

Chapter 3: Study Area Analysis

The study area analysis consisted of a detailed evaluation of the existing transportation and land use conditions, future travel conditions, an event analysis and alternatives analysis. A full summary of the detailed evaluation is provided in a separate report titled Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan – Technical Report.

Evaluation of the existing transportation and land use conditions provides the framework from which strategies, needed to fulfill the City of Vancouver’s vision for downtown, can be formulated. The study concentrated on downtown traffic operations, pedestrian system, bicycle system, public transportation, and freight mobility, as well as, current land uses and proposed developments.

To achieve a plan for accommodating future travel conditions, a model simulating the future (2003) traffic operations, pedestrian system, bicycle system, public transportation and freight mobility elements was completed. By comparing the results to existing conditions, mitigation strategies were then developed to accommodate the increased demands in the downtown Vancouver planning area.

Potential development of a Special Events Center, located south of Esther Short Park, is a major element in the revitalization vision for the downtown Vancouver area. An analysis of the traffic and parking impacts this development may produce were conducted and are summarized in this section.

This chapter also provides a summary of the technical analysis results of the travel time and intersection levels of service analysis. The results are presented to provide a comparison of alternative scenarios to the baseline street system, as well as comparing alternative scenarios, providing an approach for evaluating