



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 6, 2024

TO: Chair Ramos and Transportation and Mobility Commission members

FROM: Emily Benoit, Senior Transportation Planner, Community Development Department

RE: **St Johns and St James Complete Streets Safety and Mobility Project - Introduction**

CC: Rebecca Kennedy, Deputy Director, Community Development Department; Kate Drennan, Principal Transportation Planner, Community Development Department

Project Overview

The St Johns and St James Complete Streets Safety and Mobility Project (Project) will study the opportunity to create and implement safety and mobility improvements on NE St Johns Boulevard/Road and NE St James Road between Fourth Plain Boulevard and NE 68th Street. This Project will incorporate data on current and future operations and documented issues, and gather feedback from the community to inform project goals so that the recommended design:

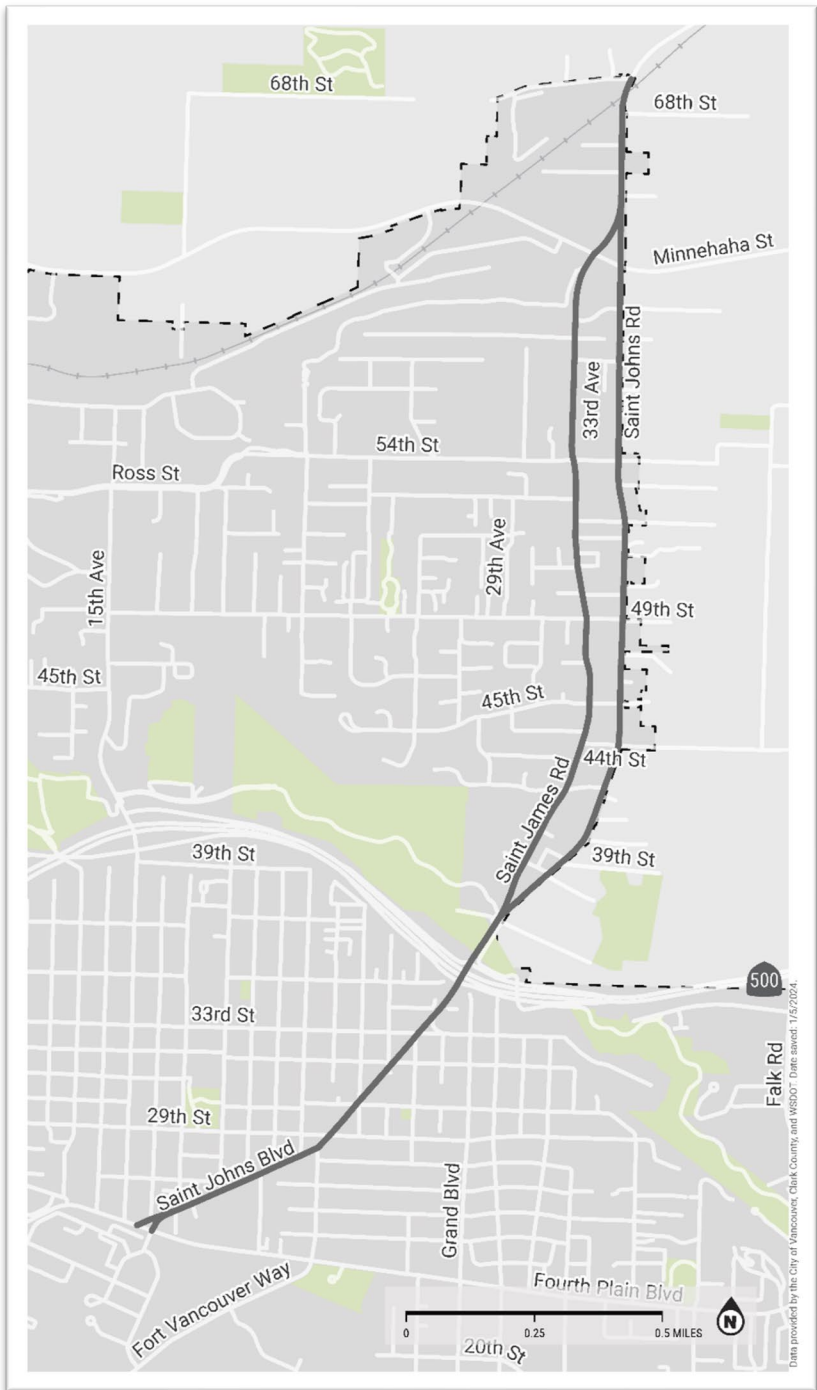
- Advances the City's core policy priorities of safety, equity and climate action.
- Aligns with Vancouver's Complete Streets Policy.
- Reflects the needs and goals of the community.

The Project will result in conceptual designs that will be further developed into final design plans and implemented outside of near-term paving work, using new revenues City Council dedicated to the Complete Streets Program in the 2023-24 biennial budget.

In 2022, City Council directed staff to advance this project outside of planned paving schedules, given its role as a critical north-south link connecting Minnehaha to areas south in the City, including the recently completed improvements on Fort Vancouver Way. In addition, the Project will also ask community members about other

improvements that can be implemented through the Comprehensive Plan update, reflecting the fact that this area has been a designated growth corridor for many years without having any subarea planning completed.

Figure 1: Project Corridor Extents Map



Background and Need

The St Johns and St James corridor has a history of crashes, involving both motor vehicles and vulnerable roadway users. Since 2015, there have been 45 collisions involving more than 100 vehicles and two bicyclists. The City of Vancouver's [Local Road Safety Plan](#) and the Complete Streets Program identify the NE St Johns/NE St James corridors as areas needing safety and accessibility improvements.

The corridor is identified in the [Transportation System Plan](#) as both a pedestrian, bike and small mobility and transit modal networks. The corridor is high-stress, missing bicycle and small mobility facilities and missing ADA curb ramps along the roadway. There are also long gaps between marked crossings.

The Project will identify striping changes and other interim 'quick-build' safety improvements to be implemented through the Complete Street Program. Other safety and mobility projects that fall outside the scope of this Complete Streets Project or are longer term in nature and funding needs will likely be identified for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program.¹

Project Goals

The Project has four proposed goals to support City Council's priorities of safety, equity, and climate as well as implement the Complete Streets Policy. Additional goals can be incorporated if identified through community engagement or from the technical analysis.

- Improve pedestrian safety.
- Improve bike and small mobility connectivity.
- Explore opportunities to increase transit access.
- Explore broader set of improvements to be incorporated into Our Vancouver- the City's Comprehensive Plan update.
- Coordinate project implementation with other City efforts when possible.

Community Engagement

A Community Engagement Plan (CEP) is being developed to guide the engagement for the Project. The CEP will outline the background of the project, engagement strategies and tools for meaningfully engaging with the community through the planning process as well as specific engagement activities, communication plans, and an expected

¹ The City's detailed transportation improvement six-year work program that shows all future projects listed with detailed project sheets and funding status. For more information: [Transportation Improvement Program - The City of Vancouver, WA](#)

schedule for implementation. Public engagement efforts will include a variety of community members with diverse backgrounds to keep the neighborhood and key stakeholders informed about the project while gathering public input to address their transportation needs and concerns. The CEP is a living and working document that will be revised as need if new ideas or adjustments are identified throughout the Project or needed for the community engagement process.

The CEP has three main goals to guide the Project Team to inform and involve the public throughout the Project.

Goal 1: Build community awareness and shared understanding of project needs, ways to participate, and a variety of design strategies that can be used to address safety issues. A well-executed engagement program increases public knowledge about the Project and how they can provide feedback, as well as how that feedback can be translated into roadway design changes and infrastructure investments.

Goal 2: Enable well informed participation from historically disadvantaged communities to provide input on the Project.

Goal 3: Gather and use public input during the decision process, maintaining transparency at each step. Public input about the Project collected through engagement tools will help City staff and the TMC to make informed choices.

Existing and Future Conditions

The Project Team is currently collecting data for an in-depth technical analysis of the corridor for current existing and forecasted future conditions. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Traffic counts for speed, volume and turning movements at peak times and 24-hour counts on weekday and weekend for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Inventory of traffic control devices, street lighting, and transit related data.
- Pavement, striping, sidewalk, curb ramp and crosswalk locations and conditions.
- Existing relevant plans, reports and street design standards.

The Project Team will report on and provide this information to the TMC and community in the Spring.

Next Steps

Over the next several months, the Project Team will be working with the community, the TMC and other stakeholders to develop a conceptual design for the corridor. The key tasks and milestones for this work are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Expected Timing for Next Steps

Task	Expected Timing
Engagement Plan	February 2024 and ongoing
Engagement Activities	March 2024 and ongoing
Existing and Future Conditions Reports	March 2024
Design Option Development and Evaluation	July to September 2024
Concept Design Striping Plan	October to December 2024

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