

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 24, 2022

**TO:** Chair Ramos and Transportation and Mobility Commission members

**CC:** Ivar Christensen, Public Works Senior Civil Engineer

**FROM:** Teresa Brum, Deputy Director of Economic Development  
Ryan Lopossa, Public Works Streets and Transportation Manager

**RE:** **Main Street Streetscape Improvement Project**

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### Project Overview

The City of Vancouver is investing in the future of downtown's Main Street—making it safer, more accessible and connected for businesses, residents, and visitors. That is the Main Street Promise. A community-led effort nearly 30 years in the making, this project will reconstruct Main Street from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 15<sup>th</sup> Street. The roadway, sidewalks, and adjacent outdoor spaces will be reconfigured to improve safety, foster a sense of community, and ensure economic prosperity. This project builds on planning work that began in 1993 with the goal of improving and invigorating the heart of Vancouver.

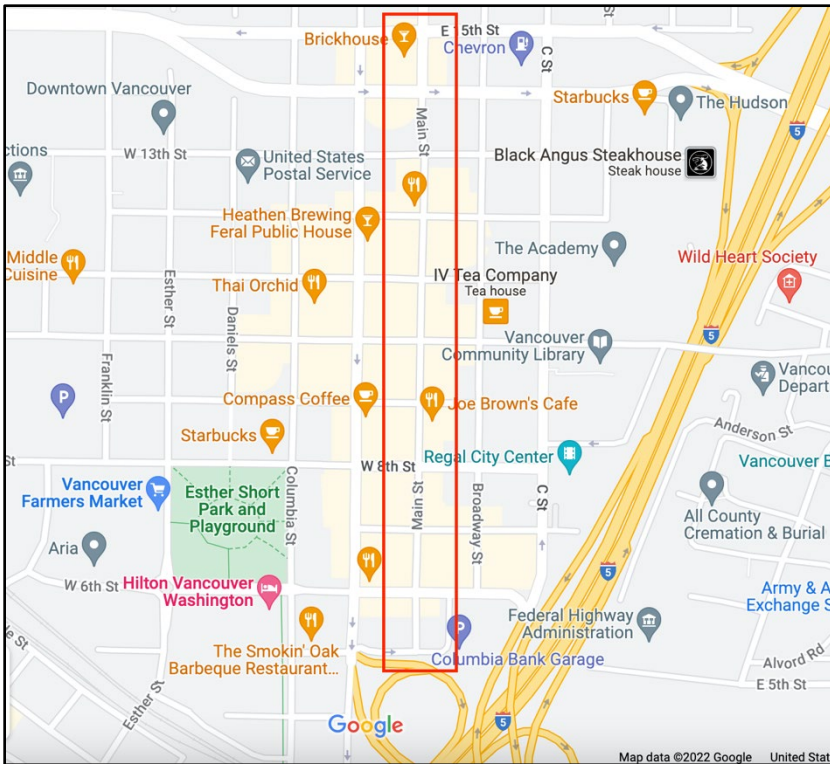
Funding to complete this project is provided through a combination of American Rescue Plan Act federal funds and local funds. Approximately \$10 million in federal dollars will be used to reconstruct the lower Main Street streetscape. Construction costs will depend on the final design chosen.

Community involvement is critical to the success of this project. The City of Vancouver is working closely with Vancouver's Downtown Association as well as Main Street business and property owners to ensure collaboration and mitigate construction impacts as much as possible. All community members throughout Vancouver are encouraged to get involved and provide input throughout the design process. Feedback collected will inform final design and ensure Main Street meets the needs of all users.

# Main Street Streetscape

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## Proposed Improvements & Benefits

- Increase safety for people and vehicles
  - Widen sidewalks and enhance pedestrian crossings
  - Add new LED streetlights to improve visibility
  - Rearrange parking to improve sightlines
  - Address potholes, crumbling sidewalks, and uneven pathways
  - Modify existing traffic signals
- Welcome visitors and support Main Street businesses
  - Increase opportunities for sidewalk commerce (i.e., outdoor seating for restaurants)
  - Improve pedestrian connections to the waterfront, Esther Short Park, and Historic Reserve from Main Street
  - Encourage community gathering on Main Street and utilization of outdoor space through integration of outdoor spaces, street furniture, art, landscaping, restaurant seating and decorative lighting.
  - Improve aesthetics while honoring the history and character of Main Street

## Main Street Streetscape

October 24, 2022

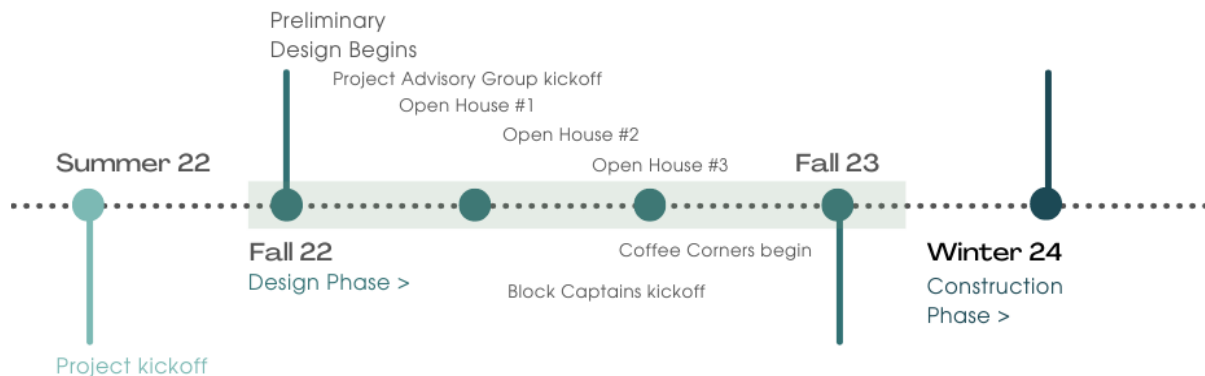
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- Improve infrastructure
  - Upgrade the water lines, sewer lines, and stormwater facilities
  - Repave and restripe Main St.

### Project Timeline

The *Main Street Promise*, as it is known today, began in 1993 when the Main Street Improvement Project was envisioned. Then, in 2003 the first conceptual design and cost estimate was completed and in 2009 the project got to 95 percent design. A second and third design update were developed in 2014 and 2019 respectively.

In 2021 the City secured funding from a combination of federal and local funds and, in June 2022, MacKay Sposito, PointNorth Consulting and First Forty Feet were selected to lead the streetscape design and public involvement efforts. The design phase is slated to take approximately one year and will wrap up in late 2023. Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2023.



### Opportunities for Engagement & Feedback

There are many opportunities to learn about the project, speak with project staff, and provide input. Join upcoming Stakeholder Forum virtual meetings, advisory group meetings, open house events, and drop-in office hours at various locations throughout the project area.

- **Downtown Stakeholder Forum** – Attend virtually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 1-2pm to stay up to date on key progress updates. Learn more and sign up to receive meeting notifications at [Main Street Appearance Project | Be Heard Vancouver](#) or by phone at (360) 644-4241.

- September 2022 – Ongoing throughout the lifetime of the project

- **Project Advisory Group** – To ensure the design process is informed by the needs of the community, a Project Advisory Group (PAG) made up of a representative range of Main Street key stakeholders—including businesses, property owners, and residents—as well as the general Vancouver community and visitors will kick off in early November 2022. The PAG will meet three to five times over the course of the project’s design phase to provide critical feedback and input that will be leveraged to shape and narrow the design options.

Community members interested in being considered to participate in the PAG can reach out to the project team at [Main Street Appearance Project | Be Heard Vancouver](#) or by phone at (360) 644-4241. Meetings will be open for the public and a full meeting schedule will be available on this page later this year.

- Fall 2022 – Summer 2023

- **Open Houses** – A mix of in-person and virtual open house events will be offered throughout the project’s design phase, where the public will be able to hear directly from project staff and share their feedback on design options, considerations, and tradeoffs.
  - Open House 1 - November 30, 2022 from 4:30-6:30pm at the Vancouver Library - Preliminary design considerations and tradeoffs
  - First Friday Drop In Open House, December 2, 2022 from 5-7pm, VDA office, 811 Main Street
  - Open House 2 - Spring 2023 - 60% Design
  - Open House 3 - Fall 2023 - 100% Design
- **Block Captains** – Designed to support business and property owners along the project area, a project captain will be designated for each block from 5<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Street. Block Captains will be regularly briefed on the latest project updates and will serve as a resource for members of their designated block, collecting and sharing feedback, questions, or comments back to the project team.

Business or property owners interested in being considered for the project Block Captain role can reach out to the project team by 7 p.m. on November 30.

- December 2022 - September 2023

- **Coffee Corner Office Hours** – As design options are developed, the project team in partnership with the Vancouver Downtown Association will host a series of in-person office hours at various locations within and near the project area. More details—including timing and locations—will be posted on this page as details are confirmed.
  - May - September 2023

- **Contact the project team** – Send questions or comments directly to the project team by email link at [Main Street Appearance Project | Be Heard Vancouver](#) or by phone at (360) 644-4241. Stay up to date as this investment in Vancouver’s Main Street moves forward. Project information will be updated regularly on this page. Sign-up to receive email updates about the project, including upcoming meetings and events, directly to your inbox.

### **Next Steps & Future TMC and Council Review**

- 12/19/2022 City Council Workshop on 30% Design
- Q1 2023 TMC review -30% Design
- Q2 2023 City Council Workshop on 60% Design
- Q2 2023 TMC review - 60% Design
- Q3 2023 Construction begins