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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

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Date: 12/14/2018 1:45:56 PM

Subject: Memo - Update on False Creek Flats Community Panel Process

Attachments: ENG - TPL - Memo to Mayor & Council - Update on False Creek Flats Commun....pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see attached a memo from Jerry Dobrovolny regarding an update on the False Creek Flats Community Panel process. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- A Community Panel process has been undertaken to assist with the identification of a new alignment for an arterial street through the False Creek Flats.
- The consultation and engagement of arterial options was initially included as part of the False Creek Flats Area Plan, wherein the City explored three alternative options, with one of those options eventually being eliminated.
- When no clear preference for either of the remaining two options emerged, City leaders and senior staff chose to undertake a Community Panel process, which was then communicated to Mayor, Council and the Park Board Commissioners in late 2017.
- City SCM staff then led a search for a supplier to support the Community Panel process; the multi-stage evaluation process resulted in the contract being awarded to the Jefferson Centre, a US-based, non-profit, civic engagement organization.
- The Jefferson Centre has been leading stakeholder and resident engagement to discuss process and promote participation in the False Creek Flats Community Panel since the fall of 2018; panelist recruitment opened in November 2018 and closed in December 2018 with 42 people being selected via randomized draw from the applicant pool.
- Over the course of the next four months, the False Creek Flats Community Panel will take on approximately eight days of deep learning and discussion, which will inform their recommendation on an arterial route, which will be shared with City staff in the spring of 2019 and provide significant input into the overall strategy of the False Creek Flats Area Plan.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jerry Dobrovolny, GM of Engineering Services, at 604.873.7331 or jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

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MEMORANDUM

December 13, 2018

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Civic Engagement and Communications Director
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, Park Board
Lisa Prescott, Acting General Manager, Real Estate and Facilities Management
Gil Kelley, General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability
Lon LaClaire, Director, Transportation Division

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Update on False Creek Flats Community Panel Process

Dear Mayor and Council,

This is an update on an ongoing community process to help identify a new alignment for an arterial street through the False Creek Flats, how the process was identified, and the details about the procurement process. Staff will update Mayor and Council regularly on the progress of this work.

Project History: Background - How the Current Process Was Identified and Selected

Following Council direction in October 2015 (RTS 11057), staff have been engaging residents and businesses on options for an arterial alignment through the False Creek Flats that would allow for grade-separation over the Burrard Inlet Rail Line and for Prior Street to be downgraded to a local-serving street.

The consultation and engagement of the arterial options was initially included as part of the False Creek Flats Area Plan. During that Flats planning process, the City explored three alternative

options: National, Malkin, and William. However, William Street was dismissed in an early phase of alignment exploration due to its impact on Strathcona Park.

Through extensive dialogue, no option for a new alignment emerged as the clear preference. The Malkin and National options each include a range of impacts on businesses, public spaces, parks and community gardens, neighbourhoods, and existing civic facilities.

When the Flats Area Plan went to Council for approval on May 17, 2017 (RTS 11741), the City acknowledged that additional community consultation was required to ensure that the selected alignment would balance the various trade-offs with the aspirations of the community.

In an attempt to address the challenges of working among complex and competing interests, a group of senior leaders and staff from the City Manager's Office, Engineering Services, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, and the Park Board decided to undertake a Community Panel process, a deliberative civic engagement model that has been used in jurisdictions throughout the world.

Given the challenges of weighing and understanding the trade-offs, opportunities, and implications for communities and stakeholders, this model was advanced as a fair, international best practice seeking deep collaboration from participants.

The proposed process was communicated to Mayor, Council and the Park Board Commissioners, and COV Procurement led a search for a supplier to support the process. Two local BC-based firms, one Ontario-based firm, and a US-based not-for-profit organization all submitted bids. The multi-stage evaluation process resulted in the contract being awarded to the Jefferson Center.

Timeline of Activity

- **Late 2017:** Staff begin to explore the idea of using the Community Panel model, and brief Council and the Park Board on this approach. Procurement begins search for supplier.
- **Spring 2018:** Supplier award granted to Jefferson Center.
- **Summer 2018:** Jefferson Center begins community research and stakeholder engagement to refine the Terms of Reference and understand key issues for the learning program. Based on stakeholder feedback, the timeline is extended to allow more time for these discussions.
- **Fall 2018:** Jefferson Center leads stakeholder and resident engagement to discuss process and promote participation in the panel, particularly among demographically under-represented groups that may experience participatory barriers.
- **November 2018:** Recruitment opens.
- **December 2018:** Recruitment closes with nearly 200 applicants having applied. Forty-two people will be selected via randomized draw from the applicant pool.
- **January–April 2019:** The Jefferson Center and panelists will undertake approximately eight days of deep learning and discussion to inform their recommendation on an arterial route.
- **Spring 2019:** City and Park Board staff will use the Panel's recommendation as a significant input to the overall strategy, but may request further engagement, learning and technical analysis before taking all input to Council in a draft plan later in 2019.

Additional information on the False Creek Flats Community Panel process as provided to Mayor and Council on November 8, 2018 is available [here](#), while information about the Community Panel itself is available [here](#).

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Dobrowolny".

Jerry W. Dobrowolny, P.Eng., MBA
General Manager, Engineering Services

604.873.7331 | jerry.dobrowolny@vancouver.ca