

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS

Prière de les faire traduire

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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 لطفاً درخواست کنید
این اطلاعات را برای شما ترجمه کنند

June 18, 2021

Dear Resident and/or Business owner,

RE: Update on the proposed design for Smithe Street Upgrades: Richards Street to Thurlow Street

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and City Council's 'Reallocation of Road Space to Support Shared Use During Pandemic' motion in May 2020, staff 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. Some of the key projects include Beach Avenue Room-to-Move, a 40-km network of Slow Streets, hundreds of new patio spaces, and dozens of pop-up plazas and social service parklets.

In spring 2021, staff engaged stakeholders and the public to gather feedback on a proposed design for Smithe Street upgrades. Staff have used public feedback to refine the final design for Smithe Street. Staff plan to begin with preparatory work for traffic signals and paving as soon as July 2021, with more substantial work later in the summer. A detailed summary of the survey results can be found at vancouver.ca/smithe-street-upgrades.

By upgrading active transportation on Smithe Street (Richards Street to Thurlow Street) using a low-cost and quick-build approach, we will fill a key gap in the downtown cycling network. Recognizing that many people may still not want to take transit in the COVID recovery phase, the project will provide a direct and comfortable east-west cycling route between the West End and the Cambie Bridge.

Smithe Street Upgrades – Proposed Design

Smithe Street is an important arterial roadway, distributing traffic (particularly from the Cambie Bridge) onto the downtown grid before ending at Thurlow Street. The proposed design maintains sufficient vehicle capacity for pre-COVID traffic volumes with dedicated turn lanes and added turn signals. Additionally, the proposed design will:

- Provide a bi-directional protected bike lane and
- Improve intersections, reduce conflicts, and create a more predictable street for everyone.

See Figure 1 on page 3 for a general cross-section street view of the final design.

What we did

In spring 2021, staff met virtually with stakeholders such as the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, the Provincial Court of British Columbia, the Orpheum and Commodore Theatres and the area BIA to present the design and receive initial feedback. The stakeholder discussions focused on walking/cycling on the corridor, general motor vehicle circulation in the neighbourhood, access for emergency vehicle access, entry and exit from parkades/driveways, loading/passenger zones and overall safety for all road users.

Later in spring 2021, we gathered public feedback on a proposed design for Smithe Street upgrades through an online survey. About 570 people participated in the survey. More than 70% of participants reported the project objectives to be very important or important to improve their experience along Smithe Street. Some shared concerns and some shared suggestions on how we can improve the design for people walking, rolling, and cycling as well as reduce conflicts between people cycling and driving.

We'd like to thank everyone who provided feedback. We have refined the design based on what we heard to improve safety and comfort for all road users.

Key design modifications based on stakeholder feedback

- ✓ Remove curb bulge west of Seymour Street to maximize passenger zone length
- ✓ Allow turns to lane west of Seymour Street for loading dock access
- ✓ Retain off-peak parking and taxi pick-up/drop off on north curb rather than relocating to south on Smithe Street at Seymour Street intersection
- ✓ Remove planters between Howe and Hornby streets, and replace it with a simple concrete median at sidewalk height. This will serve as a barrier to traffic while being permeable to emergency services and uninviting for seating or other uses.
- ✓ Reconfigure emergency vehicle access at the Smithe-Thurlow intersection

Key modifications based on public feedback

- ✓ Reconstruct curb ramps to increase space for people to walk or wheel using assistive devices at Smithe-Burrard intersection and mark wider crosswalks
- ✓ Repave street and improve sidewalks between Homer and Granville streets
- ✓ Improve advance warning of the right turn to Hornby Street and extend the right turn lane on approach to Burrard
- ✓ Coordinate traffic signal timing for driving and cycling
- ✓ Restrict left-on-red at Richards Street to reduce conflicts
- ✓ Reinforce restrictions at Smithe-Thurlow with landscaping that supports emergency vehicle access
- ✓ Increase the width of the bike path where possible (while retaining a planter separation and lanes for general traffic)
- ✓ Provide a mountable curb rather than completely flush where bike lane is raised to better delineate the bike lane and sidewalk
- ✓ Emphasize the eastbound cycling connection from Smithe to Nelson streets at Richards Street in wayfinding signage
- ✓ Add bicycle racks

Construction of Smithe Street upgrades

As a quick-build project, we are adjusting the proposed design to incorporate stakeholder and the public feedback to the final design and preparing for construction.

Timing: We expect to begin with preparatory work for traffic signals and paving as soon as July 2021, follow with more significant construction such as concrete medians and full paving through August and September, and to open the cycling connection following sign, paint, and traffic signal work in fall 2021.

Work Hours: Construction will generally take place, Monday to Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm, with extended hours up to 8:00 pm and weekends as needed.

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

Traffic Impact: Lane closures are needed to facilitate construction, with access maintained for residents and businesses. Detours may also be in effect during construction for walking and cycling. Please watch for any detour signage to ensure safety for all users.

Smithe/Richards Park: Construction activity will be coordinated with ongoing work at Smithe/Richards Park to minimize disruption.

Parking: Parking restrictions will be in effect to accommodate construction and will be lifted as soon as they are no longer needed. Please be sure to watch for No Parking signs as work progresses.

Noise & Vibration: Efforts will be made to minimize noise, particularly during early hours, however, some noise and dust are expected due to the nature of this work.

We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you in advance for your understanding and patience as we undertake these infrastructure upgrades. During construction, please feel free to discuss any immediate concerns you may have with the crew on-site, as they will be happy to assist you.

If you have any questions or comments related to the Smithe Street Upgrades, please contact our team:

- By e-mailing smithestreetupgrades@vancouver.ca
- Through online services in the VanConnect app
- By calling 3-1-1

Sincerely,

Engineering Services

City of Vancouver

Figure 1: Typical Smithe Street Cross-sections (looking west)

