



**Committee of the Whole Report
For the Meeting of May 10, 2018**

To: Committee of the Whole
Bill Eisenhauer, Head of Engagement
Date: April 27, 2018
From: Fraser Work, Director, Engineering and Public Works
Thomas Soulliere, Director, Parks, Recreation and Facilities
Subject: CRD Wastewater Treatment Project Community Amenity - Consultation/Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct staff to allocate the \$100,000 amenity contribution from the CRD's Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee, as part of the Licence of Occupation - Clover Point Pump Station, to enhance a multi-modal pathway through a portion of Beacon Hill Park, running from Heywood Avenue to Bridge Way and on to Douglas Street, connecting the James Bay and Fairfield neighbourhoods.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the terms of the Licence of Occupation, the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee (CALWMC) will provide the City with a one-time amenity contribution of \$100,000.00 for public realm improvements.

The City initiated discussions with representatives of the James Bay Neighbourhood Association (JBNA) and the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA) in December 2017 to discuss funding intent and engagement plans. The two associations brought forward a joint proposal and offered to lead engagement in their communities.

Their joint proposal - a multi-use pathway linking the two communities through a portion of Beacon Hill Park - provides an enhanced east-west link, accessible to all users, and an improved route to school for children and families travelling to/from South Park and Sir James Douglas elementary schools. The proposed work consists of upgrades to an existing path running from Heywood Avenue to Bridge Way where it connects with the multi-use pathway that continues to Douglas Street.

City staff reviewed the proposed project and determined it aligns with existing City policies and plans for active transportation and the Beacon Hill Park Heritage Landscape Plan. A subsequent costing analysis by staff determined that the project can be constructed for the \$100,000 budget.

The JBNA and the FGCA led community engagement in their neighbourhoods and found strong support for the project. Should Council direct staff to implement the project, the pathway improvements could be completed by October 2018.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the engagement findings for the proposed public realm improvement to be funded by an amenity contribution from the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee, intended for the James Bay and Fairfield neighbourhoods.

BACKGROUND

Council directed staff to consult with the community on ideas for capital projects to be funded by a one-time \$100,000 amenity contribution from the CRD as part of the Licence of Occupation Agreement between the City of Victoria and the CRD Wastewater Treatment Project.

The motion from the February 9, 2017 Council Meeting:

Motion:

It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Young, that Council:

1. Accept the following additional amenity contribution to be secured in the Licences of Occupation to occupy and expand the existing Clover Point Pump Station and install a conveyance pipe along Dallas Road:
 - a. A contribution of a one-time payment of \$100,000.00 to cover public realm improvements:
 - i. Specific improvements to be determined following consultation with the community, with a report back to the Capital Regional District regarding the community consultation by the City and the final improvements, and the specific improvements brought forward to Council for final consideration and approval.

In December 2017, City staff met with both the James Bay Neighbourhood Association and the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association to explore how best to engage the community. The associations felt that it would be best to bring one project forward for community input and feedback.

The associations subsequently presented a joint proposal for an enhanced multi-modal pathway (east / west) through a portion of Beacon Hill Park. This project would enhance an east-west link between the two neighbourhoods, accessible to all, and provide an improved route to school for children and families travelling to/from South Park and Sir James Douglas elementary schools. The proposed project improves an existing pathway and connects Heywood Avenue to Bridge Way, before continuing to Douglas Street (see Appendix A - conceptual illustration and Appendix B - context map).

Staff reviewed the proposal against existing park conditions and considerations around route alignment, and are supportive of the proposed path configuration and location.

Enhancements to the existing pathway include:

- Widening the pathway to approximately 2.7m to safely and comfortably facilitate shared use. Existing widths vary slightly, however, on average the existing path is 1.5m. Some asphalt sections will also include crack repair and general upkeep.
- New signage and improved access onto Heywood Avenue
- New multi-use pavement markings on the existing pathway
- New Crosswalk / signage to connect to existing multi-use path on Bridge Way

Tree roots would be worked around where needed, to limit impacts to native plants. As this project focuses on enhancements to an existing pathway, impacts on greenspace will be minimal.

Staff have estimated the cost of the pathway enhancements, based on the preliminary design concept. The estimated costs are contained in the table below:

Table 1. Preliminary Design Estimate

Description of Work	Estimate	Totals
Concrete	\$14,800	
Asphalt	\$24,100	
Electrical	\$9,000	
Sign/Paint	\$15,800	
Parks	\$3,900	
Traffic Control/Construction Administration	\$3,100	
Construction Estimate (preliminary concept)		\$70,700
Contingency (25% of construction)	\$17,675	
Total Project Cost		\$88,375
Project Budget – CRD Amenity Contribution		(\$100,000)

All pathway enhancements can be completed by City forces within the allocated budget of \$100,000.00 - work would be undertaken after the peak season for park visitation. The City also plans to engage Community Associations, CRD, and members of the school communities for education and encouragement activities after the project is finished.

Community Engagement

The community engagement process for this project was led by the associations during February 2018 with City support. The associations solicited feedback from the community through e-newsletters/email, a presentation to the South Park Parent Advisory Committee AGM, and at a February 20, 2018 joint community open house.

The engagement opportunities were promoted by the associations through an email to stakeholders, media and at association meetings. The associations also reached out to the Friends of Beacon Hill Park who attended the community open house.

The associations received positive feedback from the community at the open house event and received three letters of support indicating the enhancements would make it easier and safer for people, particularly children and youth, to travel between the two communities. These were received from:

- Sir James Douglas Elementary School Parent Advisory Council
- Sir James Douglas Active Travel Committee
- South Park Family School Parent Advisory Council

Below is a summary of feedback received at the open house specific to the preliminary design and how this feedback has been integrated in the final project plan:

What We Heard	How Feedback is Integrated into the Proposed Project
Strong desire for preservation of natural areas	The multi-use path improvements will be completed on the existing east/west pathway. This route was selected to ensure no impacts to native plants and camas fields.
Concerns cyclists will travel at high speed along the path	There will be multi-use pavement markings on the pathway and new signage to encourage all users to travel responsibly and travel at an appropriate speed.
Desire to add lighting along the pathway	The cost for lighting is not within the budget, but can be considered in park upgrades for future years.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

The proposed project aligns with the City of Victoria 2012 Official Community Plan, the 2017 Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan and operational priorities to expand active and multi-modal transportation infrastructure. A costing analysis has determined the project can be constructed within the budget provided.

This project reflects infrastructure priorities raised by South Park Elementary and Sir James Douglas Elementary through the 2017 Active & Safe Routes to School process and builds on recommendations identified in the Fairfield Local Area Plan development process.

The JBNA 'Live on Douglas' visioning project had identified 'Safer Streets', 'Clear Pathways' and 'Connecting to South Park' as priorities for future public realm improvements in and around Beacon Hill Park. Support for cycling improvements through Beacon Hill Park were also identified in the recent FGCA Task Force on Cycling Report. The proposal has also been endorsed by the City's Active Transportation Advisory Committee who, after being briefed on the project, passed a motion at their April 24 meeting indicating their support for the conceptual plans for an improved east/west cycling and walking connector through Beacon Hill Park.

Should Council approve the project, construction by City staff would begin in September, with completion anticipated for October. The City plans to work with the Community Associations, CRD, and school communities on implementation of educational and encouragement activities upon project completion.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Endorse enhancing the multi-modal pathway through Beacon Hill Park (recommended): The proposed improvements received majority support from participants in the community-led consultation process by the James Bay Neighbourhood Association and the Fairfield-Gonzales Neighbourhood Association in February. The project was also identified through consultation processes on related topics, and is consistent with the City objective to expand and enhance multi-modal transportation infrastructure.

Conduct broader City-wide engagement process on the recommended project (not recommended): As the Wastewater Treatment project is being constructed in the James Bay and Fairfield-Gonzales neighbourhoods, staff only consulted with those community associations about the allocation of the \$100,000. While support for this project was identified community-led consultation and through other engagement activities, Council could direct staff to solicit feedback across the City on the proposed project, to determine if there is broader community support.

Conduct engagement on other potential projects (not recommended): Council could direct staff to solicit input from other neighbourhoods/stakeholders on possible public realm improvement projects. However, existing input from the two community associations, two elementary schools in the area, Beacon Hill Park stakeholders, and area residents indicated majority support for this project, as it benefitted residents in both neighbourhoods, provided a safe/strong cycling link between the two elementary schools, and enhanced an existing link through Beacon Hill Park with minimal impact to greenspace.

Accessibility Impact Statement

The proposed design aligns with the Transportation Association of Canada – Geometric Design Guidelines 2017 for multi-use paths. The proposed maximum grade is 5% to comfortably accommodate wheelchairs. Plans will be shared with the City's Accessibility Working Group, to solicit feedback/input during the detailed design stage.

2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan

The enhanced pathway supports Objective 9 of Council's Strategic Plan to Complete a Multi-Modal and Active Transportation Network.

Impacts to Financial Plan

There are no impacts to the Financial Plan. All pathway enhancements can be completed within the \$100,000 budget and staff support from Transportation and Engagement divisions.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement


This project supports actions in the Official Community Plan under Goal 7: Transportation and Mobility (objectives 7B and 7C and policies 7.5.2, 7.5.3, 7.7.2, and 7.16.7) as well as Goal 9: Parks and Recreation (objectives 9B and 9D and policies 9.1.3, 9.2.3 and 9.5).

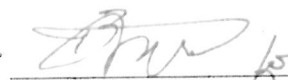
CONCLUSIONS


Directing the amenity contribution from the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee towards enhancing a multi-use pathway through Beacon Hill Park was supported by the majority of individuals who participated in the consultation process in February. Similar recommendations were also brought forward through previous consultations on related topics.

In addition to community support, the investment also aligns with the City's overarching plans and operation properties to expand active and multi-modal transportation infrastructure. The improved pathway could be completed within the budget provided and ready for the community to use by October.

Respectfully submitted,

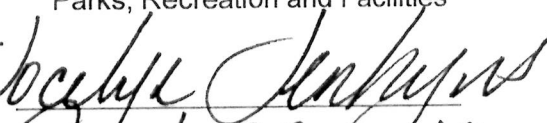

Bill Eisenhauer
Head of Engagement


Fraser Work, Director
Engineering and Public Works


Thomas Soulliere, Director
Parks, Recreation and Facilities

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.

Date:


April 27, 2018

List of Attachments

- Appendix A: Conceptual Illustration of Proposed Pathway
- Appendix B: Context Map
- Appendix C: Engagement Summary from JBNA and FGCA
- Appendix D: Letter of Support from Sir James Douglas Elementary School PAC
- Appendix E: Letter of Support from South Park Family School PAC
- Appendix F: Letters of Support from the Sir James Douglas Elementary School Active Travel Committee
- Appendix G: Letters from the JBNA and FGCA Boards recommending the project
- Appendix H: Redacted Survey Responses