



October 29, 2021

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Donnie Rosa - General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Seaside Greenway Kits Beach Park - Project Update - Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to update you on the Kitsilano Beach Park Seaside Greenway project to improve walking, rolling, and cycling routes through and adjacent to Kitsilano Beach Park. This memo provides a summary of the first round of public engagement and offers an overview of the upcoming second round of engagement.

Background

The Board received a [briefing memo](#) (dated February 8, 2021) that outlined upcoming temporary safety improvements in the park and public engagement towards determining a route for a fully separated cycle path across the park. An [email](#) dated March 17, 2021 provided an update on the project timeline.

In mid May, staff implemented these temporary safety improvements, which included a separated cycling path in the south parking lot near Cornwall Avenue and a diagonal path near Balsam Street. These changes, detailed in a [briefing memo](#) dated May 4, 2021, were made to address short-term safety concerns while work is underway to identify a route for a separated cycling path.

Subject to Park Board approval, construction of the separated cycling path is expected to begin in late 2022 or early 2023. The separated path is intended to address conflicts between people walking, rolling, cycling, and driving in the park, and improve safety and comfort for all park users. The scope of changes proposed by this project will be limited and designed to be of an interim nature with the expectation that a proposed upcoming master plan (subject to Board approval) will take a more comprehensive approach to all elements of the park. It is anticipated that the Kitsilano Beach Park Master Plan will be proposed for the 2023-2026 Capital Plan. The master plan will address a broad range of issues including updating features and facilities throughout one of the City's most popular parks, as well as responding to outcomes related to the Broadway Subway and Broadway Plan, and the nearby Señákw development.

Round 1 Engagement Process

As outlined in the General Manager's [report](#) and [presentation](#) provide at the Park Board meeting held on July 19, 2021, the project includes three rounds of public engagement. The project team undertook the first round of public engagement from August 10 to 30, 2021, which included an online survey, two onsite engagement pop-ups where paper surveys were made available, and direct stakeholder emails. Park and Greenway users were asked how they use and travel to the park, and what values are most important when considering a separated cycle path in Kitsilano Beach Park. This information helped staff to develop different options for a cycle path route and undertake a preliminary evaluation of the options based on these values.

xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations have been notified of the project and invited to participate in the engagement process.



As mentioned, the scope of changes proposed by this project will be limited, and they will also avoid areas of the park that may be archaeologically sensitive until a full Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) can be completed, likely as part of the master plan. The future master planning process will also allow for deeper collaboration with rights holders.

Summary of Round 1 Engagement Results

The first round of engagement in August resulted in about 2,290 touchpoints with park users and residents. The project team heard from a broad cross-section of Vancouver residents who use the park and pathway, with strong representation from the Kitsilano neighbourhood. Altogether, over 1,200 people completed the survey. Key characteristics of respondents include:

- over 65% of respondents said they visit the park at least a few times a month;
- most people said they travel through the park, while many also visit the park to relax or take part in recreational activities;
- over half of respondents said they access the park by cycling and/or by walking.

The survey asked respondents to identify their top 3 values from a list including: greenspace, parking, connections, directness, impact, and other. Safety (including accessibility) and comfort were not included in the list because these are two values that staff consider to be paramount in park design.

Respondents' top values were greenspace, connections, and directness, with some variation according to how they travel to the park, activities they do in the park, and self-reported demographic characteristics, including age, gender, and disability. Survey responses confirmed that safety and comfort were important values. No new values were identified by respondents who selected "other".

The project team also heard about some of the challenges people experience with the existing pathway alignment in the park and recommendations that could make their experience better. Respondents identified the following as the top three challenges they have experienced related to traveling in and around the park:

- conflicts between cyclists and other park and pathway users because of the shared spaces everyone occupies;
- concerns about behaviour of people cycling at fast speeds, not following rules, and not ceding space to people walking and rolling;
- congestion, with concerns about a high volume of all park users and competing demands for space along the pathway and in the park.

Respondents shared these top recommendations when it comes to a separated cycling path connecting across the park:

- add clearer and/or more signage to ensure all path users understand where different modes of travel are allowed and not allowed;
- a bike path either on the road, outside of the park, or around the perimeter of the park;
- provide separate path for people cycling, and for people walking and rolling.

An external consultant is supporting Park Board staff with communications and engagement for this project. They have compiled a summary report of engagement results, a version of which will be made available in November.

Round 2 Engagement and Next Steps

As shown in Figure 1 below, the second round of engagement is planned for November 2021 (Nov 1 - 21), and will ask people to evaluate different separated cycle path options to help identify a preferred route for the path. Stakeholders, including business owners and operators in the park, events organizers, neighbourhood associations, community groups, and advisory committees, were invited to fill-out the survey in round 1 and will be invited to participate in focused meetings with project staff as part of round 2 engagement. An overview of these engagement results will be presented to the Board.



Figure 1: Kitsilano Beach Park Separated Cycle Path Project Schedule

Staff are planning to launch the third and final round of engagement in February 2022, which will provide an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to review and comment on a preferred route for the cycle path. The outcomes of this engagement will inform the recommendations that staff are aiming to present for Board decision in late March 2022.

Regards,



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