



SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JULY 2, 2026

A Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, July 2, 2026, at 12 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, for the purpose of considering temporary FIFA patio extensions and the continuation of the Granville Entertainment Pedestrian Zone. This Special Council meeting was convened in person and via electronic means as authorized by Part 14 of the *Procedure By-law*.

PRESENT:

- Mayor Ken Sim
- Councillor Rebecca Bligh
- Councillor Lisa Dominato
- Councillor Pete Fry
- Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
- Councillor Mike Klassen
- Councillor Lucy Maloney
- Councillor Peter Meiszner
- Councillor Brian Montague
- Councillor Lenny Zhou

ABSENT: Councillor Sean Orr

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Andrew Aguilar, Deputy City Clerk
Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

WELCOME

The Mayor acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh People. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

The Mayor also recognized the immense contributions of the City of Vancouver's team members who work hard every day to help make our city an incredible place to live, work, and play.

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

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At the beginning of the item Mayor Sim relinquished the Chair to Acting Mayor Klassen to introduce the motion and to participate in debate and discussion. He resumed the Chair at the completion of the vote on the item.

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MOVED by Mayor Sim
SECONDED by 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 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 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 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.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT C of the motion be amended by deleting "500,000" and inserting "1,250,000."

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Maloney
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the following be added to the end of C:

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to identify and evaluate potential investments aimed at reducing engineering and security costs for both the Granville Street Pedestrian project and the Gastown Pedestrian area, in order to support the ongoing operation of these initiatives.

CARRIED (Vote No. 11753)
(Councillor Kirby-Yung opposed)

The amendment to the amendment having carried, the amendment as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 11754), with Councillor Bligh abstaining from the vote.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT C of the motion be amended by deleting "4 million" and inserting "4.75 million".

CARRIED (Vote No. 11755)
(Councillors Bligh and Fry opposed)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Maloney
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the motion be amended by adding the following at the end of E:

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to take the following actions as soon as possible, subject to operational, engineering, and safety requirements:

- a. extend the existing bus priority lane on Seymour Street to the crosswalk located where the Granville Street Bridge ramp meets Seymour Street; and
- b. install improved wayfinding signage to help transit riders and visitors navigate between bus stops on Seymour and Howe Streets and the Canada Line and Expo Line SkyTrain stations;

AND FURTHER THAT, as part of planning for the permanent pedestrianization of Granville Street contemplated by the Granville Street Plan, Council direct staff to study and report back on:

- c. bus stop locations on Seymour and Howe Streets, including an examination with TransLink of ridership and transfer patterns, and potential bus stop relocations to facilitate transfers to the Canada Line and Georgia Street bus routes;
- d. the feasibility of installing bus bulbs at the highest-ridership stops on Seymour Street, in recognition that existing sidewalk widths are insufficient to accommodate current passenger volumes, particularly where wheelchair ramp deployment can block the full width of the sidewalk; and
- e. the causes of bus delay on Seymour and Howe Streets during peak periods, including conflicts between right-turning vehicles and bus lanes and signal timing at turning movements, with recommendations to achieve peak-hour transit reliability comparable to that observed during off-peak periods.

lost

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Prior to the vote on the above amendment, Councillor Dominato rose on a point of order to enquire whether the amendment was in order under sections 8.7(c) and 8.7(f) of the Procedure By-law, on the basis that the work contemplated by the amendment was already underway. Following a brief recess, Acting Mayor Klassen ruled the amendment in order, noting that it would be time-consuming to determine whether the specific details of the amendment overlapped with work already underway by staff.

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Following the ruling on the amendment, the amendment was put and LOST (Vote No. 11756) with Councillors Dominato, Kirby-Yung, Klassen, Meiszner, Montague, Zhou and Mayor Sim opposed.

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Fry
SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

THAT consideration of the Motion entitled “Continuing the Success of the Granville Street Pedestrian Zone Pilot and Temporary Patios throughout the City,” be postponed to the next Council meeting on July 14, 2026.

LOST (Vote No. 11757)
(Councillors Dominato, Kirby-Yung, Klassen, Meiszner, Montague, Zhou and Mayor Sim opposed)
(Councillor Maloney abstained from the vote)

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During discussion on the above amendment, Acting Mayor Klassen relinquished the Chair to Deputy Mayor Kirby-Yung in order to participate in debate and resumed the Chair upon concluding his remarks.

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AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Maloney
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the following be added as F:

- F. THAT Council direct staff to report back by the end of Q4 2026 with recommendations and cost estimates for a three-year seasonal extension of the Granville Street Pedestrian Zone pilot project, to provide certainty for businesses, the City, emergency services, and arts organizations in planning, budgeting, and investment, thereby supporting the project’s success;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to collaborate with the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association and TransLink to implement this pedestrian-first public space initiative from June through September 2026, with final dates to be determined through partner consultations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 11758)

The amendments having lost or carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED AND C BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 11759), with Councillors Bligh and Fry opposed.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS

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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;
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- C. THAT Council authorize the Chief Financial Officer to make expenditures of up to \$4.75 million to implement Council's decision, including the disbursement of a grant of up to \$1,250,000 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;

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- D. THAT 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.

- F. THAT Council direct staff to report back by the end of Q4 2026 with recommendations and cost estimates for a three-year seasonal extension of the Granville Street Pedestrian Zone pilot project, to provide certainty for businesses, the City, emergency services, and arts organizations in planning, budgeting, and investment, thereby supporting the project's success;

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ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Dominato
SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Special Council adjourned at 1:48 pm.

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