January 2, 2018

Hastings-Sunrise Adanac Overpass

Dear Residents,

In response to concerns from neighbourhood residents, the City of Vancouver launched an engagement process last May to better understand transportation issues in the area between Hastings Street, Boundary Street, E 1st Avenue, and Renfrew Street. There was an overall sense that the biggest issue was high volumes of non-local motor vehicle traffic travelling on local streets, particularly near schools, to access the Adanac overpass over Highway 1.

Traffic analysis showed that the majority of vehicles travelling over the Adanac overpass westbound in the morning rush hours (71%) and eastbound in the evening rush hours (73%) are non-local commuter traffic. The counts also showed high numbers of bicycles and buses using the Adanac Overpass, a designated transit route and local street bikeway.

Independent of this review and public engagement process, in 2018 Fortis BC will be upgrading an underground gas line running between Coquitlam and Vancouver. This includes E 1st Avenue from Highway 1 to Clark Drive, which will involve motor vehicle lane closures and temporary full street closures of E 1st Avenue in sections. As a result of this, we anticipate that drivers may choose to avoid East 1st Avenue and use the Adanac overpass instead, adding to the issue of regional traffic on your local streets.

To avoid additional non-local commuter traffic in your neighbourhood, the City of Vancouver is planning to temporarily close the Adanac overpass to all private motor vehicles beginning approximately one month before Fortis BC’s work begins. We will install electronic warning signs of the upcoming closure before we close the Adanac Overpass. The overpass will remain open to transit and emergency vehicles, as well as to people walking and cycling.

Our original intent was to close the Adanac Overpass in December 2017, because Fortis BC’s work was originally scheduled to begin in January 2018. If Fortis BC’s construction period shifts again, then we will coordinate to shift our closure of the Adanac Overpass. Our intent is to close the overpass approximately one month before Fortis BC begins their work on E 1st Avenue.
Avenue. Fortis BC will complete their work on E 1st Avenue about 6 months after they begin. We will monitor the effect of the temporary closure on non-local commuter traffic in the neighbourhood to evaluate the closure’s effectiveness.

We appreciate that this full closure will also restrict you personally; however, we anticipate the temporary closure of the Adanac overpass will significantly reduce non-local traffic travelling through the neighbourhood. The City will monitor the traffic impacts of the temporary closure in the neighbourhood to make adjustments to the design as necessary. This will also help us make an informed decision about whether to make this closure permanent following the Fortis construction, if it proves to help address neighbourhood concerns regarding the volume of non-local motor vehicle traffic in the neighbourhood.

For more information on the Fortis BC project please visit https://talkingenergy.ca/upgradeproject.

If you have any comments about the proposal or our monitoring plans, please contact us at adanac@vancouver.ca or call 3-1-1.

Sincerely,
Adanac team
Transportation Design
City of Vancouver, Engineering Services