

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL" <CMCG@vancouver.ca>  
"Kendall-Craden, Rena" <Rena.Kendall-Craden@vancouver.ca>  
"LaClaire, Lon" <lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca>  
"Dobrovolny, Jerry" <jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca>  
**Date:** 11/10/2017 12:22:04 PM  
**Subject:** Memo - A New Approach to the False Creek Flats - East/West Arterial  
**Attachments:** COMMS - Memo to MC - A New Approach to the False Creek Flats - East-West Arterial - 2017-11-10.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council

Please see the attached memo from Rena Kendall-Craden, Director of Communications, regarding a new approach to the False Creek Flats – East/West Arterial. A short summary as follows:

- Rationale for a 2018 public and stakeholder decision-making process in support of an East- West Connector in False Creek Flats
- Community panel – a transparent, best practice model that reflects the complexity of the public and technical challenges in achieving a solution. (s)
- We are providing the estimated cost in advance of a public procurement process to identify a subject matter/ process leader who will convene this process

If you require further information please contact Rena at 604.873.8121 or [rena.kendall-craden@vancouver.ca](mailto:rena.kendall-craden@vancouver.ca).

Best,  
Sadhu

**Sadhu Aufochs Johnston** | City Manager  
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4  
604.873.7627 | [Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
Twitter: sadhuajohnston



**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This message and any accompanying documents contain confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose. This message is private and protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying or distribution, or the taking of any action based on the contents of this information, is strictly prohibited.

## MEMORANDUM

November 10, 2017

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk  
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office  
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Naveen Girm, Director of Community Relations, Mayor's Office  
Lon LaClaire, Director of Transportation  
Jerry Dobrovlny, General Manager of Engineering Services

FROM: Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Corporate Communications

SUBJECT: A New Approach to the False Creek Flats - East/West Arterial

---

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of a cross-departmental working group, we would like to highlight a new approach to community involvement in corridor and transportation planning for False Creek Flats and an East West Arterial.

Since October 2015, staff has been working closely with project partners to try to identify a route that would allow the City to create an arterial that is grade-separated from the rail line and also allows for the City to downgrade Prior/Venables Street to a local serving street. The necessity for a new arterial and overpass is driven by the long-term need to build an over or under-pass to separate arterial traffic from the rail corridor. The separation will help to support Vancouver's role in Asia-Pacific Gateway trade by reducing the impact of arterial traffic on rail movement. The separation will also enhance safety and help alleviate congestion. A recent example of the rail corridor strategy implementation include the Powell Street Overpass, completed in 2014.

The consultation and engagement of the arterial overpass was initially included as part of the False Creek Flats Area Plan. The planning team explored emerging options with local businesses and other community stakeholders; however, despite extensive dialogue, no option for a new alignment emerged as the clear preference. Engagement and planning for the arterial was separated from the planning process when the area plan went to Council on May 17, 2017 to allow for more community input into the process.

The City needs direction on the best route for the east-west arterial connection to balance technical and funding demands with the community's needs and aspirations, keeping in mind the potential costs, impacts and benefits to local businesses, residents and Vancouver at large.

Meaningful transportation planning involves citizens, in particular those whose businesses, lives and communities are most affected by decisions on large complex projects. This approach is critical when dealing with decisions that involve competing underlying values and trade-offs that cannot be resolved through economics or engineering alone. Well-designed citizen deliberations can lead to better outcomes by opening up channels of local knowledge, experience, and dissent to guide decision makers. In this case, the complexity of the challenge begs an approach where residents and businesses can wrestle directly with the issues in order to give clear direction to Council.

As such, a cross-departmental team comprised of members from Engineering, Planning and Public Engagement are proposing a best practice approach to gain a clear recommendation from the community. Work is also being coordinated with the Park Board.

We are proposing that the City initiate a Community Panel to provide the City with informed and thoughtful direction from a representative group of residents and businesses. A Community Panel is a democratic engagement tool that deploys a jury-style model to educate a demographically balanced, randomly-selected group of residents and businesses to work toward a recommendation. This approach is similar to the Grandview Woodlands Citizens' Assembly process, but with a highly focused mandate and condensed timeline. There are a number of organizations throughout North America using this model and we would seek the support of an expert supplier to help lead this process. The overall estimated cost for a process in 2018 is in the range of \$200-250K.

Public participation in the process would be encouraged and any resident or business could apply to be selected for the panel. The panel would also host its own public meetings and learning sessions. In addition, key stakeholders would be invited to participate in the design and delivery of the learning program for the panel. The panel would have a focused mandate and a set of clear parameters including the decision-making framework and technical constraints the City face going forward.

For instance, such parameters should include the following:

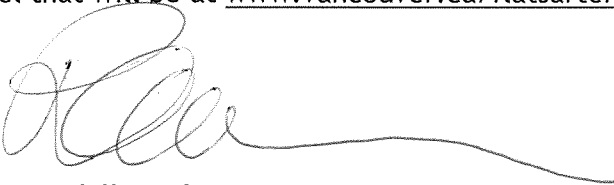
The East-West Arterial will:

- Be grade-separated from the rail line, e.g. an overpass or underpass
- Connect with Main & Prior Streets to the west and Clark Drive to the east between Prior Street and Terminal Avenue
- Be a reliable and efficient arterial street between downtown and east Vancouver, and will support all transportation modes, such as walking, cycling, transit, automobiles, and trucks
- Be consistent with City of Vancouver and Park Board policies
- Not put an undue fiscal burden on the City of Vancouver or other levels of government and funding partners

Our proposed timeline would involve a procurement process that would extend to the end of 2017 and a process launch in early 2018.

Involving citizens does not remove decisions from the hands of identified subject matter experts and elected representatives. Instead, it provides the public with improved technical and planning literacy and a deeper understanding of the issues, ongoing concerns and priorities surrounding major projects. We believe this model offers the best vehicle to meet competing interests.

For more information about the planning work to date, please reference: [www.vancouver.ca/falsecreekflats](http://www.vancouver.ca/falsecreekflats). In the upcoming days, we also intend to have a webpage created specific to the considerations for the arterial and information on the Community Panel that will be at [www.vancouver.ca/flatsarterial](http://www.vancouver.ca/flatsarterial).



Rena Kendall-Craden  
Director, Corporate Communications

(T) 604.873.8121

(E) [rena.kendall-craden@vancouver.ca](mailto:rena.kendall-craden@vancouver.ca)

