

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please have this translated

RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS

Prière de les faire traduire

重要資訊 請找人為你翻譯

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MAHALAGANG KAALAMAN

Mangyaring isalin ito

ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ

ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਉਲਥਾ ਕਰਵਾਓ

TIN TỨC QUAN TRỌNG

Xin hãy dịch sang tiếng Việt

INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE

Busque a alguien que le traduzca

중요정보 번역해주세요

اطلاعات مهم لطفا درخواست کنید
این اطلاعات را برای شما ترجمه کنند

May 6, 2021

Dear Business Owner:

RE: Proposed Smithe Street Upgrades: Richards Street to Thurlow Street

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Council's 'Reallocation of Road Space to Support Shared Use During Pandemic' motion in May 2020, staff have been re-shaping how we use our streets and public spaces to help residents physically distance and provide opportunities to exercise and travel more comfortably. Some of the key projects include Beach Avenue Room-to-Move, a 40-km network of Slow Streets, hundreds of new restaurant patio spaces, and dozens of pop-up plazas and social service parklets.

As we've seen more people cycling and walking in Vancouver with the continuation of the pandemic, staff have identified another project that can be delivered later this year to provide more space for travel, both during the pandemic and the recovery.

By upgrading active transportation on Smithe Street (Richards Street to Thurlow Street) using a low-cost approach, we will fill a key gap in the downtown cycling network. Recognizing that many people may still not want to take transit in the COVID recovery phase, the project will provide a direct and comfortable east-west cycling route between the West End and the Cambie Bridge.

We'd like to hear your feedback about the proposed design. Your input will help us refine the final design and inform implementation.

Proposed Upgrades - Smithe Street: Richards Street to Thurlow Street

Smithe Street serves as a major westbound connection for the downtown, servicing many residences, businesses and amenities. Currently, a protected bike lane extends from the Cambie Bridge until Richards Street. Continuing west from Richards Street people cycling remain unprotected from motor vehicle traffic.

Smithe Street is an important arterial roadway, distributing traffic (particularly from the Cambie Bridge) onto the downtown grid before ending at Thurlow Street. The proposed design maintains sufficient vehicle capacity for pre-COVID volumes with dedicated turn lanes and added turn signals.

Additionally, the proposed design will:

- Provide a bi-directional protected bike lane and
- Improve intersections, reduce conflicts, and create a more predictable street for everyone.

See Figure 1 on page 3 for a general cross-section street view of the proposed upgrades.

Smithe Street Upgrades – Background

To make cycling more comfortable, the City of Vancouver continues to develop an All Ages and Abilities (AAA) network throughout the city. An extension of the Smithe Street protected bike lane would close a gap in our downtown AAA network, by connecting the Haro Street local street bikeway, which ends at Thurlow Street, and the Hornby Street and Richards Street protected bike lanes.

We've been hearing feedback about this gap over a number of years and during seven related project engagements since 2016. This project also supports the Climate Emergency Action Plan's target of ensuring two-thirds of trips in the city be by active transportation and transit by 2030.

Next Steps

Please review additional details about the project on the Smithe Street Upgrades webpage: vancouver.ca/smithe-street-upgrades. Please fill out a feedback survey online by **June 7, 2021** and share your thoughts.

Your input will help us make adjustments to the design and inform implementation. Staff are aware of nearby construction projects and are coordinating and phasing the work to minimize impacts.

For businesses:

We want to better understand how local businesses use Smithe Street to make sure the proposed changes accommodate business access needs. If you are a business owner or representative and would like to meet with staff to discuss how the proposed design affects your business or property, please email our team. Please provide your building's address, your representative role, and a phone number where you can be contacted. Staff will follow up with you in the coming weeks to arrange a virtual meeting with you and your group.

Any questions or comments related to the Smithe Street Upgrades, please contact our team by:

- By e-mailing smithestreetupgrades@vancouver.ca
- Through online services in the VanConnect app
- By calling 3-1-1

Sincerely,
Engineering Services
City of Vancouver

Figure 1: General Smithe Street Cross-sections (looking west):

