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# VANCOUVER metro

NEWS WORTH SHARING.



Cars and bikes share the Adanac Bikeway on Union Street. City council has decided to revisit proposed changes to the route. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

## Adanac upgrade on hold

**City hall.** Council OKs two bike lanes but opposition puts brakes on a third

City council approved two new separated bike lanes on Wednesday but was forced to back away from plans for a third after opposition from residents.

Not a soul came to council to oppose two projects — one to extend the Canada Line Bridge Connection in South Vancouver for \$750,000 and the other to upgrade the north end of the Cambie Street Bridge to Beatty Street for up to \$1.5 million.

But the placid acceptance of

improvements to the cycling network screeched to a halt at the intersection of Union and Main Streets along the Adanac bikeway, which was going to be upgraded for \$750,000.

Strathcona residents and business owners strongly opposed the city's plans to stop all car traffic from travelling along Union just west of Main and to prevent east-bound traffic along Union just east of Gore.

In the end, council directed staff to look at various options for the stretch.

Many expressed frustration about the loss of parking and the blocking of trucks and cars from the shortcut to downtown, which

is used by about 5,000 vehicles and 4,000 bikes daily.

Steve Da Cruz, owner of The Parker restaurant, referred to the city's claim that half the parking spots along the strip are typically empty as grossly inaccurate.

He added that businesses in the up-and-coming neighbourhood depend on the parking to attract customers.

The plans are "cutting us off at the knees," he said, noting that traffic will be a bigger problem as more restaurants move to the area. "This project has been pushed through with very little communication."

The city's public consultation was a failure, agreed Pete Fry, chair of the Strathcona Residents' Asso-

ciation. Residents only heard about the final proposal on May 1, and the city neglected to advertise that closing down parts of Union to cars was on the agenda, he said.

But others, such as cycling advocacy organization HUB, supported the safety upgrades to the street, which even opponents said was an accident waiting to happen.

The thousands that pack into the street deal with "treacherous" spots at the intersection, said Tanya Paz, chair of the Active Transportation Policy Council, who urged council to pass the recommendations.

"Should we go ahead with these now rather than wait for more injuries? Yes, please."

EMILY JACKSON/METRO



### FROCKIN' ROCKIN'

THINK FLORAL, BRIGHT AND SUPER LONG FOR YOUR SUMMER DRESS SHOPPING: HERE ARE EIGHT PIECES OF FASHION EYE CANDY TO GET YOU INSPIRED

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### Be warned: It's driver eat driver out there

A new app would let people snitch on fellow motorists who are illegally parked — and make a few bucks in the process

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### Here's to dearest dad

From tech toys to cologne, Metro has gift suggestions for everyone's old man

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### 60-day sentence for fatal dog beating

Animal-rights advocates balk at the decision in the trial of a mentally ill man who attacked his German shepherd shepherd Captain with a bat

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### Whale lovers rejoice

Juan de Fuca Strait seeing record numbers of humpbacks

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# Man who beat, killed Captain the dog gets 60 days in jail

**Sentencing.** Judge harshly admonishes members of public who have threatened violence against the mentally ill man



**MATT KIELTYKA**  
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Brian Whitlock, the mentally ill man who pleaded guilty to beating and killing his pet German shepherd, Captain, was sentenced to 60 days in prison and received a lifetime ban from owning animals on Wednesday.

Dozens of incensed animal-rights advocates jeered the decision in Vancouver provincial court — to the anger of the judge, who threatened to kick people out of the room — as it was handed down to the 26-year-old.

Justice David St. Pierre accepted testimony and evidence that Whitlock, who appeared to be a responsible pet owner before the act, was in the throes of a psychotic episode when he beat the dog with a baseball bat.

At the time, Whitlock believed Captain had been "poi-

soned by evil forces" and that it was his responsibility to put down the dog.

Believing the dog was dead, Whitlock wrapped Captain in a sheet and left his body in a dumpster.

But Captain wasn't dead.

He was found gravely injured and paralyzed and was taken into SPCA care before succumbing to his injuries.

"Obviously that thinking (during the incident) is related to his mental-health disorder," St. Pierre said.

Whitlock had already served 53 days in custody by Wednesday, so just seven days remained on his sentence, which will be followed by three-years probation.

B.C. SPCA's Marcie Moriarty was pleased with the lifetime ban on owning animals, but considered the 60-day jail term to be light.

Crown prosecutors had asked the judge for up to six months of jail during a sentencing hearing.

The sentence wasn't enough for many of the vocal advocates attending sentencing in T-shirts supporting Captain.

"I have a lot of compassion for mentally ill people, but do they walk around beating their dogs to death?" said Kat Chapman. "He has no consequence. What is 60 days, minus 53 days

(time served)?"



**Captain, a German shepherd, was left for dead in this Kitsilano dumpster in July 2012. His owner, Brian Whitlock, pleaded guilty to beating and killing the dog during a psychotic episode, and was sentenced on Wednesday to 60 days in prison and received a lifetime ban from owning animals. HANDOUT**

Justice St. Pierre acknowledged the public outrage surrounding the case.

But he harshly admonished members of the public who have responded with death threats and other threats of violence against Whitlock.

"I understand the emotions involved," the judge said.

"It doesn't excuse, or make death threats or assertions that people will take the law into their own hands any better."

He asked dissenters to put themselves in the shoes of a parent whose child is suffering from a similar mental disorder.

"It's quite disturbing this tragedy would precipitate other talk and acts of violence,"

he said. "I expect this matter to be concluded (with sentencing)."

St. Pierre said Whitlock should be able to "make amends to the community" without fear of vigilantes.

Whitlock's parents were in court but made no comment to media as they left the courthouse.

## Expectant mom gets more than she bargains for at mall

A mall in Richmond revealed it provides free delivery service to pregnant shoppers after a woman gave birth to a baby boy there on Saturday.

Security guards at Aberdeen Centre heard the expectant mother's screams coming from a busy packing entrance on the second floor just before 4 p.m. and rushed to her side.

Joey Kwan, promotion and public-relations manager for the mall, said the woman was with her sister at the time,

who phoned 911.

"One of the security (guards), because the dad was not there, provided mental support to her and let her grab his hand to deliver the baby," she said.

"The other security guard was actually monitoring the baby coming and helped her to deliver."

Within a few minutes firefighters were on the scene, and paramedics arrived soon after with just one minute to spare before the youngster

### Not an average work day

**"Those two security guards are not married and are not a daddy yet, so this is a one-of-a-kind, special, very unique experience for them."**

Joey Kwan, promotion and public relations manager for Aberdeen Centre, on the security guards who came to the aid of an expectant mother who went into labour at the mall.

made his debut.

Members of the advanced life-support unit cut the umbilical chord and transferred mother and baby to Richmond General Hospital,

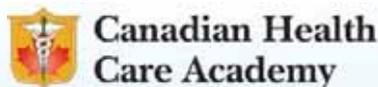
where they were both found to be in good health.

Being preoccupied with her safety, no one from the mall got the mother's name, but everyone there is hoping

she comes forward because several stores want to shower her with gifts.

Japanese dollar store Daiso wants to give the family 100 baby items, and the restaurant Gangnam Northern Chinese Cuisine wants to offer them a free celebratory dinner for the child's 100th day — a traditional milestone in many Asian cultures.

Saint Germain Bakery has also offered to give the baby a cake for every birthday until he turns 18. **KATE WEBB/METRO**



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