



MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 25, 2022

TO: Chair Ramos and Transportation and Mobility Commission members

CC: Rebecca Kennedy, Deputy Director of Community Development

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

RE: **Main Street Streetscape Project**

Introduction

The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of the Main Street Streetscape project in advance of the Transportation and Mobility Commission meeting on June 7, 2022.

Background

In 1993, the City of Vancouver first developed the downtown Main Street Streetscape Improvement project. The project was divided into two project areas: North Main and Lower Main. In 1996, the North Main Project, also known as Uptown Village, which included complete reconstruction of the roadway and pedestrian areas from building face to building face, was funded and constructed. The city then designed the Lower Main Street Streetscape Improvement Project (MSSIP), whose project objectives were:

- Create a stronger sense of community identity and provide a welcoming place that attracts citizens and visitors.
- Create an environment that will be a catalyst for renewed investment by business and property owners.
- Begin to establish a connection between the Esther Short and waterfront areas west of downtown with the Historic Reserve and East Waterfront.
- Create an attractive quality visual image of our downtown that can be a model for future improvements.

The City investigated funding sources for the MSSIP for the next 25 years without success, employing funding strategies in 2003, 2006, 2014, 2019. At each attempt, due to substantial costs, the project was not funded. Although significant design and planning work for Lower Main Street Improvements has been accomplished, the resources necessary to construct the project were substantial and the work was not funded until 2021, when funding was identified as one of the city's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded projects.

Overview of the Main Street Streetscape Project

The Main Street Streetscape Project was identified in 2021 to:

- Address the negative impacts of COVID on small businesses, especially to provide for prevention and mitigation strategies for small businesses, nonprofits, and impacted industries by increasing their capacity to weather financial hardship,
- Access to parks and recreation
- Access to food
- Enhance pedestrian safety
- Resilience in anticipation of the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program

Project elements may include

- Sidewalks may be widened if achievable without reducing the existing number of parking spaces.
- Modern (LED) Streetlighting
- Enhanced pedestrian crosswalks
- Traffic signalization
- Upgrade water and sewer lines
- Upgrade stormwater facilities
- Repave Main Street

Community outreach for this project will include stakeholder engagement with impacted groups as appropriate, including residents, businesses, customers, neighborhood associations, business associations, chambers of commerce, community-based organizations, historically excluded and underserved communities, and the Transportation and Mobility Commission. The first touchpoint with the community, planned to occur in Summer 2022, will provide an overview of the project. This will be followed by a series of events that will provide an opportunity to community members and stakeholders to review the findings and design concepts and provide feedback prior to the final design. During the construction phase, ongoing communication will provide information and outreach with a goal to retain local businesses for the duration of the project.

A variety of sources will be used to fund the project including the following:

- ARPA
- City Transportation Fund
- Multi Family Tax Exemption Public Benefit Fund
- Federal Earmark Request

ARPA funding for the project requires that funds be obligated by December 31, 2024, and fully expended by December 31, 2026.

The following project schedule has been drafted:

- Design consultant Notice to Proceed – June 2022
- Public Outreach/Engagement begins – July 2022
- 60% Design Completed – November 2022

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- Design/Outreach Completion – Spring 2023
- Commence Construction – Summer 2023
- Construction Completion – End of 2023

Next Steps

November 2022 – Review 60% Design with TMC

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