

REPORT

Engineering Services

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: February 5, 2024

From: Lisa Leblanc
Director, Engineering Services
File: 05.1035.10
(Doc#2428195)

Item #: 2024-51

Subject: **Queensborough Transportation Plan – Update**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive this report for information.

PURPOSE

To inform Council of the Round 2 Engagement results for the Queensborough Transportation Plan and remaining next steps to complete the plan.

BACKGROUND

Preparation of the Queensborough Transportation Plan has been underway since Fall 2022. The work has been completed in four phases:

- ***Phase 1 – Where are we now?*** (Fall 2022 / Winter 2023) - Which included identifying deficiencies, gaps and opportunities in the transportation network, and Round 1 engagement with residents, community groups and government agencies.
- ***Phase 2 – Where do we want to go?*** (Spring / Summer 2023) - Which included identifying key directions and options.
- ***Phase 3 – How do we get there?*** (Fall 2023) – Which included options for transportation improvements and approaches for implementation along with a second and final round of engagement with residents and stakeholders.

- **Phase 4 – Final Plan** (Winter 2024) – Which will entail completing strategies, policies and an implementation strategy that will constitute the final plan.

DISCUSSION

Phase 3 - Round 2 Engagement

Round 2 engagement both informed the community and collected feedback on potential transportation improvements and priorities for implementation. The engagement results will help inform a draft transportation plan for Council's consideration.

Active engagement occurred from late September through October 2023, with engagement reporting in December 2023. Table 1 below identifies the engagement activities completed.

Table 1: Round 2 Engagement and Communication Activities

Engagement / Communication Technique	Description & Outcomes	Timing
Round 2 Engagement Launch	• Updated Be Heard page with Backgrounder Report, online survey and discussion forum. • Backgrounder report provided improvements options, high-level costs for each, and opportunities and challenges. • Community members were also able to submit questions through the project page to be answered by the project team.	September 2023
Addressed Letter to all Queensborough Addresses	• In addition to English, translated into Punjabi and simplified Chinese • 3,939 letters mailed	September 2023
Interest Group Outreach	• Email to more than 25 organizations with connections to Queensborough, that included a link to Be Heard project page	September 2023
Queensborough Residents' Association	• Meeting to inform on Round 2 Engagement	September 2023
Online Promotion	• Promoted community survey, drop-in sessions on Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter). • Three notices posted in CityPage	September - October 2023
Digital Notices	• Advertisement of drop-in sessions at Queensborough Community Centre and digital billboard adjacent Queensborough Bridge	September – October 2023
Online Engagement Tools (Be Heard Project Page)	• Online survey for residents to share input on preferred options and priorities • Online discussion forum – with specific engagement question: “Active transportation bridge or ferry?” • 255 survey responses • 29 comments on Discussion Forum	September – October 2023

Engagement / Communication Technique	Description & Outcomes	Timing
Pop-up Engagement Booths (3 in well-travelled pedestrian areas)	• Provided flyers regarding how to access engagement options • Provided quick feedback options • Three pop-up sessions at three different locations, days of the week and times of day • 68 people engaged	October 2023
Drop-in Engagement Sessions (at Queensborough Community Centre)	• Shared information on proposed directions, options and projects, and obtained input on preferences and priorities • Provided multiple methods for people to share their feedback (i.e. conversations with staff, post-it note feedback, dot stickers for preferred choice) • Allowed people to stop by any time during session and stay as long as they chose • Two drop-in sessions – one on a weekday late afternoon/evening and one on Saturday • Approximately 50 attendees for both sessions	October 2023
Reporting Back: What We Heard	• Report posted on Be Heard, and shared with Be Heard subscribers in an e-newsletter • Next steps for incorporating input and finalizing the plan included	December 2023
Stakeholder Meetings (2)	• Stakeholder groups invited by email, building on participants from Round 1 engagement and adding any new groups that have been identified • Consultant presentation followed by discussion to seek input on preferences and priorities	December 2023

At the direction of the Sustainable Transportation Task Force in February 2023 to increase efforts to reach the diverse residents that live in Queensborough, staff distributed multi-lingual letters to all mailing addresses in the neighbourhood outlining dates and times of the drop-in engagement sessions and informing of the Be Heard webpage where additional information could be obtained and input provided.

Additionally, at the direction of the STTF, staff reached out to the City of Richmond and City of Delta staff regarding inclusion of the Hamilton neighbourhood and Annacis Island in the scope of work for the Transportation Plan. Staff did not receive a response from the City of Delta and City of Richmond staff did not express interest.

Round 2 Engagement Results

The online survey provided participants an opportunity to comment on the proposed options to improve the walking, cycling, and road networks, and inter-neighbourhood access (i.e., connections to/from Queensborough and the mainland). Highlights of the survey and drop-in session attendee responses are provided below, and Attachment 1 provides the Round 2 Engagement Summary Report with the complete survey and drop-in session results.

Walking Network

The four options presented included a range of quick-build treatments and permanent treatments for improving the network.

Table 2: Walking network options and survey rank

Option	Description	Cost Estimate	Survey Rank (1 = most preferred option)
Option 1: Mid-Island Trail Connection	Provides an east/west off-street walking route between Ewen Avenue and Salter Street, from Boundary Road to Derwent Way, and an east/west route between Wood Street and Derwent Way, between Ewen Ave and Boyd Street, utilizing existing City rights-of-way.	\$ Less than \$1 million	2
Option 2: Priority Routes with Quick Build Treatments	Completes gaps in the walking network in a prioritized manner using quick-build methods.	\$\$ Between \$1 to 5 million	3
Option 3: Priority Routes with Standard Sidewalk Treatments and Multi-use Pathways	Completes gaps in walking network in a prioritized manner with concrete sidewalks and curbs.	\$\$\$ Between \$5 to \$10 million	1
Option 4: Complete Sidewalk Network on All Streets	Completes sidewalk network with concrete sidewalks and curbs in all areas.	\$\$\$\$\$ Highest cost, more than \$15 million	4

Inter-Neighbourhood Access

Four options, centering on an active transportation (pedestrian and cycling) bridge and the Q to Q Ferry, along with high-level costs, were presented to improve access and connections between Queensborough and other areas of New Westminster.

Over half of survey participants and drop-in session attendees indicated they would like to see the City continue the Q to Q Ferry service and allocate additional City resources to pursue a pedestrian and cycling bridge.

Priority Projects

Survey participants were asked to prioritize types of improvements. Table 3 provides the five types of improvements and their prioritized ranking by survey respondents.

Table 3: Priority Projects by Type of Improvement

Survey Rank	Type of Improvement
1	Improve intersections for safety and efficiency
2	Improve the walking network
3	Improve streets for safety and efficiency
4	Improve cycling and rolling network
5	Add more amenities at bus stops (i.e., shelters, benches)

NEXT STEPS

With the conclusion of public engagement, a draft transportation plan will be prepared for Council's consideration in Spring 2024. The plan will include policies, an implementation strategy, and conceptual project cost estimates to inform capital budget and grant application processes.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Queensborough Transportation plan will contribute to achievement of the City's transportation and sustainability goals, as outlined in the Master Transportation Plan and the Seven Bold Steps Toward Climate Action.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications to the City associated with this report.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

The Round 2 Engagement Strategy was developed with support and input from Public Engagement staff. Finance staff have reviewed this report.

OPTIONS

The following options are for Council's consideration:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information;
2. THAT Council provide different direction to staff.

Staff recommend Option 1.

CONCLUSION

The completed communication and engagement activities were intended to ensure a broad reach of opportunities for residents and stakeholders to provide feedback on options for the future of Queensborough's transportation network. The results will inform a draft transportation plan, which will be presented for Council's consideration in spring 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Round 2 Engagement Summary Report

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:

Erica Tiffany, Senior Transportation Planner

This report was reviewed by:

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This report was approved by:

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