

Hello,

Thanks for your interest in our Community Drop In! Here is a list of topics that members of the public who dropped in requested we discuss. Please also see actions to follow up on, information received back in response to your queries. The next **Drop In is April 10th** from 12:30-2:00 in my office at City Hall.

Thanks for participating in your community,

Lisa

Agenda - Community Drop In March 27 2018

1. Fairfield and Gonzales Local Area Plans
2. Bikes on Cook Street
3. Alternative forms of housing
4. Speculation tax
5. Harrison Yacht Pond
6. Gonzales Park
7. Transit Service to airport
8. City Hall
9. Tourism
10. Affordable schooling for high school upgrading

Items Mayor will follow up on:

1. OCP Section 6.2 Citizen referenced this policy and is worried that 400m around Fairfield United Church will also have Large Urban Village designation. Can staff clarify whether the proposed OCP amendment is for the site only or the whole area.
2. Could there be a higher profile sign for the Harrison Yacht Pond; there is currently only plaque on the ground. The users of the pond would be willing to raise money for a sign if necessary.
3. Could the underbrush be cut in the bushes south of the pond; it is being used as a washroom. Could a sign be put up directing people to the nearby washrooms? What are the operating hours for those washrooms?
4. What will access be like to the Harrison Yacht Pond during forcemain construction? Will there still be parking available nearby?
5. Why is there a sign at Pioneer Park saying no entry between dusk and dawn?
6. There is a small piece of land adjacent to Gonzales park where the grass is very long, according to the CRD this is owned by the city. Can we develop an arrangement with the CRD to have the grass cut? Residents say it is a fire hazard in the summer.
7. Can staff provide an MOU apparently signed between the City and the GVHA sometimes between March and July 2017 with regard to the Ogden Point Masterplan?
8. What would it take for parking to be free for veterans that have a veterans licence plate?

Items Mayor has followed up on:

Apologies for the time it's taking to answer some of the queries. Our hardworking staff are on it!

Q: If the crosswalk is closed on Fort Street between Blanshard and Douglas can it be made clear through signage or flaggers where people should cross the road?

A: Yes. pedestrians are our first priority around construction sites. The message has been shared with the project team working to deliver the Fort Street protected bike lanes project. the current plan during the crosswalk closure is to provide a temporary crossing just east of the existing crosswalk.

The Contractor will create a temporary crosswalk to the east. There will be a wooden ramp, temporary line marking tape and "Pedestrian Crossing" signs.

In order to accommodate the pedestrian letdown, on both sides of the road, the Contractor will need to remove on-street parking in order to ensure these ramps do not extend into a travel lane.



Q: Inquire with staff as to how much of the rail bridge the city has in its possession. Explore whether there are opportunities for community groups to purchase some of the JSB steel before PCL ships it to Seattle for recycling.

A: We possess some pieces of the old rail bridge which could be sold. Consideration would be the proper cleaning as the paint has high level of lead.

Q: Alert staff to the fact that we need to do a better job ensuring access for people with disabilities during both public and private construction. In front of the Yellow on Yates someone

in a mobility scooter had to be carried across the inadequate wooden sidewalk ramps. Someone got tossed out of his wheelchair on Belleville Street.

A: Noted. Comment shared with staff in Engineering and Public Works.

Q: Can we put a sign up earlier on Johnson street warning that the road narrows to one lane ahead (at Cook because of the sidewalk collapse) earlier warning to drivers would make it less chaotic and safer.

A: Transportation Staff will review the contractor's traffic control set up and intersection operations for opportunities to improve traffic flow and minimize driver confusion.

Q: The cross walk at Cook and McKenzie feels unsafe; cars don't stop. There is a Community Living Group home nearby with residents with cognitive disabilities. They have had close calls at the crosswalk and the staff are worried. How expensive is it to put the solar flashers up like in North Park Village?

A: The City maintains over 200 marked crosswalks and approximately 150 traffic signals; many of which would benefit from improvements. The City has developed new criteria for determining which crosswalks are the highest priority for improvements and we also look for synergies with other capital and private infrastructure projects. (See attached) The cost to upgrade the crosswalk at Cook and McKenzie can't be estimated until engineering staff have reviewed the technical warrants to determine the appropriate level crossing facility, and at very least, a concept plan developed to review the work required to complete any required upgrades.

Q: There is a volunteer who has come to the drop in twice in a row. He picks up a full garbage bag of cigarette butts each week on Pandora, Johnson, Yates and View Streets. Can we please install more cigarette butt canisters in this location. He has provided me a list of where they are supposed to be and where they are missing.

A: We have an ongoing project to expand the cigarette collection canisters. I would welcome any recommendation on where to install them. This message will help inform them where butt canisters are required.

Q: A young man who attended the Drop In was hit by a car turning right when he was in the bike lane on Government Street at Herald. The car didn't signal a right turn. He thinks we need better signage and is willing to help and give input. What does engineering suggest?

A: The City's Transportation Engineering Department has recently completed a review of the bike lane signage at this intersection; it meets the sign requirements outlined in the Transportation Association of Canada's (TAC) Bicycle Design Guidelines. By following these guidelines we help to promote uniformity in signage across the country so they are easily recognisable to all road users. On the southbound approach to the intersection, there is a supplemental sign (and sign tab) advising motorists and cyclists to share the road. Cycling collisions involving right turning vehicles is one of the most prevalent collision types and is a hazard that all cyclists need to remain diligently aware of. Additional signage is unlikely to have an impact on the frequency or severity of this type of collision.

Q: How will the cycle track along Dallas be connected to Douglas Street? (*I have passed this concern along to the CRD Sewage Project Team; they will ensure it is addressed as part of their report to Committee of the Whole on April 12th*)

A: The detailed design of the Dallas road Cycle Track is being developed by the CRD's design team and related questions are best directed to the CRD.

Q: Can staff explain and/or attach link to report about how crosswalks are prioritized?

A: <http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/transportation/faqs.html> has a section on crosswalks – evaluation/process. Also attached is the report.

Q: Is there a possibility of realigning Dallas Road at Douglas as part of the sewage treatment project to allow for large vehicles turning without needing that extra strip of pavement separating the green triangle from the park? If not as part of the sewage project what would be the process for undertaking this?

A: The sewage treatment project is not impacting the mile-o “green triangle” and there are no alignment changes proposed for Dallas Road as part of the project. More information is required for staff to better understand this request.

Q: If you already have a short term vacation rental business licence do you have to get another one when the new rules come in? If yes can the amount you paid for the first licence be counted towards the second licence?

A: This is correct, a new application is required to ensure eligibility under the new regulations. There is specific provision to recognize the licence fee if already paid before the new rules came into effect, and eligible operators under the new regulations would only be required to pay the difference in cost for the new licence.

Q: Can the consultants report that was used to assist staff in making their recommendations re short term rentals please be released.

A: Yes it is in the process of being redacted and once it is it will be available and posted here: <http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/business/permits-licences/term-rentals.html>

Q: Can we use Placespeak (<https://www.placespeak.com/en/>) for future Local Area Planning process so that people are geo-located as part of their participation – so we know more precisely where the feedback is coming from?

A: Staff are currently looking at new communications technologies to support planning and engagement efforts. PlaceSpeak is certainly on the list of tools that we are assessing. The aim will be to support more comprehensive engagement on new initiatives along with improved communication and tracking abilities as appropriate.

Q: Suggest to staff that for Gonzales Local Area Plan (and all LAPs) something in between a high level brochure and a 75 page plan would be welcome from residents as information.

A: Absolutely. Staff are currently working on the changes suggested by residents at the recent opportunity for public comment and the subsequent motions from Council and are collaborating with the Working Group on additional engagement activities that will all support a

revised draft of the plan. Once the new draft is complete, a more comprehensive summary of changes will be developed to help residents more easily understand the changes being proposed.

Q: Ask how Pizza and a Planner events are determined? Eg is it first come first serve? Is there a limit?

A: Pizza and a planner events are undertaken on a request basis to discuss any areas of the plan that attendees want to discuss. There is no cap on the number. All we ask is that neighbours organize themselves to find appropriate dates and offer a venue (usually a resident's kitchen or living room) and staff will attend with pizza and make themselves available for questions and discussions for an hour or two.

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Lisa Helps, Victoria Mayor
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“Resignation and cynicism are easier, more self-soothing postures that do not require the raw vulnerability and tragic risk of hope. To choose hope is to step firmly forward into the howling wind, baring one’s chest to the elements, knowing that, in time, the storm will pass.” - Archbishop Desmond Tutu