

Marine Drive Upgrades
Frequently Asked Questions

December 4, 2020

1. What is this project?

Starting January 4, 2020, the City will be upgrading critical water, sewer, electrical and street infrastructure along sections of Marine Drive from Oak Street to Victoria Drive.

Work includes replacing 4 KMs of aging water main, installing 1 KM of separated sanitary and storm sewer pipelines, upgrading traffic signals at eight intersections, installing left turn arrows at 2 intersections to help reduce collisions, and pavement and concrete renewal for improved safety and comfort for all users.

2. Why is this work being done?

Our Streets branch has identified Marine Drive for rehabilitation based on the poor condition of the road surface, which is exhibiting cracks, rutting, and pavement subsidence. The water main has reached the end of its service life and needs replacing. The sewer lines are at capacity. The new water main and sewer will:

- have a life expectancy of 100 years and will help to serve this growing neighbourhood
- The sewer upgrades will contribute to the annual 1% sewer separation target set by the Metro Vancouver Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan, as well as the Province of BC's 2050 sewer separation target

The Marine Drive corridor is a major arterial route that sees about 34,000 vehicles on average per day. The condition of the infrastructure along Marine Drive is critical to residents and commuters alike, serving as a link to multiple destinations across the Lower Mainland. The City is committed to maintaining critical assets in a state of good repair: we plan for, develop and sustain environmentally sound, cost-effective, reliable and safe civic infrastructure.

3. Why is this project going to take almost two years?

The City strives to minimize impacts and duration as much as possible on all projects. The scope of work being undertaken as part of this project is substantial, including water, sewers, streets and electrical upgrades and it will take time. Trenches up to three meters deep will be dug to facilitate the replacement of critical infrastructure. Performing this work safely is the City's primary concern, and it cannot be rushed. Traffic flow must also be maintained at all times during construction, which also limits our ability to reduce the project schedule.

By working to coordinate the water main replacement and sewer separation with the street and electrical improvements, we can minimize public disruptions from construction over the long term – particularly on arterial routes.

4. Is this five-km stretch of Marine Drive going to be under construction for the full work period?

No, we will be doing the work in sections, starting with water and sewer work on Marine at Fraser Street with water crews moving east and sewers crews moving west. Once we have

finished in one section, travel lanes will be re-opened as soon as it is safe to do so.

5. How has the City told people about this project?

We have distributed notification letters to the neighbouring community in early December 2020 and followed up by visiting local businesses in-person.

As the project nears construction, additional information will be provided to the community in advance of any impacts or anticipated lane/street closures.

Project signage and changeable message boards will also be placed throughout the route and at major entry points. We will also be advising the public through a media release and our social media channels.

6. What is the City doing about shortcutting through our neighbourhood? Is this project going to address this issue?

Staff understand from residents that short-cutting and vehicle speeds may be a concern during these critical improvements along Marine Drive.

We will have Traffic Control Persons (TCPs) stationed along the corridor to monitor traffic and ensure smooth traffic flows through the construction zone.

We will also be actively monitoring traffic patterns on Kent Avenue and the surrounding streets throughout the project to address and manage local traffic concerns. Local traffic only signage will be installed, and further efforts will be considered if shortcutting proves to be an issue. These could include temporary road closures or traffic diverters or VPD enforcement.

7. What will the construction hours and schedule be?

Construction is scheduled from January 4, 2020 with anticipated completion in December 2022.

Work will typically take place Monday to Friday, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm with some extended hours during evenings and weekends as needed.

8. What kind of road closures/traffic impacts should one expect during construction?

To complete the work, two lanes will generally be maintained in each direction along Marine Drive during peak rush. For off-peak hours, the two lanes eastbound and one lane westbound will generally be maintained.

- Turning restrictions may be implemented to ease traffic congestion when required.
- Bus stops along Marine Drive will operate as normal unless notified in advance (to be posted at the bus stop).
- Some sidewalk detours will be in effect.

Motorists should expect delays in the areas of construction and are encouraged to plan ahead by checking road closures at vancouver.ca/roadwork or connecting on the go through [VanConnect](#).

9. What about access to homes or businesses?

Access to residences and businesses will be maintained at all times.

Sidewalks and crosswalks will generally be maintained during construction. There may be times when access to a driveway or parking area is temporarily restricted.

10. Will there be any parking restrictions?

Yes, during construction, street parking will be removed as required, and regulations may temporarily change on adjacent streets. Please be sure to follow posted *No Parking* signs.

City crews will work to maximize parking space at all times while ensuring work can proceed efficiently.

11. What about deliveries to homes or businesses?

Residents, employees, deliveries, and any persons destined for a location within the work zone will always be permitted.

12. Will there be any kind of utility service disruption during construction?

The City will provide advance notice of any disruption to your water supply, except in the event of an emergency. During construction, you may occasionally notice cloudy water. This cloudiness is not a health concern and will usually resolve within a few hours.

13. What kind of safety measures will be in place during construction?

- Traffic Management Plans have been prepared and will be implemented during construction.
- Signage and traffic control personnel will be on-site to ensure the safety of all road users.
- All construction areas will be protected in compliance with WorkSafeBC regulations. There will be use of heavy machinery & equipment which will be left overnight on site and it is encouraged that residents avoid unnecessary use of the area under construction.

14. How is COVID-19 impacting City work?

The City is continuing with critical infrastructure upgrades and maintenance work.

- During the current health crisis, the city and its residents still need safe and passable roads, clean drinking water, functioning sewers and garbage pickup.
- Without these basic services, people would not be able to stay home and stay healthy.
- All the essential services we see at the forefront of this crisis—like healthcare, food supply, firefighting—also depend on safe roads, clean water, and disposal services like sewers and waste collection.
- Our recovery from this crisis will be aided by these services having been maintained.
- For these reasons, the provincial health officer has deemed construction work an essential service. She has also rated this work as lower risk for spreading illnesses than other types of work because it occurs outside.
- Our construction crews are following provincial health guidelines, including:
- Limiting the number of people on work sites.

- Increasing the number of handwashing stations.
- Regularly cleaning common areas and surfaces.
- Ensuring anyone who is sick stays home.
- Reducing the number of people in vehicles.
- Crew members also try to maintain two metre distance from each other where possible. However, there are some tasks where people can't be two metres apart for safety reasons.
- People can find more information at vancouver.ca/covid19.

15. Who is the main project contact?

Please contact our project team at marineupgrades@vancouver.ca if you require more information. Alternatively, our Community Liaison Officer, Do Nguyen, can be reached at 604-673-8458.