



Photovoice

APPL 5230 Social Planning

January 2026



Purpose

Photographs are a powerful way of showing lived experiences and the geographic landscape. This photovoice exercise uses photographs from my neighbourhood, Mount Pleasant in Vancouver, to understanding the urban planning challenges and needs of the community. Exercises like these lead to valuable introspection, but can also act as a communication tool which inspires positive change for community wellbeing.





Sharing Streetscapes

A new permanent plaza is being built on Main Street and 14th Avenue. It began as a temporary placemaking exercise likely during the pandemic, and is becoming permanent as part of a wider initiative in the neighbourhood to improve streetscapes. The existence of this project, which also includes sidewalk widening and bus stop improvements, feels like a positive move for the area. As a resident, it feels good to see funding going into improving this historic commercial district which my neighbours and I interact with daily. Year-round, the temporary plaza was well-used and reduced car traffic.

From a planner's eye, the photos demonstrate how project managers have considered pedestrian and car flow during construction. There is fencing and sidewalk features to prevent tripping. I think they have effectively communicated, through signage, where the moved bus stop is, the purpose of the project, and that surrounding businesses are still open. This is done to keep people safe and engaged with the landscape when passing through or stopping for a coffee. The existence of the project and wider funding initiative is an indicator of public interest in improving our streetscapes.



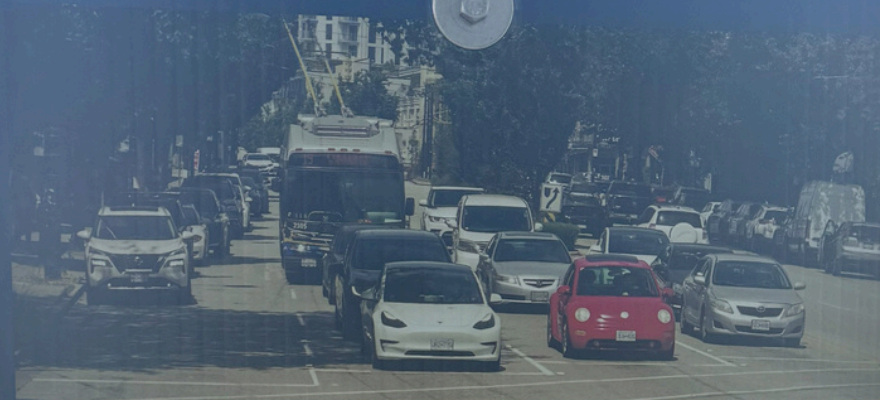


Heritage and Newness

At the end of my street, they have recently demolished an old building on Main which was vacant for a while. I found it exciting that they kept the heritage facade, and look forward to seeing how it molds with the [approved](#) six-story mixed use rental building. Many lots like this are transforming along Main Street in Mount Pleasant, which is a designated “village” in the City and will be preserved as commercial with low-rise residential. You don’t often see a facade standing alone, and to me it’s visually appealing. As a training planner and an architecture-lover, this photo tells a story of how Vancouverites prioritize heritage preservation, especially in historic commercial neighbourhoods. It makes me think of the countless heritage homes, some designated and some not, on the residential streets where I live. I wonder how those will transform during the new era of Small Scale Multi Unit Housing. I think as the need for housing grows, public interest inevitably shifts, and heritage may be one thing which is less prioritized.

Prioritizing Bus Transit along Kingsway-Main Street and Route 19

Extended bus lanes, relocated bus stops and improved intersections. Starting early 2026.



More than 48,000 bus trips are impacted by delays on the Kingsway-Main St corridor each day. We're making it easier for buses to stay on time and move more people.

BUS LANE UPDATES

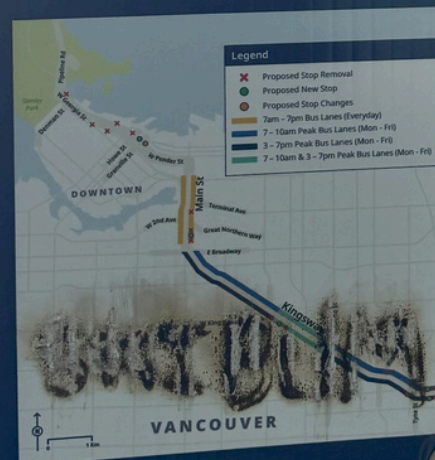
Bus lanes areas and hours of operations will be extended along the corridor. Curbside parking, loading, or delivery will not be permitted during bus lane hours.

BUS STOP UPDATES

TransLink is proposing to add five new stops near crosswalks with traffic signals and remove about one in five stops that are too close together.

These changes will:

- Keep buses moving smoothly through traffic
- Provide more reliable bus service and shorten travel time for thousands of transit riders on routes 19, 3, 8, 25, and 26
- Improve traffic flow at major intersections
- Balance and mitigate impacts to parking and loading for businesses, where possible



YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS
Take the TransLink survey until November 9 to share your thoughts on bus stop changes.

BUS LANES, PARKING AND INTERSECTIONS
kingswaybuspriority@vancouver.ca
3-1-1
vancouver.ca/kingsway-transit

BUS STOPS
buspriority@translink.ca
604-953-3333
translink.ca/route19

CITY OF VANCOUVER



Kingsway Bus Rides

I saw this great sign while passing a bus stop at Kingsway and Broadway, which talks about how the City is extending bus lanes, relocating bus stops, and improving intersections to prioritize bus traffic along this busy corridor. As someone who frequently experiences bus delays and traffic on the bus there, it's great to see thoughtful, systematic improvements being made. And even better, that it's being publicly communicated! I wouldn't have known about it if I didn't see the sign, and it was smart to place it where riders use those very bus routes. It also has a call-to-action to provide feedback, which is a key part of social planning. On a broader scale, the prioritization of bus traffic speaks to City goals around sustainable transportation and the de-centring of single rider vehicle traffic. Kingsway is a wide road but suffers from traffic at every rush hour. Growing up in Metrotown, I know this struggle well, whether in the car or on the bus.

Fun fact: Kingsway was once an ancestral [Indigenous trail](#)



THANK YOU