

DATE: 02/17/2023

TO: Mayor and City Council

CC: Eric Holmes, City Manager

FROM: Emily Benoit, Senior Transportation Planner, Community Development
Rebecca Kennedy, Deputy Director, Community Development
Ryan Lopossa, Streets & Transportation Division Manager, Public Works

RE: **Complete Streets - McGillivray Boulevard Safety and Mobility Project Introduction**

I. Background

The McGillivray Boulevard 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, rolling, taking transit, 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.
- Future proofing the existing mobility lanes with painted buffers and/or vertical barriers to separate people using mobility lanes from vehicle traffic and for mobility users traveling at different speeds (e.g. regular bikes versus electric bikes).
- Narrowing vehicle travel lanes and adding traffic calming elements to slow vehicle speeds.

- Intersection improvements to reduce crossing distances and improve driver compliance with existing stop signs.
- Enhancements to existing marked crossings to improve visibility and consideration of 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 is evaluating how McGillivray Boulevard operates, how people travel on the corridor today, and how this key east-west multimodal connection is likely to be used in the future. Work being completed as part of Phase 1 includes:

- Collecting traffic counts including speed and volume, on-street parking occupancy rates, illumination data 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 roll to travel to key destinations along the corridor, including parks and schools.
- Engaging with community members, key stakeholders, and equity priority communities 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 for all users 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 rolling on McGillivray Boulevard.
- Engage with community members, key stakeholders, and equity priority communities 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, key stakeholders, and equity priority communities to gather feedback and identify any additional improvements that may be needed to achieve the project goals.
- Prepare Design/Striping 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 four 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. As of mid-February, over 1,200 community members have responded to the survey and 780 comments were received.

In January, online surveys were distributed to students, parents and staff at Wy'East Middle School and Mountain View High School. These surveys provide an opportunity for the school communities to share how they travel to/from school, identify barriers to walking, biking, or rolling to/from school, and identify their specific safety concerns related to traveling to/from school on McGillivray Boulevard.

Community members were also invited to attend an in-person community open house, hosted at Wy'East Middle School, on Saturday February 11th, to learn about the Project and share how they travel on the corridor today. Over 110 community members attended and provided input that will inform the project goals and be used to identify locations where improvements are needed.

Key takeaways from the community engagement completed to-date include:

- **Vehicle speeding is impacting all users.** Many community members shared that speeding vehicles make them feel unsafe while walking, biking, or rolling and driving on the corridor and impacts the quality of life of residents that live on the corridor.
- **Intersection improvements are needed.** Intersections along the corridor are very large and can be confusing for drivers. Driver confusion paired with the long crossing distances make people walking, biking, or rolling feel unsafe when navigating intersections.
- **McGillivray Boulevard is not inclusive.** While some community members shared that they walk and bike on the corridor today, many community members said they feel unsafe to do so due to the proximity to vehicles traveling at high speeds.

The input we heard from the community during Phase 1 will be incorporated into the next steps, including:

- Developing project goals and an evaluation framework that will ensure recommendations address issues experienced by community members.
- Sharing the project goals and evaluation framework with the community.
- Developing design options based on the project goals and issues identified during Phase 1.
- Gathering feedback on design options from stakeholders and the community.

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In Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Project, community engagement will rely on the following methods to reach community members that live and travel on McGillivray Boulevard:

- Focus groups with project stakeholders, such as youth, students and families, and seniors.
- Outreach to neighborhood associations and attendance at neighborhood association meetings.
- Online surveys and digital open houses.
- Outreach at community-wide and neighborhood-specific events.

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.

Prior to this Project, there was also engagement with the community through the [Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program](#). In 2021, a traffic calming project was selected on McGillivray Blvd for the area near the pedestrian path from SE Laver St and SE Park St. New traffic calming elements, like an enhanced pedestrian crossing and upgraded street striping for a pedestrian pathway, were put on hold to be incorporated into this Project. There has been and continues to be coordination with the Riveridge Neighborhood Association and project proponent to implement these elements in this Project.

IV. Attachment:

- McGillivray Boulevard Safety and Mobility Project Introduction Presentation

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