

HandyDART Neighbourhood Working Group

Teams Video Meeting

Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Attendees

Katie Hamilton (Chair)	Tavola Strategy Group
Errol Nordstrom	BC Transit
Lori Beaulieu	BC Transit
Miranda Benn	Burnside Neighbourhood
Don Monsour	Accessibility Transportation Advisory Committee
Scott Murdoch	Murdoch de Greeff
Bill Emile	Esquimalt Anglers Streamkeepers
Jane Devonshire	View Royal Climate Coalition
Cheryl Diebel	Our Place/New Roads Therapeutic Recovery
Ryan Shotton	BC Transit

Regrets

Geoff Huber	BC Transit
Ed Pullman	Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition
Melanie Austin	Burnside Neighbourhood
Doug Ferrier	Burnside Neighbourhood
Levi Timmermans	BC Transit

Notes

New Business:

- Meeting called to order at 4:03 p.m.

Agenda for meeting:

- General project update
- Overview of *What We Heard* during recent public consultation period
- Next steps

- One year check-in

Introductions

- Introduced Cheryl Diebel, first meeting as new member of the working group. Cheryl is with the New Roads Therapeutic recovery centre next door to 2401 Burnside. She replaces Alf Eamer on the group.

Overall Project Update

- Today's meeting will largely focus on what was heard during the recent public engagement period but there a couple general updates on other related items.
- The project team is actively developing the applications for the permits required for the first Environmental Development permit (EDP #1). This permit focuses on the stream realignment and restoration and is then followed by EDP#2 for the other elements of the site such as the building. The permitting process also requires consultation with local First Nations which is active and ongoing, and consultation with local streamkeepers and stewards doing work within Craigflower Creek. Katie has reached out to Bill Emile to discuss further conversations with Esquimalt Anglers.
- Based on the suggestion of a member of the Gorge waterway initiative (GWI), the project team has been exploring the Safe Salmon program. *Salmon-Safe is a third-party certification program that recognizes and rewards responsible, eco-friendly management practices that protect Pacific salmon habitat and enhance water quality on agricultural and urban lands.* <https://www.salmonsafe.ca/>. Updates to follow at next meeting.
- Designs on the CRD Galloping Goose alignment and grade/ trailhead have advanced and will be discussed at the next meeting. Outreach to Edward and the Cycling Coalition (now Capital Bike) will occur as well.
- In terms of additional technical studies, the traffic study and noise impact study are near completion and will be posted to the website. A link will be shared with the group when live. Project staff are also in conversations with the Town on proposed traffic mitigation measures on Burnside Road.
- The building rendering was shared at last meeting and in recent public engagement. Design team has been working on the functional components on the building and more renderings will be available in next phase of engagement and at May meeting.

Public engagement

- Katie outlined the recent engagement process and preliminary results.

Online survey went live March 20th and closed at midnight April 6th.

- Awareness raising included newspaper ads, neighbourhood posters, social media, media release that resulted in a couple of stories, letters to 20 stakeholder groups, and delivery of information to properties within 500 m of site as well as stratas and property management companies in multi-unit buildings.
- New subscriber-based e-newsletter will be introduced for providing timely project updates in future. The public can sign-up on the BC Transit project page.

- 156 respondents to survey, four emails from View Royal residents, and one stakeholder letter received. Lower participation than survey last spring
 - 76% of survey respondents identified as View Royal residents (higher proportion than last survey)
 - 53% were Transit users
 - 4% HandyDART users
 - 88% were Galloping Goose users
- Survey participants agreed with the proposed measures for 3 of the 4 questions, with the majority feeling that the design improved the specific conditions.
- One question (the first) generated a polar response, noting a slight majority (3%) disagreement
- The creek enhancements, sustainability and active transportation elements were well-received, with the majority of respondents expressing agreement with the proposed measures
- A high number of undecideds – perhaps due to not enough detail or lack of confidence
- Each question offered an open-ended opportunity to share further thoughts. Of those who chose to comment, most disagreed with the question and associated comments expressed disagreement with this site for this purpose.
- Highest specific concerns associated with traffic, fueling station and measures in place to manage stormwater/pollution of creek.
- Few concerns about proposed stream enhancement, although a handful of comments questioning how adapting existing landscape is better for the habitat
- Several miscellaneous comments about views, green/natural state, noise, berms, lighting.
- Building location mentioned only a handful of times. Some question whether it would be better to view buses or building

[Breakdown of answers to each question outlined in the associated PowerPoint]

Katie suggested that based on the survey results, the community could benefit from more information about:

- Stormwater management and mitigation
- Timeline for electric buses
- Traffic management plan – traffic study and proposed measures
- Galloping Goose Trail – alignment and trailhead
- Noise impact study
- Show how the site will integrate with the neighbourhood – “what will we see”
- Outline the broader benefits of expanding handyDART services within the community

Roundtable discussion about public engagement results:

Cheryl – based on experience in other consultation efforts, no big surprises

Miranda – cycling safety is good – would be fantastic to see improvements

Although many of us would like to see it somewhere else, it would be nice to see some of the “not here” comments focus on more constructive input

Re: suggestions about bike amenities and repair stations – I don’t want to see things that compete with the Nest. They offer some of those amenities and we should support them first.

Don- excellent survey

Jane – wish to see accelerated timelines for the electric fleet and posed question about the timeline for design and manufacturing of electric buses

Errol – noted Transit has a well-articulated Low Carbon fleet program, handyDART electric fleet will likely be timed with electric buses being introduced to the conventional system in Victoria

Jane – will we see a 3D model of the building? And what do you mean by broader benefits to the community?

Lori – noted there isn’t a plan for a physical 3d model at this time, but there will be more dimensional renderings available soon

Katie – noted the “benefits to the community” comment is that although there are top of mind issues with the site/location, there still appears to be low awareness of the broad community benefits of the handyDART project and how it also benefits the conventional system.

Bill – Heather from World Fisheries Trust will reach out to Katie

Next steps

- The What We Heard report will be shared with NWG, Province, GWI, Town of View Royal and posted online.
- Technical team considers public input received and refines designs for next phase of engagement and permitting processes
- Prepare permit applications for Environmental Development permit #1 (Town of View Royal submission)
- Prepare detailed 50% design
- Neighbourhood working group meeting mid-late May 2021 when additional renderings and plans are complete
- Public engagement phase #3 will occur in June/July 2021 to refine site design and prepare for Environmental Development permit #2
- Federal and Provincial Permit applications (related to creek realignment) to be submitted spring 2021 and construction planned for winter 2021/spring 2022
- The project team is also looking at sequencing work to introduce public realm elements first (perimeter landscaping, sidewalks, street trees etc.).

One year Check-in

Katie - want to take time to acknowledge that the group has now been working together for over a year. Our first meeting was February 2020 at Eagle Creek Quality Foods and then COVID-19 pandemic required group to shift to virtual

- Virtual meetings have been supplemented by small onsite visits with members of the NWG and GWI through summer 2020
- Two phases of public engagement are now complete
- A “What we heard and what has been done” matrix is continually updated

Katie posed question to the group as part of roundtable discussion:

- *What’s working?*
- *Is there anything you’d like to see done differently?*
- *Is there information you feel is missing?*

Miranda – the group has come a long way, personally I was so against it in the beginning, but I appreciate being a part of this group. More than enough information being provided, not missing anything specific. Doesn’t feel rushed which is helpful to the process and community to be involved. The pandemic may have also given some perspective. There are a lot of benefits being proposed for the community. Hope to meet in person soon.

Jane – thank you. I was late coming to the group but have been warmly welcomed. I feel well informed and heard. Thanks for what you are doing.

Don – have been really impressed with what’s going on here. Didn’t expect the level of information. We need more of this level-headed, less emotion process at all levels of government. Only concern is that some members don’t attend as often. Perhaps we can note who is making the meetings regularly.

Bill – as a streamkeeper I am happy to see the Creek being protected, the changes to the watercourse and the setbacks in place. Like the meetings like this.

Cheryl –It sounds like the process itself has helped, time, and COVID. It’s evident by the information that the process has been robust. The relationship with the community is so important, it’s the groundwork.

Cheryl also added that New Roads will be starting a gardening program this summer and should have some produce to sell outdoors to neighbourhood.

Lori – feel this has been a better project because of the team in place. Appreciate all of your involvement.

Errol – thank for all of your input, demonstrating care for the community is so essential to the process.

Ryan – having joined lately – doing engagement online is different for us, I really looking for to meeting you all in person.

Next steps:

- Meeting minutes and PowerPoint to be circulated and posted to the project website

- Katie will follow-up with those who could not attend.
- Next meeting will be in May. Important stage of public engagement as it informs the second of two environmental development permits to be submitted to the Town.
- Watch for Doodle poll to confirm meeting dates for May

Meeting ended at 5 p.m.