

To: Mayor and Council

Subject: **Dunsmuir and Georgia Viaducts and Related Area Planning**
Standing Committee of Council on Planning, Transportation and Environment
June 26, 2013

The Vancouver City Planning Commission is speaking before Council today to encourage the City to continue with the next phase of work outlined in the report of June 18, 2013 on *Dunsmuir and Georgia Viaducts and Related Area Planning*.

In July 2012, the Commission expressed support for the initial concept plan for the future of the Georgia/Dunsmuir viaducts and Eastern Core, and provided the viaducts planning team with detailed comments. We commented on the plan's street realignment, land parcelling, park and housing details and public space. Over the year since Council considered that plan, there has been a significant amount of public discussion and consultation, and further work by staff.

Today our comments are about the importance of this project in the pursuit of place-making on a large scale. Vancouver should not lose this opportunity to repair our urban core. We have the opportunity to knit together the downtown, the shores of False Creek and several neighbourhoods - while celebrating and supporting their uniqueness. Land that has sat empty for decades could be utilized to benefit all Vancouverites.

We commend staff for the integration of transportation and land-use planning that is at the heart of this initiative. As noted in the report, meaningful consultation on the future road network and re-development that respects the form and character of adjacent communities is critical to meet the City's larger policy goals for *Transportation 2040*, *Greenest City 2020* and community planning programs.

The report before Council outlines a plan to take a further step towards bringing the story of the Vancouver downtown freeway to an end, with the objective of resolving the complex issues involved in restoring and revitalizing this historic part of our city and removing the shadow in which our inner-city communities have lived for years.

The Commission looks forward to working with the City as part of the public consultation and engagement embedded in the Guiding Principles for this next phase of the work.

Yours truly,



Peter Greenwell, Chair, on behalf of
The Vancouver City Planning Commission

A Council-appointed advisory body with a mandate to consider planning matters affecting the city's future