

Metro North Transmission Project August 2017 Engagement Summary – Vancouver Walking and Cycling Bridge

October 2017

Background

In August 2017 we held outdoor engagement events in Vancouver, across the Grandview Cut, regarding a new dedicated walking and cycling bridge proposed as part of the Metro North Transmission Project. The purpose of these events was to provide information and seek feedback from the public and stakeholders about their interests and considerations related to the proposed bridge.

To engage with pedestrians and cyclists in the area of the proposed bridge, project team members set up a tent and display boards on the corner of North Grandview Highway and Woodland Drive. We provided information regarding the proposed design and routing of the walking and cycling bridge, and sought feedback regarding the proposed bridge. City of Vancouver staff were also present at the events to listen to input and answer questions. The events were held on Saturday, August 26th and Tuesday, August 29th, to engage both the local weekend traffic as well as daily commuters.

Notification

- **Postcards:** On August 14, 2017, approximately 25 postcards and letters were hand delivered to residents in the neighbourhood notifying about the upcoming events.
- **Posters:** On August 14, 2017, notification posters were posted in 9 cycling shops near the event location
- **Emails:**
 - A notification email was sent on August 10, 2017 to 45 Vancouver stakeholders who had signed up for project updates.
 - An email was sent to 4 cycling advocacy groups in Vancouver on August 14, 2017.
- **Advertising:** Online advertisements ran on Facebook from August 18 to 29, 2017.
- **Social media:** @bchydro tweeted reminders about the events on August 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 26 and 29. Notification of the event was posted to BC Hydro's Facebook account on August 16, 25, and 28.

Participation

- 83 people attended on Saturday, August 26th (11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.)
- 93 people attended on Tuesday, August 29th (4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)
- 43 pieces of feedback were received (hard copy comment forms, submissions by email and by phone)



Summary of Input

Both at the pop-up engagement events and through written submissions, many participants expressed support for the proposed walking and cycling bridge. Dialogue was generally positive, with participants providing wide-ranging interests and considerations regarding the project.

Many participants voiced support for the bridge due to improved safety, neighbourhood walkability, and walking and cycling connections. Feedback from participants included specific suggestions regarding the bridge design, and the necessity to improve the North Grandview Highway and Woodland Drive intersection to improve routing and safety.

Other themes and comments from some respondents included interest in tree removal mitigation and maintenance of the local community garden, suggestions for BC Hydro to reference the City of Vancouver False Creek Flats plan, and questions on how the City of Vancouver and BC Hydro are working together on this project. Some participants provided specific construction and design requests, such as suggestions to utilize existing bridge infrastructure. A few participants expressed concerns regarding health impacts, construction timelines, and vandalism and littering.

Detailed key themes along with the number of mentions are outlined in Appendix A.

Media

The following are links to a media interview and news articles regarding the proposed walking and cycling bridge:

- **CBC News** – attended the event on August 26, 2017
(Brief interview with Judy Dobrowolski)

- **Canadian Cycling Magazine** – August 30, 2017
Riders in East Vancouver may soon benefit from a newly proposed 60-m cycling route, connecting Vancouver with Burnaby, B.C., by bridge across the Grandview Cut.
<http://cyclingmagazine.ca/sections/news/cycling-bridge-across-the-grandview-cut-proposed-for-east-vancouver/>
- **Global News** – August 28, 2017
BC Hydro is floating the idea of a new pedestrian and cycling bridge across Vancouver's Grandview Cut. As Grace Ke reports, the project would house a new transmission cable.
<http://globalnews.ca/news/3701535/bc-hydro-proposed-new-cycling-and-pedestrian-bridge-for-grandview-cut/>
- **Daily Hive** – August 28, 2017
A new bridge could be built over the Grandview Cut in East Vancouver, but this new crossing will not be designed for vehicles – it will be a bridge for just cyclists and pedestrians.
<http://dailyhive.com/vancouver/bc-hydro-grandview-cut-cycling-pedestrian-bridge-vancouver>
- **News 1130** – August 26, 2017
East Vancouver could soon have a brand new piece of cycling infrastructure, if BC Hydro gets its way. The utility is proposing a bridge over the Grandview Cut.
<http://www.news1130.com/2017/08/26/new-cycling-bridge-proposed-east-van/>
- **The Georgia Straight** – August 24, 2017
Two open houses are scheduled for a proposed walking and cycling bridge in East Vancouver.
<https://www.straight.com/news/955516/bc-hydro-project-includes-new-walking-and-cycling-bridge-over-grandview-cut-east>
- **UrbanYVR** – August 15, 2017
BC Hydro is proposing a new cycling and walking bridge across the Grandview Cut as part of a new transmission line project from Coquitlam to Mount Pleasant.
<http://urbanyvr.com/grandview-cut-bridge-central-valley-greenway>

Other Coverage/Online Dialogue

- **Reddit** – August 15, 2017 – UrbanYVR posted their news article on Reddit. The following is a link to the comments/discussion regarding the article: https://www.reddit.com/r/vancouver/comments/6tu6dh/bc_hydro_plans_pedestrian_and_cycling_bridge_over/
 - Comments on UrbanYVR's thread express both support for and opposition to the proposed bridge, with discussion surrounding the walking and cycling routes in the area and how they relate to the proposed bridge, health concerns (EMF) and alternate locations for the bridge/transmission cable.
- **SkyRise Vancouver** – August 29, 2017 – a member posted BC Hydro's notification postcard and display board to a Transportation and Infrastructure forum: <http://vancouver.skyrisecities.com/forum/threads/vancouver-bc-hydro-cycling-and-pedestrian-bridge-for-grandview-cut.27740/>
 - No comments or dialogue have been posted to date.



Appendix A

The following are key themes from feedback received in hard copy and by email.

Note: The number of mentions may not equal the total number of respondents as participants may have provided more than one comment in a response.

Key themes from 43 written submissions	Number of mentions
Support for the proposed bridge – general support for the dedicated walking and cycling bridge, noting improved safety, neighbourhood walkability, and walking and cycling connections.	20
Bridge design suggestions – suggestions regarding bridge design, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A viewing platform and/or seating on the bridge (5 mentions) • Incorporation of art/lighting amenities to improve aesthetic (3 mentions) • Incorporation of green space (2 mentions) • A covered bridge (2 mentions) • Separated pedestrian and cyclist lanes (1 mention) • A curve in the bridge (1 mention) • Bird feeders on the bridge (1 mention) • Integration of means prevention (1 mentions) 	16
Intersection improvements – interest in improved routing and safety for those crossing the North Grandview Highway and Woodland Drive intersection, including suggestions to construct a traffic light or a crosswalk at the intersection.	8
Environmental impacts – concerns regarding impacts to surrounding trees, vegetation, riparian paths and community garden at 6th Avenue and McLean Drive as a result of the proposed bridge.	5
Tree removal mitigation and maintenance of local community garden – interest in BC Hydro mitigating tree removal and taking over maintenance of the local community garden.	3
City of Vancouver False Creek Flats Plan – suggestions for BC Hydro to consider the City of Vancouver False Creek Flats Plan and its proposed walking and cycling bridge at Clark Drive and North Grandview Highway.	2
Requests to utilize existing bridge infrastructure – suggestions to utilize the existing bridges in the area to route BC Hydro's transmission line, instead of building a new bridge.	2
Vandalism and littering concerns – concerns regarding increased vandalism and littering as a result of the proposed bridge.	2
Bridge location will not improve cycling connections – concerns regarding whether a walking and cycling bridge in this location adds benefit to the cycling network.	2
Questions about how the City of Vancouver and BC Hydro are working together – interest in how the City of Vancouver and BC Hydro are working together regarding this project, including notification of the events.	2

Key themes from 43 written submissions	Number of mentions
Request for project information – request for further information regarding the project, including design, and who will be responsible for construction and maintenance.	2
Health impacts – concerns regarding health impacts from proximity to the transmission line cables.	2
Construction impacts to local neighbourhood – concerns regarding construction impacts to the neighbourhood, including noise.	2
Appreciation for consultation – supportive comments about the opportunity to provide feedback and how BC Hydro is involving the community and stakeholders during the preliminary design stages.	2
Construction timeline and conflicts – concerns regarding construction timeline and how it will coincide with the new condominium building at 6th Avenue and Clark Drive.	1
Pedestrian light at Broadway and McLean Drive – interest in BC Hydro installing a pedestrian light at the intersection of Broadway and McLean Drive, noting that it is a busy intersection that is dangerous for kids and for the elderly.	1
New traffic lights across North Grandview Highway – interest in BC Hydro implementing traffic lights for cyclists crossing North Grandview Highway, and another at McLean Drive and 1st Avenue.	1
Proposed bridge will promote cyclist speeding – concerns that the proposed walking and cycling bridge will promote cyclist speeding.	1

The themes above also reflect the dialogue that took place during the pop-up events. Feedback in discussion with team members was generally supportive of a proposed walking and cycling bridge as part of the project, with participants noting similar interests to those expressed in the written feedback.

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