



June 12, 2020

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Shauna Wilton
Acting General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **COVID-19 Stanley Park Traffic Management Plan - Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to update you on measures to continue physical distancing in Stanley Park with the planned reopening of Stanley Park roadways to private motor vehicles.

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic response staff noted substantial increases in park use, including walking, rolling and cycling on the Stanley Park Seawall. Staff observed significant densities of pedestrians and cyclists on the seawall, such that it was difficult for park visitors to achieve the two metre physical distancing measures recommended to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In response, as outlined in the [Board briefing memo sent April 6, 2020](#), motor vehicle access to Stanley Park was closed to the public on April 8, 2020, with only authorized staff, stakeholders, and emergency personnel granted entrance. This closure allowed cyclists to be safely diverted to Park Drive, which then created more capacity on the seawall by utilizing both the walking and cycling pathways for pedestrians.

In mid-May, British Columbia moved into Phase 2 of its restart plan, which allowed restaurants and other attractions to begin re-opening with capacity reductions and other safety measures put in place. In alignment, Park Board staff have been developing a temporary Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to resume public motor vehicle access to Stanley Park while still supporting physical distancing.

In order to manage the increased pedestrian capacity on the seawall and allow for the continued requirement for physical distancing in the upcoming busy summer months, a dedicated cycling lane on Park Drive, alongside the vehicle lane, will be implemented as part of the TMP. This "laned" approach for Park Drive is currently undergoing technical feasibility analysis to ensure both the safety and operational needs of park partners and stakeholders are addressed. As indicated during the [Reopening & Recovery presentation](#) to the Board on June 8, this includes consultation with Stanley Park commercial partners to understand their specific reopening schedules and needs. Staff have also been consulting with the Ministry of Transportation, City of Vancouver Engineering Services, emergency management services and other stakeholders to ensure that their needs and all safety and operational requirements are addressed.

Additionally, staff have been keeping the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations apprised of the TMP developments and seeking their input through the Stanley Park Intergovernmental Working Group, which has continued to meet electronically through the pandemic.



Staff are also in the process of scheduling meetings with the City of Vancouver's Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and Seniors Advisory Committee to review TMP plans and receive feedback. Dedicated parking spots and drop-off zones for persons with disabilities are included in the plan.

Staff are finalizing technical details and evaluating procurement of the TMP elements, such as traffic cones and lane dividers, which will be required for the 8+ kilometres of roads within Stanley Park. These elements are currently in high demand due to many regional and municipal "Room to Move", "Slow Street", and "Room to Queue" measures that are being implemented to enable physical distancing and enhanced mobility during the pandemic. As such the exact date of the implementation is still being determined but resuming public vehicle access to the park remains a top priority.

Staff will be providing the Board with more details on this temporary traffic management plan, along with an update on the implementation schedule, during an upcoming briefing.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shauna Wilton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Shauna Wilton
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/dh/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Communications