

Attachment 6

Applicant's Consultation Summary

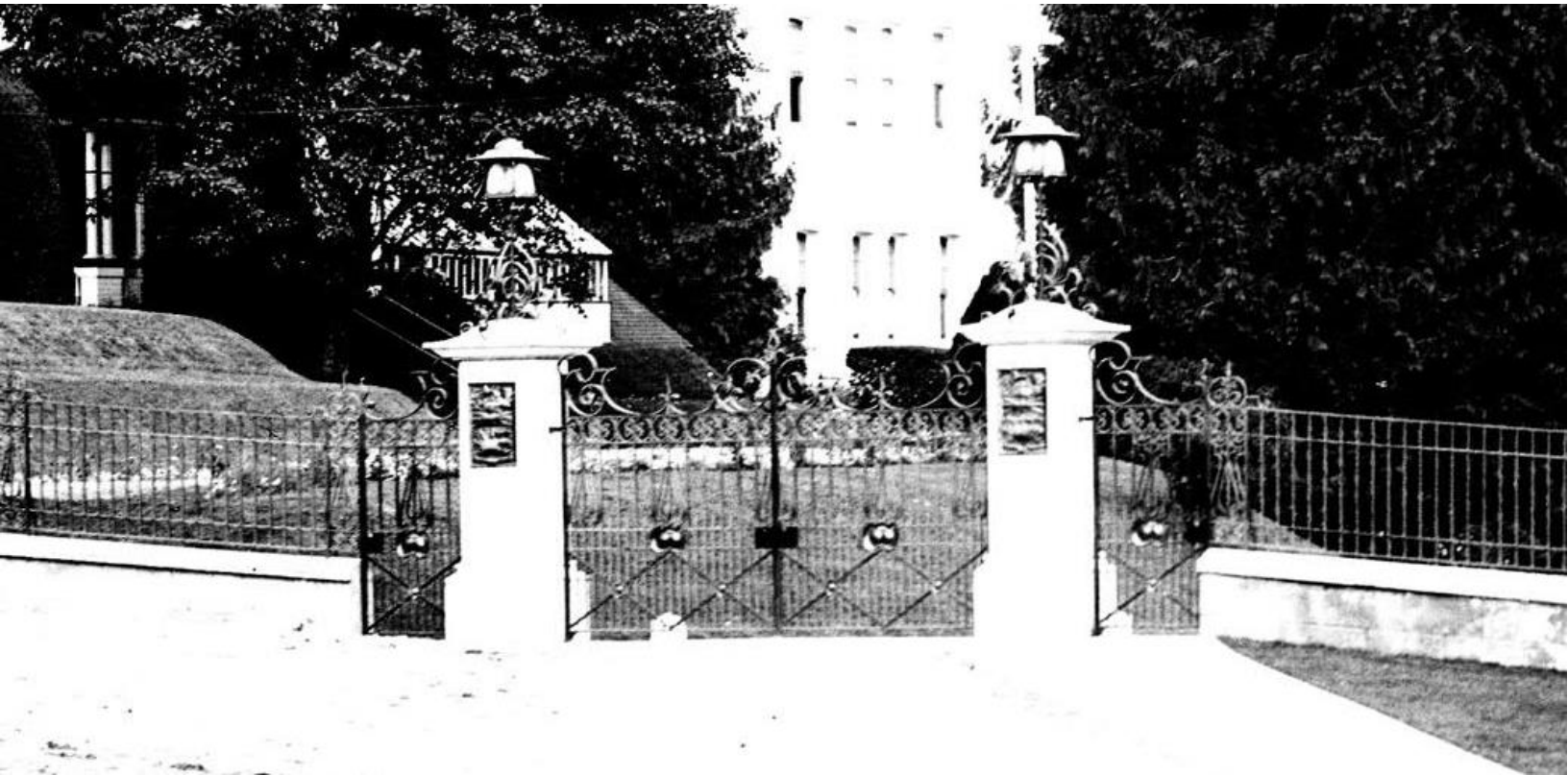


**PATTULLO BRIDGE
REPLACEMENT**

Consultation and Engagement Summary Report

July 9-August 27, 2021

**Fraser Crossing Partners' Heritage Alteration Permit
Application for modifications at the McBride
Boulevard-East Columbia Street intersection**



transportation
investment
corporation



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1. Background

The Pattullo Bridge is a key connection between the communities of Surrey and New Westminster. The new four-lane toll-free bridge will provide important improvements for everyone using the bridge, including people who are driving, cycling or walking, as well as communities on either side of the bridge.

Transportation Investment Corporation (TI Corp), a provincial Crown corporation, is delivering and overseeing this \$1.377 billion project. Fraser Crossing Partners (FCP) has been awarded the contract to design and build the new bridge. The Province will own and maintain the new bridge when complete.

As part of the Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project (Project), the intersection of East Columbia Street and McBride Boulevard requires modification to improve safety for walkers, cyclists and drivers, and to accommodate the new direct East Columbia Street off-ramp from the bridge. These changes will require the removal of a 10.5 metre section of the historical Woodlands Wall along McBride Boulevard, and a 74.9 metre section along East Columbia Street. In total, approximately 85.4 metres of the roughly 320 metre wall would be removed to accommodate the new East Columbia Street off-ramp and to provide unobstructed sightlines for vehicles making right-hand turns onto McBride Boulevard, improving safety for people crossing the street.

Recognition of the heritage significance of the Woodlands Wall began with the redevelopment of the former Woodlands institution site in 2003 following the facility's closure seven years earlier. At that time, the owner and developer negotiated a Heritage Revitalization Agreement and a corresponding Heritage Designation bylaw with the City of New Westminster which provided legal protection to the Woodlands Wall and several other resources associated with the site. Five years later, the heritage values and significance of the Woodlands Wall were formalized by the City with a Statement of Significance and subsequent adoption of the historic place onto the municipal Heritage Register in 2008.

While the recognized heritage values concern the contextual development of the historical Woodlands institution and the aesthetic qualities and craftsmanship of the wall and fencing itself, the Woodlands institution has a long and controversial history of abuse endured by former residents. This history has been recounted by the patients themselves and officially documented within administrative records.

Having considered the site's historical significance and its heritage designation by the City of New Westminster, the Project team has developed a proposal to conserve the heritage value along the impacted portion of the Woodlands Wall which would include reconstructing approximately 72 metres of the concrete wall, salvage and reinstallation of the wrought iron fencing, and development of a new plaza.

As this is a contested heritage site, FCP conducted a multi-staged consultation and engagement program with stakeholder groups and the general public to seek feedback on the proposal. This summary report details the feedback and comments received.

2. Stage 1a: Consultation with Stakeholder Groups (July 9-23, 2021)

2.1 Overview

Between July 9-23, 2021, FCP held virtual meetings on its Heritage Alteration Permit Application with stakeholder groups identified by the City of New Westminster as requiring consultation. FCP hosted virtual meetings with two organizations representing survivors of the Woodlands institution, Inclusion BC and the Community Living Society, and a virtual meeting with the New Westminster Heritage Preservation Society. FCP was also invited to present its proposal during a live-streamed meeting hosted by the Community Heritage Commission.

During these virtual meetings, FCP provided information on:

- the Heritage Alteration Permit Application;
- FCP's understanding of the Woodlands Wall and its historical significance; and
- an overview of why and how FCP, with TI Corp, are proposing to conserve the heritage value at the McBride Boulevard-East Columbia Street intersection.

TI Corp also attended the meetings to provide Project information and to answer Project-related questions.

2.2 Notification

Notification to inform stakeholder groups about the opportunity to participate in the consultation process was done by direct emails.

2.3 Consultation groups: Stakeholder groups

2.3.1 Virtual meetings

Five people attended the three virtual meetings that FCP hosted with Inclusion BC, the Community Living Society, and the New Westminster Heritage Preservation Society. 16 people attended the meeting hosted by the Community Heritage Commission.

The virtual meetings provided participants with an opportunity to learn about FCP's Heritage Alteration Permit Application and proposed modifications at the McBride Boulevard and East Columbia Street intersection, and to participate in a discussion and question and answer session.

Summary of meetings:

Date	Time	Location	Attendance
<i>Community Living Society</i> Tuesday, July 6, 2021	3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Virtual	1
<i>Community Heritage Commission</i> Wednesday, July 7, 2021	6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Virtual	16
<i>New Westminster Heritage Preservation Society</i> Thursday, July 8, 2021	3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Virtual	3
<i>Inclusion BC</i> Friday, July 9, 2021	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Virtual	1

2.3.2 Presentation material

FCP developed a PowerPoint presentation which provided information regarding FCP's Heritage Alteration Permit Application and proposed modifications at the McBride Boulevard and East Columbia Street intersection. Information was included describing why and how the existing 85.4-metre portion of the Woodlands Wall needs to be removed, how and where the rehabilitated heritage wall would be built, what a proposed revitalized plaza could look like, and suggested that the Project was open to ideas on how to acknowledge the historical significance of the wall and location and how this could be portrayed through interpretation panels and markings if appropriate.

Please see Appendix A for a copy of the presentation.

2.3.3 Online feedback form

An online feedback form was provided to the four stakeholder groups consulted with during Stage 1a: Inclusion BC, the Community Living Society, the New Westminster Heritage Preservation Society, and the Community Heritage Commission. This online feedback form was not available to the general public.

This online feedback form was open from July 9-23, 2021.

Please see Appendix B for a copy of the online feedback form.

2.4 Consultation results

2.4.1 Feedback received during virtual meetings

During the virtual meetings, FCP facilitated discussion and a question and answer session. Through those discussions, meeting participants from the four organizations expressed general support for FCP's proposal.

Overview of feedback received from the Community Heritage Commission and the New Westminster Heritage Preservation Society

- During the virtual meeting hosted by the Community Heritage Commission, a motion was moved and seconded "that the Community Heritage Commission is in agreement with the proposed heritage alterations to the existing Woodlands Wall". All Commission members present voted in favour of the motion.
- Comments were made by the New Westminster Heritage Preservation Society regarding the use of leftover wrought iron material that is retained from the existing Woodlands Wall. A suggestion was provided that any leftover material could be used within the revitalized plaza near the interpretation panels and/or within garden areas to support climbing plants.

Overview of feedback received from Inclusion BC and the Community Living Society

- Feedback was provided regarding the use of certain terminology when referring to the Woodlands institution, its history and survivors, and recommendations were given for the appropriate language that should be used. This feedback was implemented into the presentation for subsequent meetings.
- Interest was shown by both Inclusion BC and the Community Living Society to be included in the process when determining the form and content for the proposed interpretation panels and markings. Both organizations noted that it is important to involve survivors and their families in those discussions.
- *Please see Appendix C for copies of the meeting minutes.*

2.4.2 Feedback received through the online feedback form

No feedback was submitted via the online feedback form provided to the stakeholder groups.

3. Stage 1b: Public information session and comment period (August 12-27, 2021)

3.1 Overview

After meeting with stakeholder groups as part of Stage 1a, FCP hosted a virtual meeting with the general public.

During this virtual public information session, FCP provided information on:

- the status of the Heritage Alteration Permit Application;
- FCP's understanding of the Woodlands Wall and its historical significance;
- an overview of why and how FCP is proposing to conserve the heritage value at the McBride Boulevard-East Columbia Street intersection; and
- what the modified McBride Boulevard-East Columbia Street intersection and new plaza would look like once the work is complete.

TI Corp also attended the meeting to provide a Project overview and to answer any Project-related questions.

3.2 Notification

Notification to inform the general public about the opportunity to participate in the public information session and comment period included:

- Direct emails to the stakeholder groups consulted with during Stage 1a: Inclusion BC, Community Living Society, New Westminster Heritage Preservation Society, and the Community Heritage Commission
- Direct emails to the following local organizations:
 - Brow of the Hill Residents Association
 - BC Cycling Coalition
 - Community Living Society
 - Downtown New Westminster BIA
 - Eagle Crest Advisory Committee
 - HUB New Westminster
 - McBride-Sapperton Residents' Association
 - Moody Park Residents' Association
 - New Westminster and Burnaby Walkers' Caucus
 - New Westminster Chamber of Commerce
 - Queen's Park Residents' Association
 - Uptown New Westminster BIA
 - Victoria Hill & Ginger Drive Residents' Association
- An email blast to approximately 1,200 people who have signed-up to receive Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project information/updates
- Information shared through tweets from the Project Twitter account on August 4 and August 11
- Information posted on the Project website

As part of the notifications, those who were interested in participating in the virtual public information session were asked to RSVP in order to receive the virtual meeting link. In total, 59 people confirmed their attendance for the meeting.

3.3 Methods

3.3.1 Virtual public information session

59 people RSVP'd for the virtual public information session held on Zoom, and 31 people attended. This session provided participants with an opportunity to learn about FCP's Heritage Alteration Permit Application and proposed modifications at the McBride Boulevard and East Columbia Street intersection, and to ask questions about FCP's proposal.

During the session, participants were asked to submit their questions using the Q&A function of the Zoom platform. Once FCP had completed its presentation, FCP read out each question and comment submitted, facilitating answers from the Project team.

3.3.2 Presentation

FCP showed a PowerPoint presentation which provided information regarding the Heritage Alteration Permit Application and proposed modifications at the McBride Boulevard and East Columbia Street intersection. Information was included describing why and how the existing 85.4-metre portion of the Woodlands Wall needs to be removed; how and where the rehabilitated heritage wall would be built; what the revitalized plaza would look like; some ideas for how the historical significance could be portrayed through interpretation panels and markings; and what the modified intersection would look like once the work is complete.

This presentation material was posted to the Project website ahead of the virtual public information session.

Please see Appendix D for a copy of the presentation.

3.3.3 Online comment form

An online comment form was posted to the Project website ahead of the virtual public information session. Participants were provided with the link at the conclusion of the session. A follow-up email was also sent on August 24 to all of those who RSVP'd to encourage submissions through the online comment form.

This online comment form was open from August 12-27, 2021.

Please see Appendix E for a copy of the online comment form.

3.4 Results

3.4.1 Feedback received during the virtual public information session

During the virtual public meeting, FCP facilitated a question and answer session. Participants were asked to submit questions through the Q&A function of the Zoom platform.

Below is a summary of the comments received during the meeting:

- Concern for how the historical significance is understood and how it will be appropriately and respectfully represented in the final design of the revitalized plaza.
- The proposed entry columns to the revitalized plaza will cause awkward travel lines and insufficient space for people on recumbent tricycles and scooters.
- The current crossing at McBride Boulevard is on such a slope that the crossing button is not on a level plane with the crosswalk, which could result in safety concerns with being able to trigger the light while using a recumbent tricycle.

- A suggestion that money is better spent on areas such as the “Great Lawn” for people to relax and watch the traffic go by, as the majority of people using the current plaza appear to be homeless.
- The left turn onto Columbia Street after crossing the multi-use pathway overpass looks like it will have a tight turning radius for individuals on recumbent tricycles.

Please see Appendix F for a copy of the meeting minutes.

3.4.1 Feedback received through the online comment form

14 online comment forms were submitted.

Below is a summary of the feedback received related to the HAP Application, the proposed plaza and the modified East Columbia and McBride intersection:

Comments about the Woodlands Wall/Area

- Eight comments indicating support for altering the Woodlands Wall and noting the need to improve safety at the intersection.
- Two comments indicating concern that placing the wrought iron fencing on a new base is not preservation; and that the wall is covered under the *Heritage Conservation Act* and it should remain as is or it undermines the entire heritage process.
- Suggestion to keep the leftover wrought iron fencing to replace other panels in the future if/when needed.
- A comment noting concern over archaeological findings, given the history of the lands.
- A suggestion to ensure that the rehabilitated wall will not impact the long-term safety of the heritage tree.
- A request for an additional rendering showing a different view of the rehabilitated wall.

Comments about the McBride Boulevard-East Columbia Street Intersection

- A concern that the “no right turn on red light” signage will be ignored at the intersection of McBride Boulevard and East Columbia Street despite improved sightlines.
- A comment regarding concerns with one turning lane from Columbia Street to McBride Boulevard and vice versa.
- A concern regarding the pedestrian signal buttons at McBride Boulevard and East Columbia Street for people with disabilities. A request was made to use bicycle sensors similar to what have been used at other intersections in New Westminster.
- A comment that with the length of the pedestrian crossing in the intersection, the signal timing will need to account for extra crossing time.
- A suggestion to ensure designs accommodate recumbent trikes and family cargo bikes.
- A suggestion to move the crosswalk down to the current intersection and keep the heritage wall in its current location.

Other comments received related to the Project, but not specific to the application:

- Concerns about the design of roads and multi-use paths overall, not specifically within the McBride-East Columbia intersection.
- Concern regarding ice build-up, snow removal, debris, and light from entering onto the multi-use paths.
- Comments about the bus stop in the area, specifically its location and safety.
- Concern that traffic exiting the new bridge to Royal Avenue will be the same and there are no improvements. Truck traffic will continue to speed down the hill to Columbia Street causing noise disruption to the nearby neighbourhood.

4. How feedback and comments have been considered

The feedback and comments received through this consultation and engagement program were shared with the design team.

Below is a summary of how feedback and comments related to this application have been considered:

- FCP will conduct a further consultation process with New Westminister Heritage Preservation Society and the Community Heritage Commission and the groups representing Woodlands survivors, Inclusion BC and Community Living Society, in order to develop the form and content for the proposed interpretive panels (expected to commence in Fall 2021).
- The Project team will work with the New Westminister Heritage Preservation Society and the Community Heritage Commission to ensure that any leftover wrought iron is used appropriately.
- All designs will be completed in accordance with the latest accessibility standards, per the Transportation Association of Canada's guidelines, and there will be unobstructed access for bicycles and personal mobility devices entering the plaza.
- The Project team will continue to work with the City of New Westminister regarding signage and signal timing at McBride Boulevard and East Columbia intersection.
- The Project team will continue to work closely with the City of New Westminister to protect all identified heritage trees that are within the Project lands.
- The Project team will bring forward comments about the bus stops in the area with TransLink.

5. Next steps

If approved by Council, and upon receipt of the required permits, FCP would finalize design plans and move forward with the proposed modifications at the McBride Boulevard-East Columbia Street intersection. Construction of this work is expected to begin in mid-2022.

As previously noted, FCP would initiate further consultation with local heritage groups and the groups representing Woodlands survivors, Inclusion BC and the Community Living Society, to determine the content, format, and location of the proposed interpretation panels and markings.

The interpretation panels will also be developed in accordance with municipal agreements and the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada.

FCP would commence this consultation process in fall 2021.