

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 28, 2022

TO: Chair Ramos and Transportation and Mobility Commission members

FROM: Rebecca Kennedy, Emily Benoit, Community Development Department; Ryan Farncomb, Parametrix

RE: Fourth Plain and Ft. Vancouver Way Traffic Safety and Mobility Projects - Update

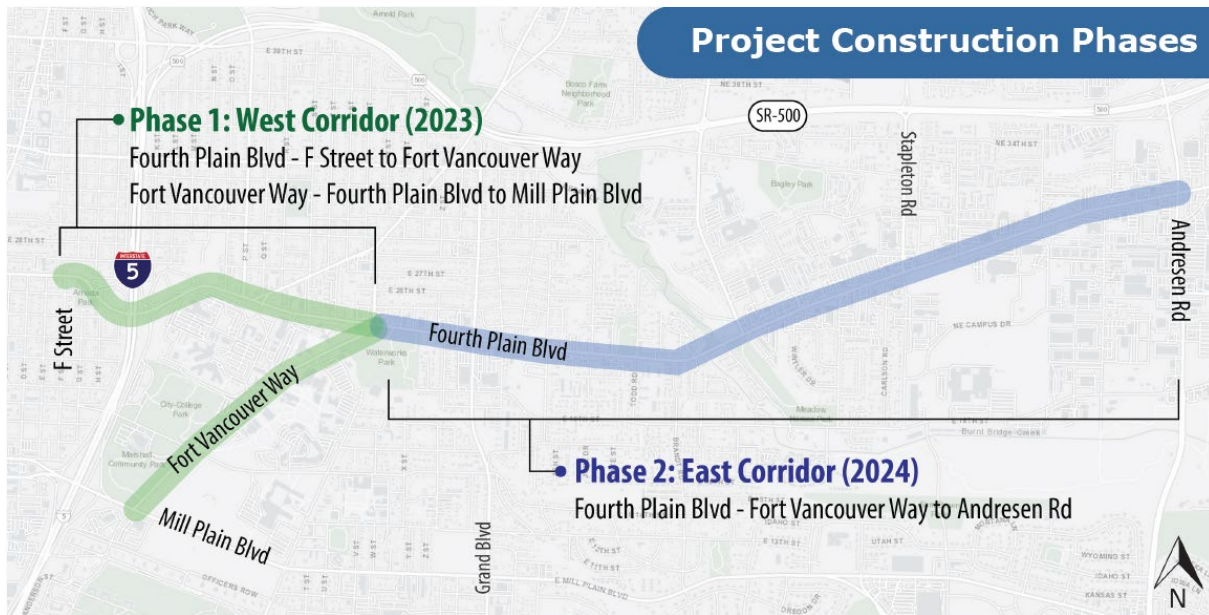
Introduction

The City is advancing two important projects that help implement the City's Complete Streets Policy: The Fourth Plain and Fort Vancouver Way Safety and Mobility Studies. These two corridors have historically high crash rates and do not provide safe or comfortable facilities for people walking, cycling, using a mobility device, or accessing transit. These projects will look at new ways to use the existing road space to make this corridor safer, which could include changing the number of lanes for driving to make more room for people biking, walking, or using the bus as well as other safety improvements such as better crossings. Improvements in both corridors are anticipated to be implemented as part of repaving projects in 2023 and 2024. Some improvements may not be able to be implemented with the paving projects and would occur as part of future corridor investments. The figure below shows the project limits and expected construction phasing.

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Work completed since last project discussion with TMC in June 2022

- Held outreach in June and July, including in-person and online methods. Please see the separate "Outreach Milestone #1 Public Involvement Summary" for details on the activities and feedback received.
- Developed initial "alternatives" for the Fourth Plain and Ft. Vancouver corridors. "Alternatives" are different lane reconfiguration approaches that address needs and issues, and that consider constraints and tradeoffs in the corridor.
- Coordinated with WSDOT, CTRAN, and RTC on the projects to keep all parties informed and hear feedback on alternatives.
- Held a workshop with the City Council in July to update the Council on progress to-date and hear feedback.

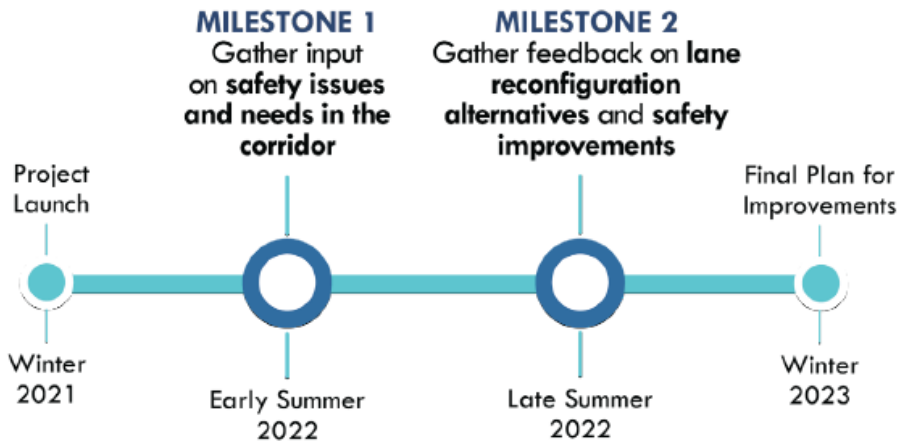
Public Engagement

The goal of outreach is to not just inform the community, but to engage the corridor communities directly in decision-making about changes to the corridors. There are two main outreach milestones:

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Milestone 1, occurred in May and June 2022 and were primarily intended to inform the community about the project and its purpose and goals, and hear feedback on needs and issues.

Milestone 2, in September 2022, will involve deeper discussions with the community on potential lane reconfiguration options and safety improvements. The project team is sharing lane reconfiguration concepts with the community to identify the ideas that best meet the evaluation framework and community needs.

Alternatives & Analysis

The project team has developed alternatives for the Fourth Plain and Fort Vancouver corridors. These alternatives will be reviewed with the TMC on September 6th, 2022. The alternatives reflect prior feedback received from community and agency stakeholders, and reflect technical analysis conducted previously. After the TMC has reviewed alternatives and community outreach is complete at the end of September 2022, City staff will evaluate and recommend a preferred alternative for the Fourth Plain and Fort Vancouver corridors for review by the City the TMC and City Council in early October. The evaluation framework previously reviewed by the TMC will serve as the main evaluation tool in combination with stakeholder feedback.

It is important to note that any lane reconfiguration alternatives selected must reflect constraints in the corridor which in some cases may lead toward selecting one alternative over another. The primary constraints are the width of the existing corridor (from curb to curb) and agreements that CTRAN has with the Federal Transit Administration which specify how The Vine BRT system must operate in the corridor.

It is important to note also that the lane reconfiguration alternatives would address many corridor needs, but not all needs identified. The project team has been keeping track of other issues and concerns from community input that may be addressed through other funding programs. These other needs include;

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- Corridor beautification/streetscape enhancements (landscaping, public art, wayfinding, street trees)
- Additional marked crossings. The City is already funding two new improved crossings at Fourth Plain Blvd at Neals Lane and just east of Fort Vancouver Way
- Sidewalk widening
- Improved streetlighting
- Traffic calming on Fourth Plain Blvd
- Traffic calming on nearby routes to address potential traffic diversion. The project team has conducted traffic modeling which shows relatively minor traffic diversion risks on streets close to Fourth Plain Blvd and Fort Vancouver Way. The City will evaluate conditions post-implementation to determine if additional tools are needed to address diversion.