

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION**

*For consideration at the Special Council meeting on July 2, 2026*

### **1. Continuing the Success of the Granville Street Pedestrian Zone Pilot and Temporary Patios throughout the City**

Co-Submitted by: Mayor Sim and Councillor Kirby-Yung

#### **WHEREAS**

1. The City of Vancouver's approved Granville Street Plan envisions a more vibrant, people-focused entertainment district with enhanced public spaces, improved pedestrian experiences, expanded cultural programming, and support for local businesses;
2. The temporary Granville Street Pedestrian Zone established in conjunction with the FIFA World Cup 2026 has transformed five blocks of Granville Street into a major public gathering space, attracting significant public participation, cultural programming, patio activity, and pedestrian traffic;
3. Early public response to the Granville Street Pedestrian Zone has been overwhelmingly positive, with extensive media coverage, strong public attendance, and widespread support expressed by residents, visitors, businesses, and community stakeholders;
4. The Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association has been an instrumental partner in the success of the Granville Street Pedestrian Zone, helping to coordinate programming, business engagement, public activation, and destination marketing efforts that have contributed to strong public attendance, increased economic activity, and widespread support for the initiative;
5. Pedestrian-oriented public spaces have been shown in cities throughout North America and internationally to increase foot traffic, support local businesses, enhance public safety through increased street activity, and contribute to vibrant downtown economies;
6. Local businesses, restaurants, hospitality operators, arts organizations, and entertainment venues along Granville Street have reported increased visibility and customer activity associated with the temporary pedestrianization initiative;
7. Many businesses throughout the city – not only those located on Granville Street – have invested in temporary patios, outdoor seating, and other enhancements in reliance on temporary FIFA-related approvals;
8. Allowing eligible businesses to continue these temporary approvals through the Labour Day weekend, where operationally feasible, would promote consistency, fairness, and continued economic activity across the city;

9. Extending the pedestrian zone beyond the FIFA tournament period would provide the City with a unique opportunity to evaluate pedestrian activity, transportation impacts, economic outcomes, public safety considerations, and business performance during both major-event and non-major-event periods; and
10. A summer extension would allow the City to gather additional evidence and public feedback to inform future decisions regarding the implementation of the Granville Street Plan and potential long-term pedestrianization opportunities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to extend the Granville Street Pedestrian Zone pilot project from its currently scheduled conclusion date through to the end of the Labour Day weekend in early September, subject to operational, emergency access and public safety requirements, and subject to:
  - i. TransLink agreeing to extend the temporary re-routing of bus service from Granville Street for the duration of the pilot extension; and
  - ii. the Provincial Government extending the temporary exemptions currently in place for the Granville Street pilot for the duration of the pilot extension;

FURTHER THAT, subject to Resolution A, Council request the Mayor to write to the Provincial Government and TransLink requesting an extension of the temporary measures and exemptions required to facilitate the pilot extension.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to maintain FIFA-related temporary area extensions, including temporary patios and other authorized public realm uses, where there are no site-specific transit, transportation, accessibility, public safety, construction or other operational issues preventing their continued operation through to September 6, 2026;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to work with the Province and the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch to determine how eligible establishments may extend their current Temporary Extended Liquor Area approvals through to September 6, 2026, where consistent with provincial requirements.

- C. THAT, subject to Resolution A, Council authorize the Chief Financial Officer to make expenditures of up to \$4 million to implement Council's decision, including the disbursement of a grant of up to \$500,000 to the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association - which is hereby deemed to be an organization contributing to the culture of the city - toward Granville Street programming and activation costs during the pilot extension, and to execute all financial transactions and agreements necessary to give effect to Council's decision, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Legal Services.
- D. THAT, subject to Resolution A, the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward any by-law amendments necessary to facilitate the pilot extension.

- E. THAT Council direct staff to explore the feasibility of a temporary reactivation of the Granville Street Pedestrian Zone during November 2026 to accommodate a Christmas Market and to collect additional operational and economic performance data.

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