



July 18, 2019

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Malcolm Bromley
General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : False Creek Flats Arterial - Next Steps – Board Briefing Memo

Dear Commissioners,

This memo is to inform you about a recent [memo to Mayor and Council](#) prepared by City Engineering staff that outlines their initial analysis of the Flats Arterial Community Panel report, along with the next steps required before seeking a Council decision in the fall of 2019 on the alignment for a grade-separated arterial in the Flats.

Following the Community Panel's evaluation of nine route variations, Engineering staff will no longer pursue alignments on either William Street or Malkin Avenue, and will advance work on the panel's recommended route (the National-Charles Overpass), and the panel's second preferred route (the Prior/Venables Underpass).

The memo to Mayor and Council states:

It is clear that the panel does not support routes with significant impacts to Strathcona Park or Produce Row businesses, and staff will no longer pursue alignments on either William or Malkin. Staff will instead focus on the panel's top two route choices for an arterial route with grade-separation: National-Charles overpass and Prior/Venables underpass. Specifically, staff will further evaluate the Community Panel's recommendation of the National-Charles alignment, including taking the time to refine the technical analysis and costing of this option to be on par with the original arterial alignment options.

Engineering staff highlighted that although both routes (National-Charles and Prior/Venables underpass) avoid the most significant impacts to parks, community gardens and Produce Row businesses, each of these two routes also has drawbacks. The National-Charles option has a high cost and the Prior/Venables underpass would not allow Prior Street to be downgraded to a local-serving street. Engineering staff will conduct further analysis to explore how the City could address these drawbacks.

Next Steps for Engineering Staff

- Conduct further technical analysis of the National-Charles alignment option.
- Hire an independent consultant to refine cost estimates of the National-Charles option.
- Explore external funding opportunities such as Port of Vancouver, railway operators (CN and BNSF), TransLink, and senior governments.
- Explore opportunities to reduce traffic impacts on Prior Street.



- Incorporate input from previous planning and engagement work in regards to National and Prior/Venables options, including engagement feedback from the local community, affected businesses, and goods movement stakeholders.

Engineering staff expect to have a final recommended route for a grade-separated arterial in the False Creek Flats ready to bring to Council for a decision in fall 2019.

Next Steps for Park Board Staff

Park Board staff will continue to liaise with Engineering staff during their review of the two alignments and will further assess the potential park impacts and mitigation considerations as more information becomes available.

As both alignments (National-Charles and Prior/Venables) have impacts on park land and boundaries, Park Board staff expect to return to the Board in the fall of 2019 with additional information for the Board's review and consideration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malcolm Bromley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/lt/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Planning Project Team
PB Communications