

DATE: 1/27/2023

TO: Chair Ramos and Transportation and Mobility Commission Members

FROM: Emily Benoit, Community Development

RE: **McGillivray Boulevard Safety and Mobility Project Introduction**

I. Background

The McGillivray Safety and Mobility Project (Project) is evaluating potential changes to improve safety and mobility for all who travel on SE McGillivray Boulevard between SE Chkalov Drive and SE 164th Avenue and SE Chkalov Drive between SE 7th Street and SE McGillivray Boulevard. The Project will evaluate how McGillivray Boulevard can better meet the needs of people walking, biking, using a mobility device, and driving.

This Project will advance the City's priorities of safety, equity, and climate by:

- Identifying changes that will increase safety and comfort for all users regardless of age, ability, or mode choice.
- Increase access and opportunity for all users to travel safely throughout the transportation network.
- Increase options for low- or no-emissions travel, helping to reduce transportation related emissions.



Figure 1: McGillivray Boulevard Safety and Mobility Project Corridor Boundary

The Project is being completed in advance of pavement preservation work scheduled to occur in Summer 2024 on this corridor. Pavement preservation projects present an opportunity to implement improvements within the existing roadway, so the Project will consider improvements such as:

- Repurposing travel lanes to enhance mobility facilities.
- Enhancing the existing mobility lanes with painted buffers and/or vertical barriers to separate people using mobility lanes from vehicle traffic.
- Narrowing the vehicle travel lanes to slow vehicle speeds.
- Intersection improvements to reduce crossing distance and improve driver compliance with existing stop signs.

- Enhancing existing marked crossings to improve visibility and consider where additional marked crossings may be needed.

II. Project Phases

The Project began in Fall 2022 and is expected to conclude in Fall 2023, with pavement and construction occurring in 2024. Each phase of the Project includes an opportunity for community members to review technical work, share their input, and provide feedback that will inform the Project as it progresses and the final design and recommendations.

Phase 1: Analyze the Corridor (Fall 2022 to Winter 2023)

As part of Phase 1, the project team will evaluate how McGillivray Boulevard operates and how people travel on the corridor today. Work being completed as part of Phase 1 includes:

- Collecting traffic counts including speed and volume, on-street parking occupancy rates, and collision data along the corridor.
- Analyzing how safe and comfortable existing bicycle, small mobility and pedestrian facilities are for people of all ages and abilities and identifying gaps in these facilities.
- Analyzing delay experienced by drivers at key intersections along the corridor and how long it takes to drive the corridor during morning and evening commute times.
- Analyzing how easy it is for people to walk, bike, or use other small mobility devices to travel to key destinations along the corridor, including parks and schools.
- Engaging with community members and key stakeholders to understand how they use the corridor to travel and existing barriers to traveling on the corridor.

Phase 2: Develop Options (Winter 2023 to Summer 2023)

During Phase 2, the project team will use information gathered during the Phase 1 to:

- Develop a project framework and set of project goals that will be used to align proposed improvements with community needs and desires and City policy objectives.
- Develop design options that would make it safer and more comfortable to travel on McGillivray Boulevard.
- Use the project framework to evaluate how the design options align with the project goals.
- Use the project framework to evaluate how the design options will change the experience for people driving, biking, walking, or using a mobility device on McGillivray Boulevard.
- Engage with community members and key stakeholders to gather feedback on design options.

Phase 3: Design Improvements (Summer 2023 to Fall 2023)

Based on the feedback gathered during the first two phases of the Project, a preferred design option will be selected. Following selection of a preferred design option, the project team will:

- Share the proposed design with community members and key stakeholders to gather feedback and identify any additional improvements that may be needed to achieve the project goals.
- Prepare Design Plans to be included with the pavement preservation work.

III. Community Engagement

Each of the Project phases will include an opportunity for community members to participate in both in-person and online open-houses to review project information and share their input.

In Phase 1, there were two opportunities for community members to share their experience using the corridor and concerns or hopes for the Project. The first opportunity was through participating in walking and bicycling audits of the corridor with the project team. Two community members participated in the walk audit and 12 community members joined for the bicycle audit. This provided community members an opportunity to experience the corridor together and with the project team to highlight specific locations that are challenging today.

Community members have also had the opportunity to share their input through an online survey hosted on the Project's [Be Heard Vancouver](#) webpage. Since the survey was published in November 2022, over 430 community members have responded. Key takeaways from the survey responses received to-date include:

- Driving alone is the most common way people travel on the corridor with nearly 80% of respondents saying they drive alone on the corridor at least several times a week.
- Walking is the second most popular mode of travel with 40% of respondents saying they walk on McGillivray Boulevard at least several times a week.
- Vehicle speeds and vehicles not complying with stop signs were both identified by more than 50% of respondents as challenges they experience while traveling on McGillivray Boulevard.
- Getting places safely on McGillivray Boulevard was ranked as the most important by community members while possible changes to the corridor was identified as the top concern.

To complete Phase 1, the Project will host an in-person Community Open House to provide community members an opportunity to share their input in-person on Saturday, February 11th at Wy'East Middle School. At this Community Open-House community members can share how they travel on the corridor, identify where they experience challenges, where improvements are needed and inform development of the project goals.

Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Project will also include in-person and online opportunities for community members to provide input on key project milestones including design options and selection of a preferred design option.

Throughout the Project, targeted outreach will focus on schools, including Wy'East Middle School and Mountain View High School, which are heavy users of and adjacent to the corridor. Students, staff and parents will receive school specific surveys and informational emails. The Project team is also working to coordinate input and learning activities with students.

IV. Attachment:

- Community Open House Invitation (PDF)

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