

Project Update: False Creek Flats Arterial & Community Panel Information



The City began engaging on a new arterial through the Flats as part of the False Creek Flats Area Plan. During that process, it became apparent that each option presents challenges, and the City will be seeking further direction from the community.

In 2018, the City will initiate an independent community panel to explore and recommend which option will best meet the needs of businesses and residents.

A community panel is the highest level of community engagement possible, and the City believes that it will provide for a deeper conversation and will result in a recommendation for an arterial option that best meets the needs of all partners involved.

WHY CREATE A NEW ARTERIAL? WE NEED TO SEPARATE THE RAIL LINE FROM THE STREETS

Rail traffic is an important part of Vancouver's role in Asia-Pacific Gateway trade. By building an over or underpass to separate the rail corridor from the arterial, we can:

- Improve safety for people walking, cycling, and driving across the rail line
- Reduce congestion and traffic disruptions
- Reduce shortcutting through local neighbourhoods
- Support the local economy by moving people and goods more efficiently

- Support reduced greenhouse gas emissions through goods movement by train rather than trucks
- Improve travel time reliability

The Powell Street Overpass was completed in 2014 to separate the arterial street from the rail line. Rail and arterial separation was identified in the City's Transportation 2040 Plan and the Burrard Inlet Rail Corridor Strategy.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY PANEL?

A community panel is a representative group of residents and businesses who are randomly selected to advise and recommend a solution on a complex or difficult community issue.

WHAT DOES A COMMUNITY PANEL DO?

As an independent body, they are tasked with learning about an issue from a range of perspectives, carefully considering the different options, and recommending a clear course of direction for decision-makers.

All residents and businesses will have an equal chance to sit on the community panel. People who are not randomly selected also have an opportunity to participate. Key partners and stakeholders, for instance, are often invited to speak directly with the community panel.

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW!

Add yourself to the email list to:

- hear first when the independent, third-party consultant begins their work.
- learn about how community panel participants are being selected.
- get information on engagement opportunities throughout the process.

SIGN UP TODAY AT:

vancouver.ca/flatsarterial

TIMELINE

2008 – The Burrard Inlet Rail Corridor Strategy was developed by the City in collaboration with the Federal Government, Port of Vancouver, railway operators, and other partners.

2014 – The City completed the Powell Street Overpass project.

October 2015 – Council directed staff to identify a new alignment for the arterial to allow Prior/Venables to be downgraded from an arterial to local-serving function.

May 2015 to June 2017 – Initial options for a new arterial were considered as part of the False Creek Flats Area Planning process.

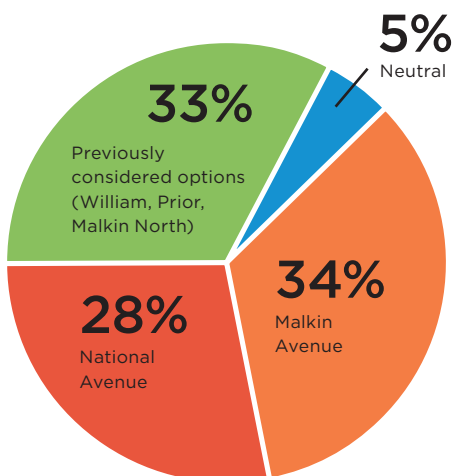
May 2017 – Council approved the False Creek Flats Area Plan. At that time, arterial selection was removed for further exploration.

WE ARE HERE

Spring 2018 – Community panel will be brought together. New phase of engagement will begin.

PUBLIC OPINION OF OPTIONS

Results captured in the False Creek Flats Talk Vancouver Survey, spring 2016.



FALSE CREEK FLATS ARTERIAL

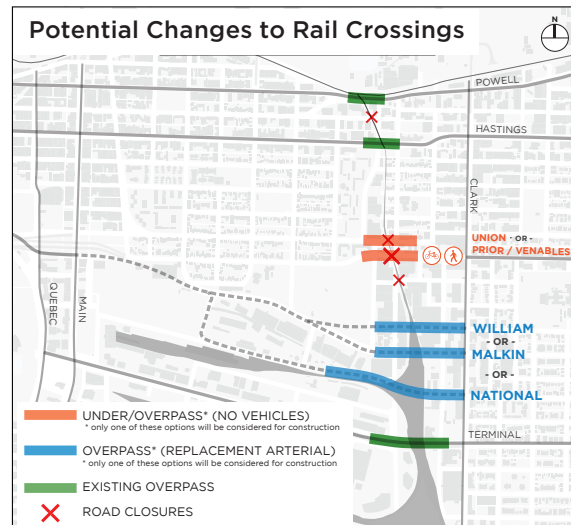
BACKGROUND

Council Motion to Downgrade Prior/Venables:

In October 2015 Council approved a downgrading of Prior Street to a local-serving street upon the completion of a new east/west arterial alignment.

Arterial Replacement Options:

During previous rounds of consultation, we explored several options, with a focus on Malkin Avenue and National Avenue. Each option presents challenges but provides opportunities for separation from the rail line.



NEXT STEPS

The City anticipates that the community panel will begin mid-2018. To stay informed about the process, including how members of the panel will be randomly selected, please sign up for email updates. For those that are not randomly selected, there will be opportunities to discuss the issues and provide input to the community panel directly.

What is the City's role?

The City is responsible for hiring the third-party community panel organizer and will provide the technical information required for that organizer to lead the process. The City will also provide technical expertise on how the different street options would function and how they may impact existing buildings in the area.

What is the Park Board's role?

Park Board staff will provide technical expertise on how Strathcona and Trillium Parks are potentially affected by the various options. If the preferred option has impacts on either park, Park Board staff will undertake community engagement on that option, and present the results to the Park Board Commissioners, who will decide whether the option can proceed.

What is the role of the third-party community panel facilitator?

The community panel organizer will organize an independent process that is fair, informed, and timely.

What is your role?

If you are not selected as a member of the community panel, we hope to hear your input during engagement events online and in person.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

vancouver.ca/flatsarterial Phone: 3-1-1 TTY: 7-1-1

Please subscribe to the False Creek Flats Arterial notification list to receive regular updates on the process.