

MEMORANDUM

March 6, 2017

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Katie Robb, Director, Communications, Mayor's Office
Naveen Girn, Director of Community Relations, Mayor's Office
Lon LaClaire, Director of Transportation

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Commercial Drive Complete Street Update

The Grandview-Woodland Community Plan identified the potential to redesign Commercial Drive as a more “complete street”, with a goal of improving it for everyone (businesses, residents, and visitors) whether they are traveling on foot, by bike, on transit, or by driving. In fall 2016, following adoption of the plan, staff held several events to understand opportunities and issues on Commercial Drive. Staff also undertook separate outreach activities with Commercial Drive businesses in order to better understand their specific needs – including a first-ever corridor-specific loading/parking survey and workshop. We also conducted an intercept survey to ensure we understand how customers access businesses on the Drive (80% of customers walk, bike, or take transit when they go to the Drive to shop). Learnings from these various engagement activities will help inform our ongoing work on this project.

When we spoke with the public, most people agreed with the complete street design principles and the opportunity to improve mobility and the public realm. This included support for complete street principles, enhanced pedestrian crossings, and enhanced public realm. We heard a lot of great ideas through the engagement, as well as some concerns about the project in terms of how to achieve a complete street that carefully considers vehicle movement, loading and parking management, and transit reliability. We also received a petition with over 5000 signatures from the Commercial Drive Business Society, which clearly

demonstrates concern about the project and is a signal that we will need to work closely with the business community as the project advances.

We are at the beginning stages of work on design concepts and are undertaking additional analysis on safety improvements, transit improvements, opportunities for public realm, and the potential for coordination with major developments around Broadway, including the SkyTrain station. Once we've had an opportunity to investigate key technical issues in more detail, we'll start having conversations again with stakeholders, particularly focusing on those groups who seemed the most concerned about the project, including businesses on the Drive.

Early on, we thought we may be able to go back out for public consultation to share designs as early as this spring. After collecting feedback from the public last fall and delving into discussions with the business community, we feel strongly that before any proposed designs could be completed we need to spend more time working with the business community to ensure that our recommendations reflect the best possible outcome for this community.

The success of Commercial Drive as both a place and street is important for the Grandview-Woodland community and for the city as a whole. We recognize that any recommendations for change must consider a range of goals and issues including economic impact, health and safety, and public realm vitality. This is an incredible street and an important project to the businesses and community, which is why we've been engaging the business community about the issue since the development of the community plan and will continue to work closely with them as this work progresses.

Staff are working with a project timeline that will focus on continued technical analysis and conceptual design development in early 2017 and further discussions with the business community, including the Commercial Drive Business Society, later in 2017. Broader community outreach would continue beyond that, depending on the outcomes of the work over the upcoming several months. Our goal is to understand the project better as we head into our capital planning phase and to undertake the project early in the next capital plan. We don't expect to seek a decision on the project until at least 2019.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Paul Storer, Manager of Transportation Design at paul.storer@vancouver.ca or at 604.873.7693.

Sincerely,



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