

HandyDART Neighbourhood Working Group

Teams Video Meeting

Thursday, August 26th, 2021

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Attendees

Katie Hamilton (Chair)	Tavola Strategy Group
Lori Beaulieu	BC Transit
Doug Ferrier	Burnside Neighbourhood
Melanie Austin	Burnside Neighbourhood
Don Monsour	Accessibility Transportation Advisory Committee
Scott Murdoch	Murdoch de Greeff
Bill Emile	Esquimalt Anglers Streamkeepers
Jane Devonshire	View Royal Climate Coalition
Cori Barraclough	Aqua-Tex Scientific
Miranda Benn	Burnside Neighbourhood
Sarah McPherson	Scoble Consulting

Regrets

Geoff Huber	BC Transit
Errol Nordstrom	BC Transit
Ed Pullman	Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition
Cheryl Deibel	New Roads
Dallas Perry	BC Transit
Levi Timmermans	BC Transit
Ryan Shotton	BC Transit

Notes

New Business:

- Katie Hamilton called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

- Introduction of Sarah McPherson from Scoble Consulting. They are leading the First Nations consultation. BC Transit trying new methods on both First Nations and community engagement on this project.

Katie

- Katie walked through results of recent public engagement that was conducted in July 2021. Results of public engagement will be captured in a *What We Heard* report that will be posted to website and provided to the Town of View Royal.
- 123 people attended the open houses. Most attendees lived within walking distance of the site.
- 39 people responded to the handyDART survey. 68% of respondents were View Royal residents, 56% were BC Transit customers, 11% were handyDART customers and 77% were Galloping Goose users.
- One detailed email was received from a neighbouring resident.
- Katie outline responses to each question asked in survey. <see powerpoint>

Questions/comments on July Engagement & *What We Heard* Report:

- Miranda: Sounds good, nice to see so many responses. Have flagged before but a public washroom and bike repair may introduce some issues.

Sarah MacPherson:

- Sarah walked through results of First Nations consultation to date.
- Acknowledges the working group and the site is located on the Songhees-Esquimalt traditional territories
- Acknowledges that she is currently on Musqueam, Squamish and Tseila-Watuth First Nations.
- BC had 306 First Nations groups. 20% are on the Island.
- BC Transit is committed to strengthening relationships with First Nations.
- Who we work with is informed by Provincial and Federal maps. Eight nations and one Treaty area associated with this project.

handyDART Centre – Indigenous Groups & Consultation Approach

- o Desire to build lasting relationships. UN declaration guides how we work with First Nations groups.
- o Take an adaptive approach. First Nations always have a lot going on but never more then during the pandemic.
- o Consultation is guided by their needs.
- o Due to pandemic and the restriction of in-person meetings a virtual (video) tour of site was provided to First Nations groups to show them the condition of the site.
- o Funding has been provided for their time and to support any technical support they need for reviewing studies and application. This is the first time participation funding has been provided by BC Transit. In this case one Nation retained an environmental consultant to review the plans, visit the site and provide advice.
- o Currently in discussion around archaeological remediation, employment, economic development opportunities and opportunities for cultural acknowledgment.
- o Plans for stream realignment and archaeological preservation are of interest to them.
- o Protocols for archaeological finds is important, ensuring we have archaeological monitors on site during construction
- o In discussing stream restoration and landscaping plans, we've talked about plantings, history of native plants and their medicinal and cultural significance.
- o There are clear synergies with other Craigflower Creek works and enhancements.
- o Great support for improving handyDART service. There is high need in their communities.

handyDART Centre – Outcomes

- Strong support for holistic approach for creek enhancement work.
- Chief of Esquimalt – recommended AquaTex on team. They have benefited from their “In the Creek” perspective.
- Salmon Safe: Indigenous ambassador is in a new role. Salmon Safe works with someone from the local First Nations community.
- A holistic view of “all living critters”
- Esquimalt Nation’s Preferred “chance finds” protocols related to Archaeological findings have been included in the permitting application.
- Permits: reached out to all Nations prior to permits being submitted.
- Esquimalt had an environmental consultant review applications and was supportive of the plans.
- Current discussions are around cultural recognition.
- Chief: important that there are visual representations that “we’re still here”, which could look like interpretative signage, art, totems poles and concrete stamping.
- Have started conversations with Esquimalt Nation and understand other nations have artists available to participate if requested
- Explore options to bring broader community and First nations artists together
- Will explore ways project could be used to provide hands on experience

Comments:

- Miranda: Really impressive
- Lori: We have benefited greatly from Sarah, guiding our approach and the language we use
- Katie: Public and First Nations consultation is purposely discrete processes, however certainly opportunities to bring learning and communities together

CRD Trail Detour – Fall 2021

- Detour along Watkiss Way between Burnside intersection and Talcott Road while construction occurs.
- Provide early warning for community – communication plan will be in place and approved by CRD Parks.
- Planning communications for detour during construction, including subscriber based newsletter, website, signage and media
- Anticipate two to three months for closure and detour.

Request for Interest (RFI) – Light duty battery operated buses

- Lori provided an overview of the current RFI advertised for light duty battery operated buses.
- Request for vendors to tell us what support they need, what’s under development/what do you need from us?
- Starts here: request demo’s of the buses, show demo’s of what is currently available/under design.
- Jane: I thought there were prototypes available?
- Lori: We will draw on these, as there are not any available on the market yet. We will bring battery electric bus team to a future NWG meeting.

Environmental Monitor/Construction Environmental Management plan

- Katie: Doug – many of the questions you have raised in previous meetings should be addressed in the Construction Environmental Management Plan which (has been emailed to you NWG and posted on line)

- Doug: Happy to see the independent environmental monitor and CEMP. Contractors cut corners wherever possible.
- Lori: It makes good sense to have the Environmental Monitor to report directly to the owner. Environmental monitor conducts reviews, ensuring contractor is meeting best practices.

RFP Early Works and Stream Alignment

- Tenders for early works and Environmental Monitor are now live
- Next meeting BC Transit team can provide an update on Tenders, once closed in September, likely early October.

Technical Studies

- Lori: Town is now actively reviewing the Environmental Development Permit application
- Town shares with specific groups for feedback, not sure who all is consulted but appreciate that there are multiple opportunities for different stakeholders to provide feedback in process.
- Federal and Provincial permits also still under review— permit approvals and advice will inform timelines for construction work. DFO letter of advice has been received, waiting on water sustainability.
- Bill: Back in July, I asked about access to Creek onsite, through facility. Any progress?
- Lori: This will happen. I raised the issue internally with risk and security, didn't see immediate issues. We will figure it out and confirm details. It would be for after construction is completed

Additional community engagement

- Katie outlined a number of initiatives being pursued with various parties – New Roads, Eagle View Elementary school, World fisheries trust interns, and opportunities for interpretive signage.

Role of neighbourhood working group

- Katie noted we are at a juncture moving into construction where we should consider whether NWG should evolve in any way – composition, meeting frequency, engagement levels of current members
- Welcome your thoughts wither privately or as a group at a future meeting.

Neighbourhood Working Group Comments

- Don: Totally blown away with how it has progressed. So impressive how you followed through with details.
- Melanie: Seconded Don. Was strongly opposed, however, so many positives have come out of this experience. Creek realignment, planting will be positive. Thank you.
- Jane: Thank you all.
- Lori: I think it speaks to the fact that although you may have come into the project skeptical you have all come with an open mind and we appreciate that.

Closing:

- Katie will circulate meeting minutes for review
- Next meeting likely be October – potential items: outcome of RFPs, battery operated fleet, Salmon Safe, role of working group.
- Also, once permits in place, potential for groundbreaking event this fall, would welcome NWG participation in event

Meeting ended at 4:59 p.m.



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