclists or other vehicles, they wouldn’t get as delayed in traffic.

Overhead clutter
Buses lined up
Unclear way to cross the street
Reversible traffic lane
Complicated signage
Shifting travel lanes

How can we make Georgia Street feel safer, look less cluttered, and function more predictably for all travel modes?

Please add your comments here

Tell us what you think!
What is a Gateway?

A gateway can be defined in many ways and take many forms. Georgia Street is considered a gateway because it is an entrance to the city, it is a wide and well-used street, and it is used for major processions and community events. We have a unique opportunity to improve Georgia Street as a gateway - to celebrate the area’s history and welcome people into the city to work, visit, and play.
Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is an important part of a Complete Street. Although Georgia Street looks ‘green’, there are many ways to reduce stormwater pollution and improve the way water is managed.

What is Green Infrastructure?
Green infrastructure is an approach to water management that protects, restores, or mimics the natural water cycle. It uses soils, plants, trees, and built structures such as green roofs, swales, and rain gardens to capture, store, and clean rainwater before returning it to our waterways and atmosphere. It increases the city’s resilience to climate change, and supports neighbourhood livability and biodiversity.

How do we work towards capturing and cleaning 90% of the city’s annual rainfall?

Tools of Green Infrastructure

- **Swales** store and filter rainwater using plants and soils. Also creates urban wildlife habitat.
- **Catch basins** percolate water into the ground, prevent pooling, black ice, and overloading of the stormwater system.
- **Pervious asphalt bike paths** percolate water into the ground; prevent pooling, black ice, and overloading of the stormwater system.
- **Green roofs** store rainwater to be released back into atmosphere through evapotranspiration; cool buildings on hot summer days.
- **Green streetcar tracks** allow grass between tracks to soak up rainwater and percolate into the ground.
- **Soil cell structures** support sidewalks above and provide space for tree roots, soils, and underdrains to store, treat, and infiltrate water.
- **Parks and trees** pump water into the atmosphere through evapotranspiration.
- **Street sweeper** prevents sediment and litter from building up in green infrastructure such as pervious asphalt and catch basins.
- **Rain gardens** collect runoff from downspouts and use vegetation to store, filter, and infiltrate water; drains prevent flooding and prolonged pooling.
Next Steps

Phase 1 - Listen & Learn

Share your feedback and ideas!

- **In Person**: Fill out a comment sheet today!
- **By E-mail**: Send comments or questions to: georgiagatewaywest@vancouver.ca
- **By Phone**: Call 3-1-1 to provide comments or ask questions.
- **Online Survey**: Fill out a survey by visiting: vancouver.ca/georgiagatewaywest

Feedback from this open house will be used to inform the next phase of the planning process.

Phase 2 - Explore Options & Design Choices

The next step will be to work with residents, businesses, and road users to assess the transportation network options and street design choices that will work best for Georgia Street.

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