Preparations Begin Next Week for Pilot Road Changes in Beacon Hill Park

Date: Friday, July 6, 2012

VICTORIA, BC — From August to the end of October, the City of Victoria will be piloting specific road closures and changes in traffic direction in Beacon Hill Park to reduce traffic and make the park more pedestrian and bicycle friendly.

**Preparations for Pilot (July 9 – 31, 2012)**
On Monday, City crews will begin work to convert some of the park’s roads to temporary multi-use trails and change the direction of traffic flow in the park. The work will consist of installing temporary bollards and signs, as well as improving curbing for the pilot routes. Pedestrian and bicycle access will be maintained but motorists may experience minor delays.

City crews will be working at the intersections of Bridge Way and Chestnut Road; Chestnut Road and Circle Drive; Circle Drive and Dallas Road; and at both ends of Heywood Avenue, between Bridge Way and Circle Drive. The pilot road changes will be made incrementally and are expected to be completed by the end of the month.

**Pilot Road Changes and Consultation (August 1 – October 31, 2012)**
During the pilot, motorists will still be able to drive in and out of the park and will have access to recreation features and parking. All of the parking lots will remain open and street parking in front of the Petting Zoo, Cricket Pitch, and Watering Can will be maintained.

Motorists will be able to enter the park from Arbutus Way off Superior Street, and at Circle Drive off Douglas Street; and exit the park from Circle Drive at Dallas Road and Douglas Street. Motorists will continue to enter and exit at the two entrances off of Park Boulevard. A map that illustrates the pilot road changes is available on the City of Victoria website.

1) **Arbutus Way** – One-way vehicle access into the park will be maintained at Southgate Street, but parallel parking will be reduced and restricted to time limits on weekday mornings.

2) **Chestnut Road** – Located between Arbutus Way and Circle Drive, Chestnut Road will change direction, becoming one-way southbound for motorists. It will provide three parallel parking spaces designated for families and seniors; enable motorists to turn left (east) and right (west) from Chestnut Road onto Circle Drive to exit the park at Dallas Road or Douglas Street; and serve as a primary horse and carriage route in the park.

3) **Bridge Way** – The road will be closed to traffic at the crosswalk next to the public washrooms. New curbing will allow for vehicles to turn around and take Chestnut Road to Circle Drive. It will provide two new designated parking spots for people with mobility challenges; create a new multi-use path from the public washrooms to Heywood Avenue on the closed road; and be part of a proposed Trans Canada Trail connection in the park.
4) **Circle Drive** – Between Chestnut and Dallas Roads, Circle Drive will be one-way eastbound, heading out of the park. The westbound lane of Circle Drive (leading into the park from Dallas Road up to the Petting Zoo crosswalk) will serve as a multi-use path for pedestrians and cyclists; create new designated parking for families and seniors; and be part of a proposed Trans Canada Trail connection in the park.

5) **Heywood Avenue** – The southbound lane of Heywood Avenue will end at the Cricket Pitch in the park, with no vehicle access to Circle Drive. Designated vehicle parking and a turn-around area will be available. Heywood Avenue between Circle Drive and Bridge Way will convert into a multi-use trail and become part of a proposed Trans Canada Trail in the park.

During the pilot, the community will have the opportunity to learn more and provide feedback on the changes at an information booth in the park on select weekends in August; at the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard located at the end of Nursery Road, or visit the City’s website for more information and complete a short online survey.

If there is community support for the proposed changes, the temporary bollards will eventually be replaced by proper curbing, increased green space and multi-use trails.

For more information, visit: [www.victoria.ca](http://www.victoria.ca)

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**For More Information:**

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