Transportation and mobility in Strathcona are critical issues for SBIA businesses. We’ve heard from members about current transportation issues and opportunities, and we know that there are many new projects and developments that will bring changes to our area (e.g. Georgia/Dunsmuir viaducts removal, Centerm expansion, new residential/commercial development, new transportation technologies).

To help understand and address these issues, SBIA launched the MAP Strathcona project (Mobility Advocacy Plan) with support from the Real Estate Foundation of BC. MAP Strathcona will create a mobility and transportation vision and action plan for the area, looking at goods movement, transit, active transportation, car and bike sharing opportunities, and parking.

This backgrounder provides some information on the current state of transportation and mobility in the area, as well as basic information on the many plans, developments and projects that will shape it in the next few years.
WHAT’S COMING UP?

There are many new plans, projects, and policies that are going to impact transportation and mobility in Strathcona in the coming years.

RAILTON REZONING TO SUPPORT THE GROWING CREATIVE ECONOMY
- New zoning allows for creative Products Manufacturing (CPM) in Railtown buildings, to accommodate design and prototyping activities.
- This new zoning change could encourage more CPM businesses to locate in Railtown to further grow the creative economy and result in more employees in the area than under the older Manufacturing zoning. This change could exacerbate parking issues, but could also increase the viability of transit improvements and bike/car sharing options.

CENTER EXPANSION
- Port capacity will increase by 213 (completion early 2020)
- New overpass will be constructed at Centennial Rail, starting December 2017. For the three to six months of construction, about 2000 vehicles per day will be diverted via Heatley overpass to Hastings or Cordova (with about a 50% split expected between the two streets). Traffic impacts are expected to be negligible during this time.
- Heatley overpass will be removed June to November 2019. During construction, there will be limited parking access on Heatley Ave and limited through traffic on Alexander St.
- Post-construction, not anticipated to have significant effects on Strathcona road network overall. Minor vehicle volume reduction on some streets, and an additional 325 in-bound and 325 out-bound container trucks per day on Clark Dr.

BIKE SHARING MOB
- Bike share station coming to Strachona in 2018/2019.
- Number and locations still TBD (MAP - Strachona will help determine which route)

UPCOMING CITY OF VANCOUVER BIKE ROUTE UPGRADES
- Improvements to Powell-Alexander bike route, leading to Powell St overpass.
- New Gore Ave/Station St bike lane as part of new St. Paul’s Hospital transportation network improvements (timings unknown).
- New North/South bike lane on Heatley, Hawksworth, or Campbell (MAP - Strachona will help determine which route)

BIKE SAND CAR SHARING
THREE CAR SHARING SERVICES:
- EVO - 4 designated parking spots
- CAR2GO - 8 designated parking spots
- MODOS - 8 MODOS cars located in SBA area

NEW RESIDENTIAL/MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT
- New developments will have on-site parking requirements, and may be required to support local transportation in other ways, like bike network improvements.
- New North/South bike lane on Heatley, Hawksworth, or Campbell (MAP - Strachona will help determine which route)
- Improvements to cycling and walking access to the site are planned, which will include improvements in the SBA area (including Gore Ave/Station St complete streets improvements).
- Could result in improved transit to the area

ST. PAUL’S HOSPITAL RELOCATION
- New development will have on-site parking requirements, and may be required to support local transportation in other ways, like bike network improvements.
- New North/South bike lane on Heatley, Hawksworth, or Campbell (MAP - Strachona will help determine which route)

GASTOWN TRANSPORTATION PLAN
- Planning will start in fall 2017.
- Gastown street improvements, bike and pedestrian improvements and potential street car – all of which could import SBA indirectly.

PROPOSED:
- 11 story building at 124 Dunlevy with 213 units of social housing
- REZONING:
  - approved for 420 Hawks (for a 7 story social housing building)
  - application for 901 Union (for an additional 37 beds at a care facility and others)
  - Additionally, developers have acquired several lots along East Hastings.

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
- Potential to reduce parking demand if more people ride-sharing options.

PROJECTS:
- Timming unknown
- Replacement arterial still being determined by City and Park Board (William St, National Ave or Main Ave)
- Removal of the Viaducts will re-route ~43,000 vehicles/day on alternate routes through nearby neighbourhoods, including Strathcona

RAILTON STATION DEVELOPMENT
- Summertime planning and site review (not the gas line work)
- Summer 2019 planning and site review (for gas line work)
- To accommodate additional traffic, HDV lanes on Hastings – in bound and out bound – to have extended hours.
- Some parking removed near right-hand turns on key intersections.
- Changes, including extended HDV lane hours, could be permanent.

GEORGE/DUNSMUIR VIADUCTS REMOVAL
- Transit improvements (Hastings St, Flats) (implemented)
- Pedestrian improvements
- Facilitate local retail services along East Hastings

REOPENING OF THE BURRRARD RAIL SPUR
- To comply with rail Ministry of Transportation requirements, City has been asked to reduce interactions of vehicles with rail, which could lead to a closure of the tracks to vehicles.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE LOCAL AREA PLAN
- Transit improvements (Hastings St, Flats) (implemented)
- Pedestrian improvements
- Facilitate local retail services along East Hastings

LOCAL AREA PLAN
- Timming unknown
- Replacement arterial still being determined by City and Park Board (William St, National Ave or Main Ave)
- Removal of the Viaducts will re-route ~43,000 vehicles/day on alternate routes through nearby neighbourhoods, including Strathcona
SAVE THE DATE!

On October 25th from 7:30 AM to 10:30 AM, we’ll be hosting the Future Strathcona Forum as part of the MAP Strathcona project. At the forum, SBIA members and key transportation stakeholders (City of Vancouver, Translink, etc.) will work together to develop strategies to improve transportation and mobility in Strathcona. Breakfast and coffee will be provided of course!


WANT MORE INFORMATION ON THE MAP STRATHCONA PROJECT?

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