

May 15, 2017

Mayor and Council
City of Vancouver
Vancouver City Hall
453 West 12th Ave
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

**Strathcona Residents Association:
Comments on proposed False Creek Flats draft report**

Dear Mayor Robertson and Councillors of Vancouver,

As you will be aware, the Strathcona Residents Association (SRA) has been actively engaged with the False Creek's planning committee regarding the new arterial proposals and revitalization plans for the False Creek Flats. Our comments in this letter are provided in the interest of the health and sustainability of our neighbourhood.

We recognize ourselves as a diverse community and sought to find consensus over the proposed changes and their impacts for our neighbourhood during a vote on April 5th, 2017. The vast majority rejected the options "Malkin" and "Williams" on the grounds of:

- **Lost space of Strathcona Park, recreational areas and eagle habitat.**
 - o Strathcona Park is the closest park for many community members. The arterial expansion "Williams" will have permanent impacts for our community members who frequently use this urban green space. We will be bearing the costs of such development decisions, sacrificing also recreational use of a track field, baseball field, tennis fields, trees and their inhabiting eagle population.
 - o We conducted a SRA survey in February 2017 to explore the utilization of Strathcona Park by our community. While the majority of participants indicated daily or weekly use of the park, they also identified the adjacent traffic of Prior Street as the greatest deterrent from using the park more frequently – a constraint that would be further heightened by an arterial road running straight through it.
- **Lost jobs for employees at the Produce Terminals, lost business for owners.**
 - o This concern is also shared by the Vancouver Board of Trade.
- **Lost green space for community members of the Cottonwood Gardens.**

Rerouting the new arterial along "**National**" is the option favoured by the SRA. We believe that the increased rail traffic, necessity to build rail overpasses and redirect

traffic calls for increased financial contribution from the Port of Vancouver and the Federal Government toward a sustainable solution. As some city staff members expressed resistance to “National”, we were particularly surprised that **an alternate “4th way” included in early city concepts was omitted from the draft presented to council** on Wednesday, April 17th 2017. We have interpreted and endorsed this “4th way” in the image below.



Arterial extension proposed as a 4th option by the Strathcona Residents Association.

Vehicles on Main Street are proposed to turn East on Prior Street and travel on a short connector through city-owned land towards the storage sheds on the North end of the National Works Yard (701 National Street). It will traverse a small corner of Trillium Park, cross Thornton Street and progress along the path of the city storage units. The route further crosses Chess Street and enters the city-owned VFD land (1330 Chess Street) and enters into railway-owned land with buried dead tracks (1451 Glen Drive). From there a short overpass across the tracks would connect to Grant Street and channel into Clark Street or Vernon Drive.

The following arguments outline the advantages of this “4th option” over the other three:

- **Significantly lower costs** to build since minimal land needs to be acquired that the city does not already own.
- **Lowest impact and most agreeable solution** for all stakeholders affected by this arterial: Strathcona residents, owners/employees of the produce row on Malkin Street, and community members utilizing the Cottonwood Garden.

Despite our efforts to contact senior planners and senior transportation engineers, we have not received adequate information on why our proposal cannot be explored as a

4th option and presented to council at this stage. We therefore **request for additional studies to be conducted that thoroughly investigate this proposal for a 4th arterial route.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments at this time. We understand that the mandate of the False Creek Flats planning committee is “to unlock the economic potential of the area by creating a more productive, sustainable and integrated False Creek Flats”. As one of the residential communities most directly impacted by this proposed project, and as an already park-deficient community expected to receive considerable population increase in the coming years, we hope you will give serious consideration to the comments of Strathcona’s residents and choose to protect our local community with a sustainable solution that integrates our history as Vancouver’s oldest neighbourhood.

Sincerely,

Charis Walko, Dan Jackson, Jeff Murton, Wilson Liang
Strathcona Residents Association – Council