

**TO:** CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER **DATE:** 2022 May 03

**FROM:** GENERAL MANAGER ENGINEERING **FILE:** 37500-14

**SUBJECT: HASTINGS STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – PROJECT UPDATE**

**PURPOSE:** To inform Council of the Hastings Street Improvement Project.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information.

**REPORT**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Hastings Street Improvement Project is a planning and concept design study to identify near-term opportunities (over the next three to five years) for improving the street for all users, including transit users, pedestrians and other active transportation users, residents and visitors, and businesses. The project area extends the full length of Hastings Street in Burnaby, from Boundary Road to Duthie Avenue. The Hastings Street Improvement Project is a partnership between TransLink and the City of Burnaby, and as a joint project, staff from both agencies will be dedicated to actively support the project as well as joint-decision making and project direction.

The Hastings Street Improvement Project supports the vision, goals and targets as described in Connecting Burnaby, Burnaby's Transportation Plan, as well as the Accelerated Mode Shift Big Move as identified in the City's Climate Action Framework to work towards Vision Zero, sustainable mode-shifts, and reductions in overall greenhouse gas emissions.

**2.0 POLICY SECTION**

The Hastings Street Improvement Project is supportive of all three targets and all six goals of Connecting Burnaby, Burnaby Transportation Plan (2021). It is consistent with directions found in the Climate Action Framework (2020), Economic Development Strategy (2007), Social Sustainability Strategy (2011), and Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2016). It supports the goals of the Corporate Strategic Plan (2017).

### 3.0 DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Project Overview, Scope and Objectives

Hastings Street is a major arterial in Burnaby, providing east-west connection through multiple neighborhoods, and is a critical part of the transportation network for the movement of people and goods. This corridor is also part of the regional Major Road Network, supporting the safe and efficient movement of people and goods across the region. In Burnaby’s Transportation Plan, Connecting Burnaby, streets such as Hastings Street are envisioned to serve many purposes in addition to moving people and goods, such as accommodating pedestrians and providing access to businesses with enhanced public realm so that the street is active and enjoyable.

The existing corridor prioritizes the movement and parking of vehicles, and experiences significant congestions during rush hours, including delays to transit services. Preliminary data suggest that transit moves up to one-third of people in the corridor, which represents only about 3% of total vehicular traffic. There are limited facilities in the public realm for pedestrians and active transportation activities.

The Hastings Street Improvement Project presents an opportunity to formally explore the shared interests of the City of Burnaby, TransLink, and the community.

The objectives of the Hastings Street Improvement Project are to:

- Improve bus priority to reduce travel time delay and variability for bus customers;
- Enhance business vibrancy;
- Improve road safety and neighborhood livability;
- Minimize neighborhood impacts;
- Facilitate active transportation facilities; and
- Improve safe and efficient movement of people and goods across the region.

Currently, the project team is evaluating existing conditions along the corridor with studies on transit delay, ridership and use; traffic operations, parking management and usage; curb uses; pedestrian and public spaces; active transportation connectivity and road safety. The Project Update report by the project team is included in this council report as an *attachment*.

### **3.2 Engagement Plan**

The engagement for this project will be community focused and driven, while also considering the broader group of stakeholders served by Hastings Street. Engagement objectives include:

- Create awareness with balanced information of the issues on multi-uses of Hastings Street;
- Engage early to identify key issues and opportunities;
- Identify key stakeholders in the local community; and
- Seek input from local and regional communities with interest in Hastings Street.

The project team has initiated the pre-consultation phase and has reached out to 27 stakeholder groups, identified by both TransLink and City of Burnaby, who may be impacted by, or have an interest in the project.

After completion of the pre-consultation phase, the project team anticipates launching the stakeholder engagement and public survey plan in May 2022. The objectives of engagement this spring are to:

- Continue to create awareness of the project with balanced information;
- Create a forum in which stakeholders can engage with one another and build mutual understanding of diverse or shared objectives; and,
- Engage the broader public at an early stage in this project to build awareness and gain early feedback which can be used in the planning process.

### **3.3 Next Steps**

The next steps for this project include:

- Spring 2022 - Complete stakeholder workshops and public survey
- Summer and fall of 2022 - Develop and evaluate conceptual options
- Early 2023 - Brief City of Burnaby Council on conceptual options
- Winter-spring 2023 - Undertake broad public consultation
- 2023 - Incorporate public consultation feedback and develop a final concept

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From: General Manager Engineering  
Re: Hastings Street Improvement Project – Project Update  
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#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommend that Council receive this report for information.



James Lota, P.Eng., MBA, MPA  
GENERAL MANAGER ENGINEERING

ALC/nh

Attachment

Copied to: General Manager Planning & Development  
General Manager Community Safety  
General Manager Corporate Services

# HASTINGS STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

## Public Engagement Update



MAY 2, 2022

# 1. CONTEXT

## 1.1 Project Overview

Hastings Street is a major arterial in Burnaby, providing east-west connection through multiple neighborhoods, and it is a critical part of the transportation network for the movement of people and goods. Hastings Street also connects Burnaby to major destinations in Vancouver, the North Shore and the Northeast sector including downtown Vancouver, SFU, the Expo and Millennium line SkyTrain stations, and BCIT.

Hastings Street is part of the Major Road Network, supporting the safe and efficient movement of people and goods across the region. In Burnaby's Transportation Plan, *Connecting Burnaby*, streets such as Hastings Street are envisioned to serve many purposes in addition to moving people and goods, such as accommodating pedestrians, providing pedestrian access to businesses, and improved public realm so that the street is active and enjoyable.

Most of the corridor is currently designed for the movement and parking of vehicles, and experiences significant congestion during rush hours, including delays to transit services. While transit moves up to one-third of people on Hastings Street, it only represents about 3% of the vehicles, it has no dedicated space on the roadway and faces congestion from vehicles. The narrow public realm limits opportunities for pedestrians, cyclists and street activation.

There have been many informal discussions over the years about how this key corridor might be improved, but little concerted analysis or engagement to date. The Hastings Street Improvement Project presents an opportunity to formally explore the shared interests of the City of Burnaby, TransLink, and the community.

The Hastings Street Improvement Project is a partnership between TransLink and the City of Burnaby. As partners, both agencies have dedicated staff to actively support the project, as well as joint-decision-making and project direction.

## 1.2 Project Scope & Objectives

The Hastings Street Improvement Project is a planning and concept design study to identify near-term opportunities for improving the street for all users, including bus customers, pedestrians, cyclists, residents, businesses, and visitors. The project area extends the full length of Hastings Street in Burnaby, from Boundary Road to Duthie Avenue.

The objectives of the Hastings Street Improvement Project are to:

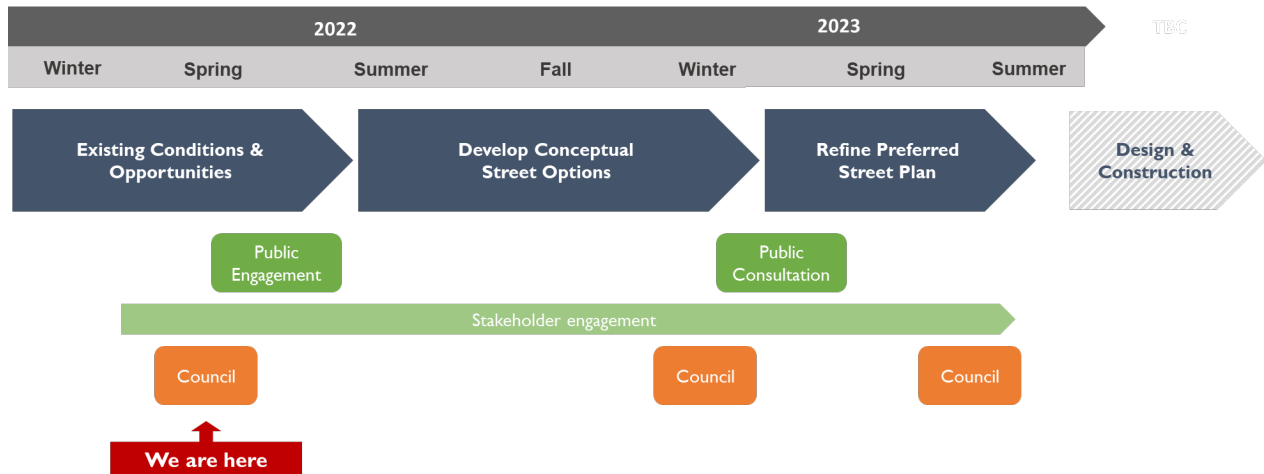
- Improve bus priority to reduce travel time delay and variability for bus customers,
- Enhance business vibrancy,
- Improve road safety and neighbourhood livability,
- Minimize neighbourhood impacts,
- Facilitate active transportation facilities, and
- Improve safe and efficient movement of people and goods.

Outcomes of this project will support the City of Burnaby's 30-year Transportation Plan, *Connecting Burnaby*, and community plans, and support TransLink's mission to enhance the livability of the region by providing a sustainable transportation network.

### 1.3 Project Process and Timeline

The project team began evaluating existing conditions along Hastings Street in early 2022 to understand transit delay, ridership and use; traffic operations, parking management and usage; curb uses; pedestrian and public spaces; bicycle connectivity and road safety.

Following this assessment, and with input from stakeholder engagement and a public survey, conceptual options will be developed for the corridor, with broader public consultation in winter-spring 2023. A preferred plan for the street would then be developed. Staff will continue to report to Council at key milestones. The following diagram shows the process and timeline for the project, including Council briefings.



## 2. ENGAGEMENT PLAN

The engagement will be community focused, while also considering the broader group of stakeholders served by Hastings Street.

Engagement objectives include:

- Create awareness with balanced information of the issues on multi-uses of Hastings Street
- Engage early to identify key issues and opportunities
- Identify key stakeholders in the local community
- Seek input from local and regional communities with interest in Hastings Street

Components of the engagement implementation plan are outlined below.

### 2.1 Early Stakeholder Outreach (mid-March to mid-April 2022) COMPLETED

The project team reached out to 30 stakeholder groups, identified by TransLink and City of Burnaby, who were anticipated to have an interest in the project. This served as our first introduction to key stakeholders in the community.

A list of these stakeholder groups can be found in Appendix 1.

In one-on-one calls, stakeholders were briefed on project benefits and opportunities for engagement. Links to live webpages on both TransLink.ca and Burnaby.ca were provided to stakeholders. We asked stakeholders to identify their key issues with Hastings Street, ideas for

potential improvements, and confirmation that they would like to participate in further engagement.

Of the 30 stakeholder groups, 13 expressed an interest in meeting the project team to provide early input, as noted in Appendix A.

What we have heard so far:

- All appreciated being engaged at this early stage and wish to participate in stakeholder workshops
- Diverse set of views, even within business and development community
- Generally, the more transportation options, the better
- Importance of maintaining current roadway width, improving pedestrian safety on sidewalks
- Concern from merchants about the loss of free and convenient customer parking and impact on their business
- Desire to maintain the street's "high street" feel, while still supporting movement of industrial traffic
- Improving vibrancy, street furniture, lighting
- Futureproofing short-term improvements are not lost in the longer-term
- Importance of data to inform the project, and to share with stakeholders
- Enhance safety by slowing down traffic next to the curb; implement bus bulbs and timed crosswalks

## 2.2 Stakeholder and Public Engagement Plan (May-June 2022)

The objectives of engagement this spring are to:

- Continue to create awareness of the project with balanced information,
- Create a forum in which stakeholders can engage with one another and build mutual understanding of diverse or shared objectives, and,
- Engage the broader public at an early stage in this project to build awareness and gain early feedback which can be used in the planning process.

### ***Stakeholder Workshops***

Community stakeholders will be brought together to explore what they value about their corridor/community, what qualities they would wish to preserve/enhance as well as jointly articulate what they would like to see improved. We plan to hold two workshops, one virtual and one in-person, in late-May. The in-person workshop will include a community walk in the Burnaby Heights area, and those attending the virtual workshop will also be asked if they would like to schedule a community walk with the project team.

TransLink and the City of Burnaby will have representatives in attendance to answer questions. The workshops will be facilitated by Kirk & Co. Consulting, a consultation and engagement firm.

All stakeholders in Appendix 1 will be invited to join.

### ***Public Survey***

The public survey will be co-developed by TransLink and City of Burnaby staff to gain early input from a broader group of people who have an interest in Hastings Street improvements.

The public survey will go live in the second half of May. The survey questions will be developed in collaboration with both partners to seek input on:



- Uses of Hastings Street, frequency, mode of travel
- Areas of concern
- Suggestions for areas of improvement
- Demographic information

The survey will be promoted through stakeholder emails, TransLink and City of Burnaby websites, as well as through traditional and digital media by both TransLink and City of Burnaby.

The survey will be hosted on TransLink's website and accessible via a link from both the TransLink and City of Burnaby project webpages.

Outcomes from both the stakeholder workshops and the public survey include input from engaged stakeholders, the community, and the public about concerns and ideas for Hastings Street improvements.

### **3. NEXT STEPS**

The next steps for this project are to:

- Complete stakeholder workshops and public survey in spring 2022
- Develop and evaluate conceptual street options over summer and fall of 2022
- Brief City of Burnaby Council on conceptual street options in early 2023
- Undertake broad public consultation in winter-spring 2023
- Incorporate public consultation feedback and develop a preferred plan for the street for Council endorsement in mid 2023
- Ongoing stakeholder engagement and respond to enquiries throughout the project

## APPENDIX 1: List of Key Stakeholders for Early Outreach and May Workshops

Stakeholders who expressed an interest in and/or participated in one-on-one meetings are noted in bold.

1. **BC Trucking Association**
2. Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion
3. **Burnaby Board of Trade**
4. **Burnaby Neighbourhood House North**
5. **Burnaby Fire Department**
6. **Burnaby RCMP**
7. Capitol Hill Community Hall
8. Confederation Seniors' Association
9. **Eileen Daily Leisure Pool & Fitness Centre**
10. **Fellburn Care Centre**
11. Gilmore Community School
12. **Greater Vancouver Gateway Council**
13. **Heights Merchants Association**
14. Heights Neighbourhood Association
15. HUB Cycling - Burnaby Chapter
16. Lochdale Community School
17. McGill Library
18. Odyssey I (Boys and Girls Clubs of South Coast BC)
19. **Parkland Refinery**
20. **Port of Vancouver**
21. PosAbilities Association of British Columbia
22. Seton Villa Retirement Centre
23. Shell Shellburn Distribution Terminal
24. Simon Fraser Student Society
25. Simon Fraser Graduate Students Society
26. Simon Fraser Faculty Association
27. Simon Fraser Admin and Professional Staff Association
28. St. Helen's Church
29. **UniverCity Community Association**
30. **Urban Development Institute**

Note: Additional stakeholders are welcome to join as they are identified.