



## MOTION on NOTICE

Submitted at the Regular Board meeting held on November 14, 2022

### Stanley Park Drive Temporary Bike Lane – Next Steps

Submitted by: Commissioner Haer

#### WHEREAS

1. The number of people in Vancouver who choose cycling as a recreational or transportation option continues to grow every year, along with the need to expand the city's bike route and cycling network. Cycling is one of the cleanest, healthiest, and most energy efficient forms of transportation and recreation;
2. On Wednesday, March 18, 2020, the British Columbia government declared a provincial state of emergency to support province-wide responses to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; <sup>i</sup>
3. On April 7, 2020, the Park Board issued an Information Bulletin which stated that Stanley Park would be closed to all vehicles starting on Wednesday, April 8 "in an effort to reduce the number of people in the park and to enable physical distancing."
4. The closure of Stanley Park to vehicles was one of a series of measures the Park Board took to reduce the risk of the COVID-19 pandemic to the public. The measures included physical barriers to vehicles and signage at key access points to the park, supported by Park Rangers and the VPD, and digital traffic signs on Georgia Street, English Bay, and the Stanley Park Causeway to alert motorists to the closure;
5. On June 22, 2020, Stanley Park Drive was partially reopened to vehicle traffic. The reopened configuration temporarily allocated the left lane to motor vehicles and the right lane to recreational cyclists (to allow ongoing pedestrian distancing along the seawall);
6. On Saturday, September 26, 2020, the temporary bike lane on Stanley Park Drive was removed and full vehicle access was restored to the roadway, with cyclists regaining access to the Stanley Park seawall;
7. On March 10, 2021, the Park Board gave new direction to staff "to plan for and implement a temporary bike path on Park Drive in Stanley Park dedicated to cyclists, with an aim to have it in use as soon as is operationally reasonable, and to remain in place until approximately October 31, 2021." (*Stanley Park Temporary Bike Lane on Park Drive – 2021*);
8. On November 15, 2021, the Vancouver Park Board directed staff to extend the timeframe for the Stanley Park temporary bike lane on Park Drive until such time as the Stanley Park Mobility Study is complete and staff have reported back with long-term recommendations;
9. In July 2022, Park Board Commissioners received an update on the Stanley Park Mobility Study – specifically a Preliminary Mobility Context Report and the



Engagement Update Report (Phases 1 and 2) and a projected due date for a further update report sometime in early 2023;

10. The temporary Stanley Park Drive bike lane and the current reallocation of road space in Stanley Park represents an inadequate response to the needs of some park users, whether they be cyclists, motorists, or other park users. A solution that better meets the demonstrated needs of all park users, and park partners, is required.

#### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to immediately restore the pre-COVID traffic and parking configuration on Stanley Park Drive in time for the upcoming December 2022 peak Holiday Season, and

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to report back to the Board on or before December 15, 2022, to update the Board on actions taken pursuant to the direction in "A" above.

- B. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to reframe and otherwise repurpose the current mobility study toward a comprehensive strategy as a planning tool that can deliver new, permanent, dedicated cycling infrastructure in the park, with considerations for:

- i. Accessibility for persons with disabilities, seniors, and families
- ii. Safer multimodal access to the park
- iii. Equitable access for all recreation and cultural users
- iv. Tourist access including tour bus parking
- v. Environmental considerations, such as reduce idling and the resulting GHG emissions
- vi. The emergence of new micro-mobility modes of travel

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to report back to the Board with a planning outline on or before early February of 2023.

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<sup>i</sup> The COVID-19 state of emergency was declared by Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, based on the recommendation from B.C.'s health and emergency management officials the day prior (Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, declared a public health emergency on Tuesday, March 17, 2020); <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PSSG0017-000511>