



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

September 30, 2019

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

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

SUBJECT : False Creek Flats Arterial Council Report – Board Briefing Memo

Dear Commissioners,

This memo is to notify you about the Engineering Services report titled [False Creek Flats Grade-Separated Road Alignment](#), which is scheduled to be presented to Council for decision on October 1, 2019. This report outlines staff recommendations for a grade-separated road alignment in the False Creek Flats, as well as considerations to support the recommendations.

As noted in the report, after thorough exploration of alternate arterial alignments to replace Prior/Venables Street, staff *“cannot recommend an alternate route that is both supported by the community and stakeholders impacted by the decision, and that does not place an undue fiscal burden on the City”*. The National-Charles Overpass route recommended by the Community Panel was supported by many residents, but was not supported by all stakeholders, impacted businesses, and residents. As well, potential project partners support the most cost-effective grade-separation solution (the incremental cost of the National-Charles route is estimated to be over \$280 million).

The report recommendations propose grade-separating the Prior/Venables rail crossing with an underpass to address traffic impacts, and that staff work with the neighborhood on street treatment designs to improve safety and access to the park, for all ages and abilities, that would include enhancing walking and cycling connections throughout the neighbourhood. Additionally, should the underpass impact park boundaries, it is recommended that there be *“a net increase of permanent park space to Strathcona Park by exchanging portions of existing street right-of-way and park land and that Prior/Venables Street be downgraded to a collector street, with a 30km/h speed limit near Strathcona Park”*. Any changes to the boundaries of Strathcona Park, which is designated as a permanent public park, would require approval from 2/3 of all members of both Park Board and City Council, as per the Vancouver Charter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Malcolm Bromley'.

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

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Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Planning, Policy & Environment
PB Communications