

Dear New Westminster City Council,

We are writing to express our support for a car-free downtown area, specifically on Columbia Street.

We are in a make-or-break decade when it comes to climate action, and New West has committed ambitious leadership with its recent climate emergency motion and adoption of IPCC-recommended targets.

We understand that the City of New Westminster has the opportunity to make downtown Columbia Street car-free. Our streets could prioritize pedestrians and cyclists, and this change would help us reduce air pollution and our overall emissions contributing to climate change. We want to create a lively, sustainable, transit-friendly and people-oriented street that makes our community more alive and safe for us to walk around in. We think that this is an important first step that we would love to see duplicated in other cities around the Lower Mainland.

Car free streets in Europe and other countries have been shown to improve business, community, happiness and tourism. Let's revitalize downtown Columbia together and make the street a place for the community. New Westminster could be a leader on climate action in BC, as it has proven to be time and time again. This is the start of our post-carbon future.

As such, we are writing today to express our strong support for making downtown Columbia Street car-free. We ask that Council approve this project in a continued effort to revitalize the downtown core.

Sincerely,

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Name

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Date