

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

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**RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS**

Prière de les faire traduire

重要資訊 請找人為你翻譯

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**MAHALAGANG KAALAMAN**

Mangyaring isalin ito

**ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ**

ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਉਲਥਾ ਕਰਵਾਓ

**TIN TỨC QUAN TRỌNG**

Xin hãy dịch sang tiếng Việt

**INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE**

Busque a alguien que le traduzca

**중요정보** 번역해주세요

اطلاعات مهم لطفا درخواست کنید  
این اطلاعات را برای شما ترجمه کنند

November 2, 2020

Dear Resident and/or Business Owner:

**RE: Removal of temporary vehicle closure (concrete barriers) on Wall St near Oxford and Cambridge parks**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been re-shaping how we use our streets and public spaces to help residents physically distance and provide opportunities to exercise and travel more comfortably.

Under typical circumstances, changes to the street are implemented following consultation with the community. Over the last few months, as we have mobilized quickly to respond to the pandemic, we have shifted our approach to use a 'try, learn and adjust' approach and are installing changes using temporary materials.

We have been monitoring locations where we are making changes and adjusting based on public feedback. The goal is to be responsive - in some locations, where we have heard significant concerns from the local community we will be adjusting or removing temporary changes.

To address the concerns about the impact of the changes along Wall St, we will remove the temporary closure in November 2020.

**Slow Streets - Background**

Since May 2020, we've designated 40 km of residential streets as 'Slow Streets' with construction style barriers and signs to provide local opportunities for exercise and access to businesses. Our goal is to provide routes that are comfortable for walking, biking and rolling for people of all ages and abilities.

As part of the second phase of the Slow Streets, staff reviewed opportunities to improve the comfort of select routes by installing additional temporary traffic calming. Staff considered how streets compared to the City's All Ages and Ability guidelines, previous feedback from the neighbourhood and their significance in the walking and cycling network (ex. future greenway)

when planning these improvements. Additional background can be found in the Slow Streets Supplemental Guide ([vancouver.ca/slow-streets](http://vancouver.ca/slow-streets)).

## **Wall St - Background**

The first wave of Slow Streets implemented in May 2020 included Wall Street between New Brighton Road and Oxford Park (to connect the Slow Street on Lakewood Drive).

Prior to the pandemic, following many requests from the public, staff collected traffic counts on Wall Street. Motor vehicle volumes exceed the City's All Ages and Abilities guidelines by up to six times than what is expected on a local street and a designated bikeway. Staff reviewed a number of locations and design options for the traffic calming barriers.

In September 2020, temporary traffic calming measures were installed on Wall St near Oxford and Cambridge Parks. This full closure (refer to Figure 1 below) used concrete barriers to prevent motor vehicles from short-cutting along the street but provided adequate space for people cycling and walking.



Figure 1: Photo of temporary traffic calming closure at Wall St at Oxford and Cambridge Parks

## **What we've heard**

We've been tracking and reviewing public feedback about the Slow Streets initiative and the recent traffic calming measures through e-mails, 3-1-1, social media and an online public survey.

### *Wall St Feedback:*

We have heard a mix of support and concerns about this closure. Some people noted that the closure has helped reduce motor vehicle volumes while others have outlined concerns about:

- Traffic circulation changes including (a) local traffic needing to use busier streets with turning restrictions for access and (b) increasing traffic in alleys
- Non-compliance by people driving through the closure
- Limited public consultation around the changes

## **Next Steps**

We want to thank everyone who has provided feedback about the changes and the implementation process.

To address the concerns about the impact of the changes, we will remove the temporary closure in November 2020 until staff can return to have additional conversations about mobility in the neighbourhood.

Over the long term, Wall Street has been identified as part of the Portside Greenway. Greenways enhance the experience of walking and cycling around the city and are designed to be comfortable for all ages and abilities. They include improvements like expanded parks, increased landscaping, public art, and drinking fountains. The Portside Greenway will be developed in stages with a number of opportunities for public consultation.

We welcome further input about the Slow Streets initiative and ideas you may have for the future of Wall Street. Staff will review and incorporate feedback into the broader Portside Greenway planning process.

If you have any questions or comments related to Slow Streets, please contact our team by:

- By e-mailing [slowstreets@vancouver.ca](mailto:slowstreets@vancouver.ca)
- Through online services in the VanConnect app
- By calling 3-1-1

Sincerely,

Engineering Services, City of Vancouver