

MOTION

3. Reallocation of Road Space to Support Shared Use During Pandemic

At the Council meeting on May 12, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on May 13, 2020, in order to hear from speakers. Subsequently, due to time constraints, the motion was deferred to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on May 27, 2020 for the Committee to continue debate and decision.

MOVED by Councillor Dominato

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver declared a local state of emergency on March 19, 2020, in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic;
2. The Province has recommended physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
3. The Province has also recommended the public continue to safely enjoy the outdoors, including local parks and public spaces;
4. The Provincial health officer has commented publicly in recent weeks that partial street closures and one way travel/routing can be an effective way to enable physical exercise and safe distancing during the pandemic;
5. Cities across Canada and around the world are undertaking measures to reallocate street space and roadways for pedestrians to safely exercise, access businesses and employment, while maintaining a safe distance due to the current pandemic;
6. Vancouver City Council has previously endorsed motions to support slower residential streets and encourage safer shared use;
7. The City of Vancouver and Park Board recently identified congestion in and around Stanley Park, and subsequently closed the Stanley Park roadway to cars and one lane along Beach Avenue to enable safe physical distancing during the COVID19 pandemic;
8. The City of Vancouver has initiated a street reallocation initiative that focuses on Room to Queue, Room to Load, and Room to Move during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
9. The ongoing pandemic necessitates that the City reallocate road space on an urgent basis now and develop plans for mobility and space use as part of our post-COVID-19 recovery and new economy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to expedite efforts to identify and implement appropriate reallocations of road space, such as high use greenways and streets adjacent to parks where space could be reallocated temporarily to enable safe shared use (pedestrians, cyclists, motor vehicles) and support safe physical distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic response;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to communicate information to the public and businesses regarding the suite of street measures available to the City for reallocating space to support access to local businesses, to support loading and curbside pick-up, and to support physical activity and distancing in neighbourhoods across the city;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back to Council in fall 2020 on refined options for mobility and public realm use as part of the post COVID-19 recovery and new economy.

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