

**From:** Tom Berkhout <[tom.w.berkhout@gmail.com](mailto:tom.w.berkhout@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 1, 2018 10:16 PM

**To:** CALUC chair

**Cc:** Dan Woynillowicz; Katherine Brandt; Markus Kellerhals; Megan Squires; Tanya Binette; Vanessa Rogers

**Subject:** SJD Active Travel Committee Support for Beacon Hill Park Shared Pathway

I am writing to you on behalf of Sir James Douglas' (SJD) Active Travel Committee (ATC). The ATC was formed in 2017 to encourage SJD families to get to and from school using active modes of travel such as walking, biking, transit, and scooters. Municipal transportation infrastructure that is easy to use, conveniently located, and safe is a critical piece to helping more families decide to use active travel to get to and from school.

As SJD is the French Immersion catchment school for James Bay, there are a number of SJD families who commute every day between James Bay and Fairfield. Beacon Hill Park is the easiest, most convenient and safest route to use between these communities when using active modes of transportation (especially when using them with young children).

There is currently only one east-west connector route through the Park that serves the north side of James Bay. This route enters/exits James Bay at Michigan Street and enters/exits in Fairfield near the cricket pitch. This route is far from ideal for many families because it enters/exits Fairfield at a location that is many blocks south of where SJD is located. This means families coming by bicycle must ride at least an additional 10 minutes on streets to get to the school than they would have to if there was an exit/entrance point in Fairfield closer to the north end of the Park.

The most direct east-west pathway through the north side of the Park is the wood chip trail that exits/enters the Park at Pendergast Street. However, we understand that the flow and volume of surface water along this trail at certain times of the year makes it impractical to construct a hard surface pathway along it without very significant engineering upgrades. We therefore believe that the project's proposed pathway is a more practical option.

Since the proposed multi-use trail exits/enters closer to the north end of the Park, it will make it easier, more convenient and safer for SJD families to get to and from school every day by bike and will encourage more families to choose active travel. It will also benefit students from James Bay who travel to other schools, such as Central Middle School and Victoria High School. More generally, the pathway will benefit residents of and visitors to Victoria who wish to visit Beacon Hill Park and its surrounding neighbourhoods. Given these reasons, we fully support the proposed Beacon Hill Park Multi-Use Pathway.

Sincerely,

The Sir James Douglas Elementary School Active Travel Committee

Tom Berkhout (SJD parent)

Tanya Binette (SJD parent)

Katherine Brandt (SJD parent)

Markus Kellerhals (SJD parent)

Vanessa Rogers (SJD parent)

Dan Woynillowicz (SJD parent)