

B.4

MOTION ON NOTICE

4. Accessibility for Patients at West 10th Avenue Medical Facilities

MOVER: Councillor Ball

SECONDER:

WHEREAS Vancouver's Seniors' Advisory Committee passed a motion on May 20, 2016, to address issues of accessibility for West 10th Ave medical facilities, noting the following:

- In 2013, Council ratified the City's plan to seek formal recognition from the World Health Organization as a "Global Age-Friendly City;"
- In 2014, the Province of British Columbia officially designated Vancouver as an "Age-Friendly Community;"
- Both of these actions have committed the City to follow an "Age-Friendly Action Plan" which refers to "making streets and sidewalks more accessible and reviewing accessibility in areas where seniors live or gather;"
- The Transportation 2040 Plan prioritizes the needs of pedestrians above all others and further states that "a special emphasis will be placed on safety for at-risk groups to get to where they need to go comfortably and safely";
- Seniors require safe and efficient access to West 10th Avenue so they may attend the numerous medical facilities in the area, including the emergency department at Vancouver General Hospital; the BC Cancer Research Centre; the Eye Care Centre; the Arthritis Centre; the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre; the Centre for Hip Health and Mobility; and the Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Centre;
- The addition of a dedicated bicycle route would increase traffic along this route and therefore increase the risk for collisions with pedestrians, especially those who are disoriented or mobility-impaired;
- The addition of the bicycle route would also leave inadequate space for taxis, HandyDart, private cars, or emergency vehicles (especially in cases of vehicle breakdown or catastrophic events);
- The current plans do not provide enough safe, dedicated pick-up and drop-off locations for seniors accessing medical facilities;

- The proposed removal of up to 77 parking spaces would require patients and/or their caregivers to park and wheel or walk a much greater distance to and from medical facilities;
- Sufficient lighting or other features that improve safety and comfort for vulnerable seniors/patients should be provided.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to:

1. Investigate suitable options for the proposed protected bicycle lane, which may include relocating it to the designated bicycle path on West 7th Avenue between Oak and Ash Streets.
2. Ensure sufficient sheltered drop-off/pick-up locations in front of entrances to each medical facility along West 10th Avenue, directly connected by gentle ramps and raised crosswalks to slow traffic.
3. Ensure clear signage that cautions motorists about vulnerable pedestrians and to give priority to emergency vehicles.
4. Ensure adequate lighting, crossing signals, and benches for the safety and comfort of vulnerable pedestrians.

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