

COMMUNITIES MATTER: CALM PRIOR

As soon as Oct. 2, City Council will vote on where to put the **False Creek Flats Arterial**. Even though the Community Panel overwhelmingly chose the National-Charles (NatCha) option, Prior is back on the table and is likely to be the option recommended to Council by city staff.

Here's what you need to know:

The Flats Arterial is part of a federally funded National Trade Corridor project. Its primary purpose is to facilitate the movement of shipping containers in and out of the expanding Centerm Port Terminal. The project also includes twinning the current single track, building an overpass/underpass, and then closing off all the remaining at-grade crossings (at Parker, Union, Raymur) to car, bike and pedestrian traffic. This will give CN Rail unrestricted access to the tracks that run through Strathcona and Grandview-Woodland.

The Panel chose NatCha because it routes business, hospital and commuter traffic through an industrial area, it ends at Clark, it works for Produce Row, it doesn't impact Strathcona Park or the community gardens, it improves access to greenspace and calms Prior. It's worth noting that City Council has also voted, twice, to calm Prior (and spent over \$200K on the Community Panel so the community could make this decision.)

If, despite all this, Prior is chosen anyway, this Federal project will be a one-two punch for Strathcona. **ONE:** We get all the diesel pollution, noise and safety risk from trains running 24/7 directly beside heritage homes, social housing and the new seniors tower. **TWO:** Prior Street, which isn't safe now, will have to absorb all the extra traffic from the closed streets, including 4000 trucks a week going to and from Produce Row.

The big objection to NatCha is that it's too expensive. The reality is that **the Feds are paying for most, if not all, of this project**. Which means that this Council vote will be the City's only chance to get federal funding to ensure that this federal project will be designed and built in a way that mitigates its impacts on our health, safety and quality of life. Communities are the heart and soul of a city and shouldn't be ignored to benefit big business.

If this issue matters to you, now is the time to act. Find out how by going to the SRA website (Strathcona-residents.org), e-mailing us at NotPrior@strathcona-residents.org or joining our Facebook Group: [Communities Matter: Calm Prior](#).

It's your neighbourhood and your future. Own it.