

Dear Mayor and Council,

I'm writing to express my general support for Development Permit Application No. 000549 for 202 Harbour Road, which you are considering this Thursday. In addition, I see in the report that the proposed rain gardens on Harbour Road will be built by the developer, but maintained by the city. As someone who lives nearby, and who walks and cycles past that location multiple times a week, I think the the new plantings will make a significant contribution to the area, and I support the city taking on the maintenance.

The proposal is attractive from the bridge and from Harbour Road. Although I am not a fan of first level parking, the visible parking does not dominate the Harbour Road view, and some of it will be concealed by the proposed landscaping. My greater concern is the effect that the parking may have on the proposed "Gateway to Vic West", but as that is currently unplanned, and is on a different parcel, it's hard to see what this developer could do about it. Putting all parking below grade would have significantly increased the cost of development, and the ground level parking is mostly limited to visitor parking, so the compromises the developer has come up with seems reasonable.

I'd like to commend the developer for the following:

- They appear to have taken the issues brought up earlier by the ADP seriously and have addressed them creatively.
- They are including substantially more bicycle parking than the zoning requires.
- The rain gardens and new street trees and plantings on Harbour Road are wonderful.

Sincerely,

Jim Mayer
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