

Press Release from: Vancouver Police Dept.

**VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC, ROAD CLOSURE AND PARKING INFORMATION
FOR FOURTH OF JULY**

Posted: June 30th, 2006 3:00 PM

In order to move traffic as quickly and efficiently as possible in and out of the downtown area for the 4th of July celebration, the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) will temporarily change the traffic flow of designated city streets and will implement partial closure of portions of roadways. Several streets around the event site will be closed to traffic or be under traffic control all day and/or right before and after the fireworks. Citizens are encouraged to take public transportation if possible and to pay close attention to signage and blockades before parking in areas where there is limited access as there have been additions and changes to the traffic plan this year.

Ft. Vancouver from Mill Plain to Fourth Plain is a no parking/tow away zone from July 2 through July 4. This includes the median strip. Also, to expedite traffic from the City after the fireworks end all traffic leaving the area will go north bound on Fort Vancouver Way from 9pm-12 midnight.

All day street closures on July 4th:

- Evergreen Blvd. closed from U St.-I-5
- Evergreen/W. Reserve
- E. Reserve/Mill Plain (Reserve south of Mill Plain will be closed all day)
- 9th/E. Reserve
- 8th/T St.
- 5th & 6th/U St.
- Mill Plain/Ft. Vancouver Way (Ft. Vancouver Way from Mill Plain south will be closed all day.
- Columbia Way from Who Song and Larry's to the Condos (this is a safety zone and will be closed to persons and vehicles all day), this extends to the beach area.
- Hwy 14/Columbia House Dr. at Columbia Shores (pass only access)

Evening street closures July 4th:

Beginning at 6pm

- Hwy 14/Grove St-Columbia House Dr. exit
- Hwy 14/Columbia House Dr./Columbia Way exit
- Northbound I-5 Mill Plain exit
- I-5 southbound Mill Plain exit will be west (right turn) only
- Mill Plain, between E. Reserve and Ft. Vancouver Way will also be closed to ALL civilian traffic from 6 pm. To 12 midnight.

Beginning at 9pm

- McLoughlin/Ft. Vancouver Way, no east/west travel on McLoughlin
- McLoughlin/E. Reserve, westbound closed
- Grand/McLoughlin, westbound closed
- Fourth Plain/St. Johns, westbound turn to Fourth plain only
- Fourth Plain exit from I-5 northbound, no east (right) turn
- Ft. Vancouver Way will go to all lanes northbound (9pm-12 midnight)

Boater's information:

- The Columbia River will be closed in the area of the fireworks barge (roughly West of Marine Park to the I-5 Bridge). The US Coast Guard has jurisdiction. The CCSO and MCSO Enforcement boats will be out patrolling the river for alcohol and other violations.
- The Marine Park boat launch will be open to boaters during the day until 6:00 p.m.
- Roadway access to Marine Park boat launch will be closed at 6:00 p.m. Boaters will be allowed to exit but not to enter after 6:00 p.m.
- Boats are not allowed on the Washington beach from I-5 to Marine Park (a safety zone will be established around the fireworks barge).
- The beach area to the east of the boat launch is closed due to nesting eagles.

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Parking information:

- Parking is prohibited in the area of Marshall Center and Luepke Senior Center and there will be no public access to the park located to the south of Marshall/Luepke Center.
- No parking of motor homes or campers will be allowed at the fields located on the south of Mill plain near the library and Hudson bay track or at the east end of the Hudson's bay track off E. Reserve.
- Handicapped parking will be available at the event site for a limited number of vehicles. Enter the site via the checkpoint at Evergreen and W. Reserve (west side of I-5 near The Academy, proceed to 5th St. as directed. The limit on motor home length is 18 ft.
- Parking will be prohibited on many streets near the event site including SR-14, I-5 and Ft. Vancouver Way. All parking meters in the downtown area are free for the holiday and parking in both street spaces and City of Vancouver lots will also be free.
- The parking lots on the north and west sides of Clark College will be available on a first come, first served basis.
- There is parking available on 5th St. at "S" St. for a \$5 charge. Enter from 5th St. east of "U" St. No Fireworks, BBQ's, or RV's will be permitted. There is NO re-entry privilege.

Park Restrictions:

- US Park Service Restrictions will be in effect. No alcohol, fireworks, pets, tents or canopies, charcoal or propane barbeques or other open flames will be allowed into the event area.
- Overnight camping/sleeping on fort grounds is prohibited.
- The setup of nets for games (e.g. volleyball, badminton) is prohibited.
- Personal fireworks are prohibited in all city parks, throughout the event site in the Vancouver National Historic Reserve and all adjacent public areas.

The lost and found booth (for both items and people) and first aid station will be located in the picnic shelter located to the east of the US Parks Service building from 12noon-11 p.m. The Vancouver Police Department will staff the lost and found booth again this year along with assistance from TIP volunteers.

Due to the reduced number of available public parking areas and viewing areas outside of the Historic Reserve this year citizens are encouraged to carpool or take public transportation if at all possible. C-TRAN will offer regular bus service throughout the day on July 4th and will be running express shuttles to assist people get to the Historic Reserve beginning at 6 p.m. on July 4th. These shuttles will run from the Westfield Shoppingtown (Vancouver Mall) to the Ft. Vancouver Regional Library parking lot. At the conclusion of the fireworks these express shuttles will be waiting at the Ft. Vancouver Regional Library parking lot and will be transporting riders back to the Westfield Shoppingtown.

Citizens are encouraged confirm in advance of July 4th that the parking or viewing area that they may have utilized in the past is open and accessible this year as many areas have changed or altered their accessibility. The City of Vancouver website www.cityofvancouver.us/4thOfJuly.asp will have complete information on the 4th of July, including all the traffic and parking information listed in this release.

Contact Info: Kim Kapp, Vancouver Police Department Public Information Coordinator, (360) 696-8265.

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