



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 24, 2011
Contact: J. Dobrovolny
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RTS No.: 9406
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: December 13, 2011

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager, Engineering Services
SUBJECT: 2012 New Special Event Proposals

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve in principle the road closures required for a Half-Marathon on the streets throughout Coal Harbour, NE False Creek, Chinatown, Strathcona and Kitsilano, August 11th, 2012; subject to suitable arrangements being made through FEST (Festival Expediting Staff Team).
- B. THAT Council approve in principle the road closures required for a bike race on the streets within Gastown to relaunch the "Tour de Gastown", subject to suitable arrangements being made through FEST (Festival Expediting Staff Team).

COUNCIL POLICY

In 2008 Council delegated approval authority for use of City streets for recurring annual events and new events not requiring significant road closures and not having other major public impacts to the City Engineer; significant new event requests are brought to Council for approval. Events that have wider impacts are referred to FEST (Festival Expediting Staff Team).

In 2004 Council adopted a number of new special event policies, including the following:

"Council welcomes celebrations and special events for their contribution in making Vancouver a vibrant City, in reflecting our cultural diversity and neighbourhood character, and for the economic, cultural and recreational benefits they bring to the City. Council supports the facilitation of these events by staff, encourages mitigation of short-term disruptions in neighbourhoods and encourages citizens to welcome these activities and to participate in them."

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for two new events proposed to be held on City streets beginning in 2012.

BACKGROUND

The Film & Special Events Office, Engineering Services, coordinates City approvals for people wishing to organize events on public property or City streets, wishing to hold events on private property where the public might be impacted. For smaller low impact events organizers are directed to other City Departments for specific approvals; for larger more complex events a FEST (Festival Expediting Staff Team) meeting is held. FEST includes staff from various Engineering Services branches, Permits and Licenses, Communications, Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services and Vancouver Police, as well as Park Board, Coast Mountain Bus Company, TransLink, BC Ambulance and Coast Guard as required. FEST assesses and addresses issues like traffic disruptions, noise and health and safety concerns. New events and those with modified plans that have substantial impacts are brought to Council's attention individually for more specific approval.

Event organizers must provide proof of adequate insurance coverage for events on City property, and submit a deposit to cover City costs before a letter of permission is issued by the Special Events Office.

A regularly updated list of Special Events is available on the Special Events Office website. The web-site also provides information for the public about guidelines for holding an event in the City of Vancouver and explains the application process, possible involvement of FEST, downloadable forms and an option to submit the Special Event application online. The website address is:

<http://vancouver.ca/engsvcs/filmandevents/events/pdf/specialEventsList.pdf>

DISCUSSION

We have received two new proposals to hold events which will impact the residents and businesses during the summer months. If Council approves these events in principle, then final details and arrangements will be reviewed and approved through FEST.

Lululemon Half Marathon - August 11th

A local event organizing company has submitted a new proposal to hold an inaugural half-marathon on the streets of the West End, Coal Harbour, Chinatown, Strathcona, NE False Creek and Kitsilano (a map of the route is included in Appendix A). It is the organizers desire to make this an annual event, held during the summer. Lululemon is committed to Council's social policy priorities and will be developing an inclusion agenda to be an ongoing theme in this event. The FEST committee has worked diligently with the organizer to mitigate the impacts to businesses and residents in areas which see a significant increase in both pedestrian and vehicular traffic due to other events and general use during the summer months. It is FEST's perspective that the plans developed for this half-marathon limit the negative impacts. Other major traffic routes in the area (e.g. Pacific Boulevard and Expo Boulevard) will not be impacted.

Tour de Gastown

A second event is being brought forward to Council, the Gastown bike race. This race, known as the "Tour de Gastown", has occurred in previous years and new sponsors have been working with the Gastown BIA on bringing this popular event back to Vancouver.

Council of the day supported this event and subject to Council approval, and subject to the support of the FEST committee, the Gastown Bike Race would return July 11th, 2012. The Gastown BIA will be sponsoring this event once again, formally known as the annual 'Tour de Gastown'. The race will take place within the confines of Gastown with expected closure of Water St., West Cordova St. from Carrall St. to Richards St., as well as the Carrall St. Greenway (a map of the route is included in Appendix B). Expected attendance is 30,000 as spectators watch the cyclists race on the cobblestone sections of Water St. and the Carrall St. Greenway.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As these are commercial events, all costs associated, will be borne by the organizers.

CONCLUSION

City staff and our FEST partners work proactively to ensure that public safety issues are addressed and that impacts on citizens who do not choose to participate in this event are managed. The message that the City *"welcomes celebrations, sporting events and special events for their contribution in making Vancouver a vibrant City, in reflecting our cultural diversity and neighbourhood character, and for the economic, cultural and recreational benefits they bring"* is obviously being heard as the number of requests to hold events within the City increase annually.

The General Manager of Engineering Services recommends approval of the Recommendations contained within this report and directs the FEST committee to continue to work with the organizers of the events approved in principle in this report to ensure they fulfil the City's requirements.

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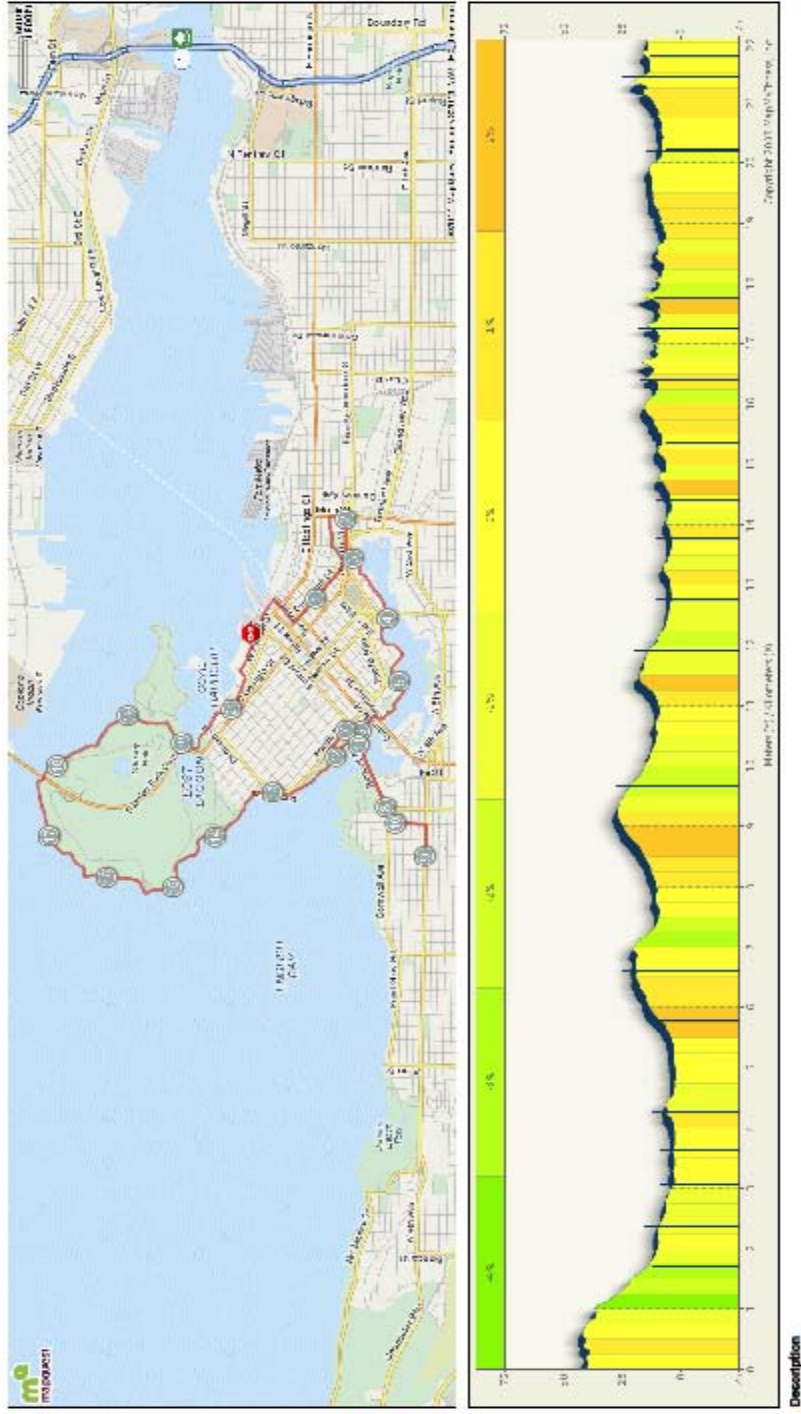


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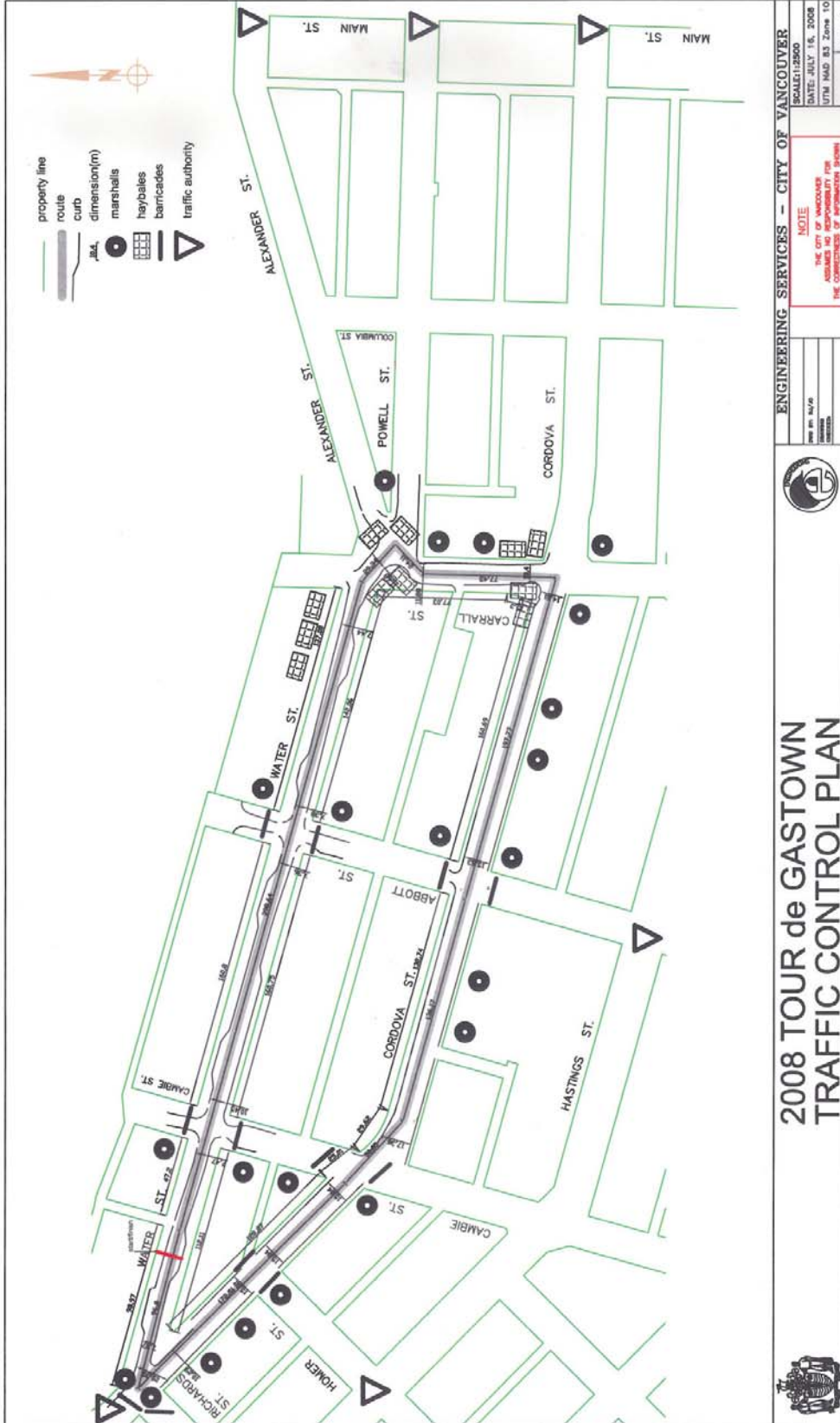
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ENGINEERING SERVICES - CITY OF VANCOUVER



2008 TOUR de GASTOWN
TRAFFIC CONTROL PLAN

