

Transportation

People in the Downtown Eastside use a variety of way to get around. The neighbourhoods are divided by six major streets: Powell, Cordova, Hastings, Prior/Venables, Main, and Clark Drive. High traffic volumes, speeds, and congestion along these streets pose significant barriers for walking and cycling. The plan will make it easier, more comfortable and safer to get around for people of all ages and abilities.



Context

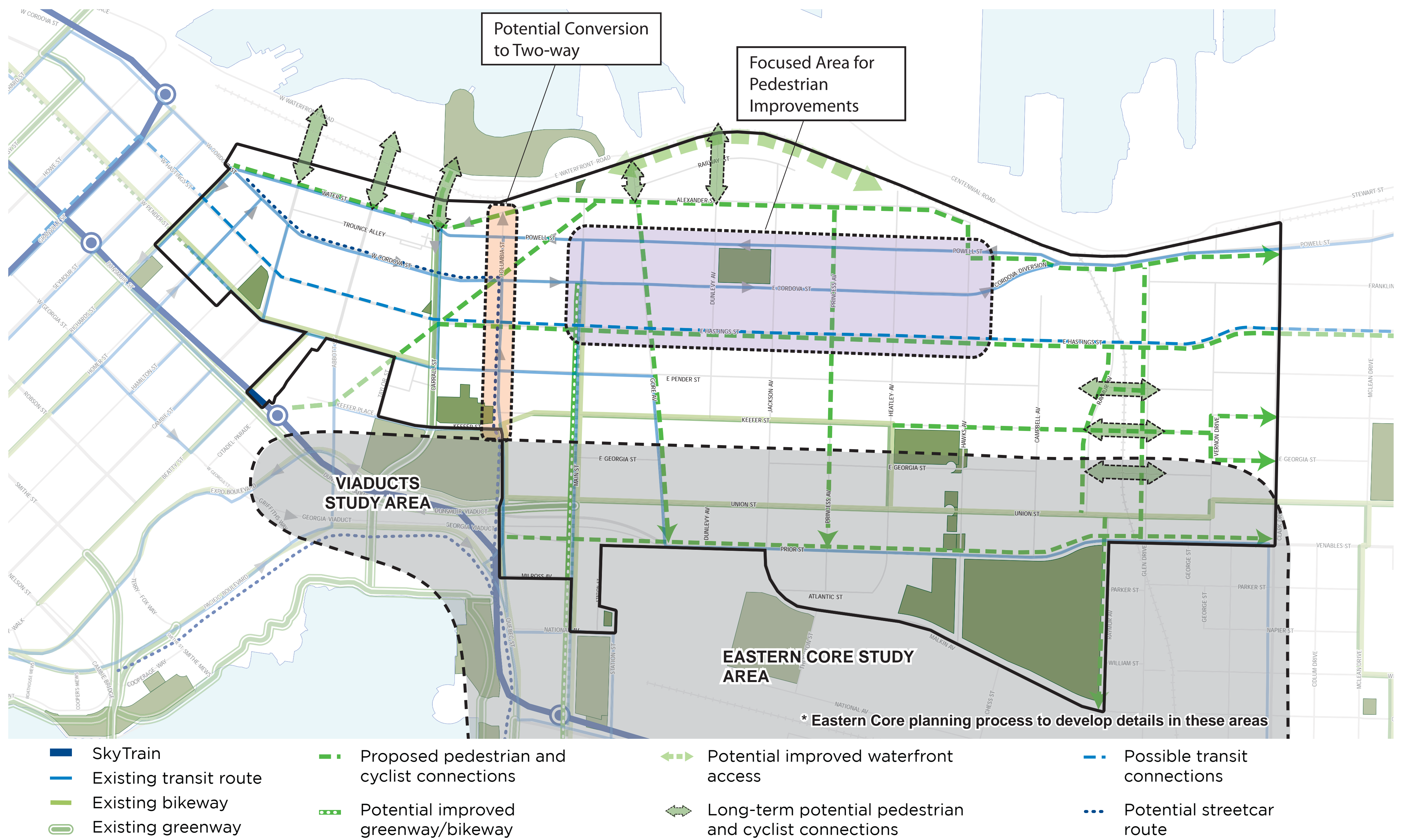
The transportation network, which includes sidewalks, bikeways and greenways, transit routes, major roads, local streets, and laneways, is an essential component of our communities, the city, and the region. The City recently approved the Transportation 2040 Plan, which sets out ambitious targets for sustainable transportation and improved safety to meet the needs of our growing city. Vibrant and attractive streetscapes and public spaces will help support walking, cycling and transit, as well as the local economy.

In the Downtown Eastside, 65% of residents walk, bike or take transit to work (compared to 41% city-wide). Only 33% drive to work (compared to 58% city-wide).

Transportation 2040 Principles

- Make walking safe, convenient and delightful, and ensure streets and sidewalks support a vibrant public life that encourages a walking culture, healthy lifestyles, and social connectedness.
- Make cycling feel safe, convenient, and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities. Prioritize connections to important destinations like schools, community centres, transit stations, and shopping areas.
- Support transit improvements to increase capacity and ensure service that is fast, frequent, reliable, fully accessible, and comfortable.
- Support the efficient movement and delivery of goods and services, while reducing negative impacts to the community and the environment.
- Manage the road network efficiently to improve safety, minimize congestion, and support a gradual reduction in car dependence. Make it easier to drive less. Accelerate the shift to low-carbon vehicles and car-share alternatives.
- Support shorter trips and sustainable transportation choices by creating compact, walkable, transit-oriented neighbourhoods.

Transportation



Emerging Directions

Walking

- Enhance streetscape and sidewalks along commercial streets, including at key intersections with bikeways/greenways, such as countdown timers at Abbott and Pender.
- Enhance pedestrian safety and comfort at crossings on major streets, including: Hastings and Carrall, Main, Gore, and Jackson; Pender and Main, and Abbott; and Venables and Vernon
- Improve pedestrian safety and comfort along Alexander, Cordova, and Powell.
- Implement public realm upgrades to commercial streets, including Hastings, Main, Water, and Powell (Japantown).
- Improve public access, walkability, and legibility of the 'CPR right-of-way'.
- Interconnect adjacent and future neighbourhoods with the Port through greenways, special places, and civic features.
- Improve wayfinding, particularly along greenways and commercial streets.
- Support street lighting review and replacement, including improving street lighting at Main and Hastings, and Abbott and Pender.
- Support public washrooms in public spaces.
- Support health and safety improvements in public places, such as sharps/needle containers.

Cycling

- Develop new pedestrian and cycling connection on Charles, Alexander, Princess, and Glen. Consider new pedestrian and cyclist overpass connections over the rail tracks at Pender, Keefer, and East Georgia.
- Consider ways in the longer term to create a new pedestrian and cyclist access to CRAB Park at Portside and improve access on the existing bridge.
- Enhance existing pedestrian and cycling on Keefer, Union, Heatley, and Quebec.
- Support bike-share where possible.

Transit

- Improve pedestrian waiting areas with better sidewalks, seating, shelters, lighting, signage, and landscaping.
- Continue to explore future high capacity transit on Hastings Street and potential streetcar routes along Expo Boulevard, Columbia and west on Cordova.

Motor Vehicles & Goods Movement

- Explore traffic calming and other pedestrian priority opportunities on Hastings, Powell, Cordova, and Prior/Venables Streets.
- Explore reducing the number of truck routes in the Downtown Eastside Oppenheimer District.
- Support potential Port and rail improvements, including future road/rail separation where feasible.