The first phase of community engagement for the #BIKETORIA project ran from mid-October to mid-November, 2015. The purpose of this engagement was to share information and collect feedback on the proposed 2018 All Ages and Abilities bike network. During this time, the #BIKETORIA project team and City of Victoria staff consulted with more than 400 residents in-person at #BIKETORIA engagement events, heard from over 1,700 residents through surveys, and facilitated 1,200 interactions through social media. Key findings in this Interim Community Report include:

- **78%** of survey respondents agree the proposed AAA network connects them to the places they want to go
- **70%** of survey respondents agree that they will bike more once the AAA network is built
- **71%** of survey respondents agree the AAA network comes close enough to their home
- **19%** of survey respondents live outside of Victoria
- **65%** of Engagement Lab participants do not normally get around by bike
- **83%** of Engagement Lab participants feel their input was valued and will help shape #BIKETORIA

**Safety matters** - 574 survey respondents are excited for the AAA network to improve safety for cycling

**Congestion is a concern** - 194 survey respondents are concerned about potential traffic impacts of the AAA network

**Quality counts** - Engagement Lab participants favoured images of case study bike lanes that featured landscaping and had high aesthetic value. Survey participants want to see broader streetscape improvements included as part of this process.
#BIKETORIA Summit & Engagement Events

On November 1 and 2, over 400 residents, stakeholders, and community leaders came to learn about Victoria’s 2018 All Ages and Abilities bike network and share feedback with the #BIKETORIA team.

This latest phase of cycling engagement began on November 1 at the Cook Street Pop-Up event hosted by the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network and the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition, where residents test rode a separated bike lane and provided input on the proposed AAA network. Immediately following that, nearly 200 residents came to hear Mayor Lisa Helps, Gil Penalosa of 8 80 Cities, and Mia Birk of Alta Planning + Design speak about the future of biking in Victoria. On November 2, the #BIKETORIA team displayed information about the AAA network and collected resident feedback during the #BIKETORIA Engagement Labs at the Central Library and at Wharf St. and Government St.

**Attendance**

Attendance at each #BIKETORIA engagement event exceeded identified targets.

- 50 people attended the event on Cook St.
- 220 people attended the #BIKETORIA Summit
- 110 people attended the Engagement Lab at the library
- 30 people attended the Engagement Lab at Wharf St.

*Total: 410*
Technical Advisory Committee

The #BIKETORIA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provides feedback and detailed analysis on the proposed 2018 All Ages and Abilities network. The TAC is comprised of diverse stakeholders to ensure this process is inclusive of a wide variety of perspectives.

Members of the TAC include individuals from the following stakeholder groups:

- Business Community
- Cycling Community
- Placemaking
- Urban Design / Architecture
- Healthy Communities
- All Ages and Abilities
- Accessibility
- Students
- Safety
- Equitable representation by gender
- Sustainable Transportation
- City of Victoria

Technical Advisory Committee members are responsible for:

- Reviewing information provided by the City and its consultants and provide comments, concerns, ideas and opportunities to be considered in developing the cycling network;

- Promoting and raising awareness about the cycling network among the group or agency they represent and with the broader public;

- Acting as a representative of a larger stakeholder group where applicable; and

- Providing technical feedback relative to their organization’s mandate where applicable.

The Technical Advisory Committee met on September 21, 2015 to review the proposed network and provide feedback on the challenges, opportunities and possibilities of each corridor. The second meeting took place on November 18, 2015 for the committee members provide more specific input on the preferred facility design on each of the corridors. A final meeting will be held with the TAC in December to present detailed conceptual corridor designs.
Survey findings

The following results are from the #BIKETORIA online surveys and paper surveys. Online survey responses were collected from October 27 - November 15, 2015. During that time 1,613 surveys were completed. The paper surveys were collected during the #BIKETORIA events on November 1-2, 2015. The paper surveys were completed at the Cook Street Pop-Up event and #BIKETORIA Summit on November 1, and during the two #BIKETORIA Engagement Labs at the Central Library and on Wharf Street on November 2. During those events, 124 paper surveys were collected.

**Question 1.** The proposed bicycling network connects you to the places you want to go.
Responses: 1,732

![Survey results for Question 1](image1)

**Question 2.** I will bike more once this new 2018 AAA Network is built.
Responses: 1,745

![Survey results for Question 2](image2)
Question 3. The proposed bicycling network comes close enough to my home.
Responses: 1,732

- Strongly Agree (647 responses) 34%
- Agree (583 responses) 37%
- Neutral (242 responses) 14%
- Disagree (162 responses) 9%
- Strongly Disagree (98 responses) 6%

Question 4. Please rank the proposed corridors in order of importance to you (1 being most important, 4 being least important).
Responses: 1,574

EW Corridors | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Average
-------------|---|---|---|---|---
Haultain-Bay | 538 | 274 | 314 | 448 | 2.57
Pandora      | 467 | 547 | 404 | 153 | 2.84
Fairfield    | 255 | 229 | 344 | 740 | 2.01
Fort         | 338 | 531 | 496 | 207 | 2.63

NS Corridors | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Average
-------------|---|---|---|---|---
Government-Gorge | 371 | 474 | 498 | 218 | 2.63
Cook-Fifth     | 525 | 478 | 391 | 178 | 2.85
Begbie-Shelbourne | 415 | 326 | 316 | 509 | 2.41
Harbour-Wharf-Belleville | 285 | 299 | 342 | 637 | 2.14

Corridor ranking averages

- Cook-Fifth
- Pandora
- Government
- Fort
- Haultain
- Begbie
- Harbour
- Fairfield
Question 5. What specific types of amenities would you like to see included in the proposed network? Select all that apply.

Responses: 1,699

- Lighting [1,261]
- Bike Parking [1,161]
- Signage [941]
- Crosswalks [681]
- Other [568]
- Public Art [488]
- Landscaping [447]
- Bus Stop [335]
- Seating [290]
- Crosswalks [1,261]
- Signage [1,161]
- Lighting [941]
- Crosswalks [681]
- Other [568]
- Public Art [488]
- Landscaping [447]
- Bus Stop [335]
- Seating [290]

*Common “Other” Responses*
- Physically separated bike lanes [179]
- Access to drinking water [70]
- Traffic signs [51]
- Signal lights for bikes [110]
- Tools/repair stations [34]
- Washrooms [33]
- Bike pumps [24]
- More safety features [22]
- Maps/information [16]
- Signal lights for bikes [13]
- Traffic calming [12]

Question 6. Where in the network are you concerned for your safety?

This question appeared an open-form, short answer format. The chart below illustrates the most common keywords.

Responses: 1,096

- Bay [246]
- Cook [230]
- Shelbourne [206]
- Pandora [125]
- Douglas [110]
- Downtown [104]
- Hillside [92]
- Fort [91]
- Government [74]
- Haultain [62]
- Intersection [60]
Question 7. Once the proposed network is complete, what types of trips will you make by bike? Select all that apply. Responses: 1,653

- Exercise/recreation: 1,388
- Running errands: 1,285
- Commuting to work/school: 1,267
- Visiting friends/family: 1,129
- Trips with kids: 378

Question 8. What excites you most about this project? This question appeared in an open-ended, short answer format. The chart below illustrates the most common keywords. Responses: 1,820

- Safe: 589
- More bikes/cyclists: 206
- Kids/children: 101
- Health/active/fitness: 78
- Accessibility: 74
- Commute: 67
- Nothing: 53
- Downtown: 52
- Easy/convenient: 50
- Network connectivity: 38
- Less cars: 28

Question 9. What concerns you most about this project? This question appeared in an open-ended, short answer format. The chart below illustrates the most common keywords. Responses: 1,526

- Traffic/congestion: 193
- Car v. bike conflicts: 175
- Safe: 118
- Cost/money: 118
- None/nothing: 104
- Impact to bus/transit: 70
- Walk/pedestrian: 52
- Other munic.: 51
- Construction: 46
- Parking: 44
- Cook St.: 34
Who we heard from

1a. Do you identify as:
Responses: 1,735

- Male (876 responses) 45%
- Female (785 responses) 50%
- Other (11 responses) 1%
- Prefer not to say (63 responses) 4%

3a. What are the primary purposes of your current biking trips? Select all that apply.
Responses: 1,635

- Exercise/recreation (1,050 responses) 4%
- Commuting (1,045 responses) 29%
- Trips with children (148 responses) 16%
- Visiting friends/family (602 responses) 28%
- Running errands (824 responses) 16%

2a. How old are you?
Responses: 1,741

- 18-25 (211 responses) 6%
- 26-35 (594 responses) 12%
- 36-45 (389 responses) 13%
- 46-55 (231 responses) 22%
- 56-65 (188 responses) 34%
- 65+ (96 responses) 7%

4a. How often do you currently bike?
Responses: 1,726

- Everyday (384 responses) 14%
- 3-6 times/week (585 responses) 36%
- 1-2 times/week (247 responses) 14%
- 1-3 times/mo. (141 responses) 8%
- Occasionally (249 responses) 7%
- Never (120 responses) 3%

29% of respondents bike 1-3 times per month or less.
5a. What neighbourhood do you live in?
Responses: 1,732

Most Common
“Other” responses
Saanich - 171
Oak Bay - 75
Esquimalt - 41
Langford - 27
Gordon Hill - 25
View Royal - 21

Outside Victoria
19%
477 total
Who we heard from

How do you normally get around?

- 73/27% on foot
- 120/45% by bike
- 38/14% by bus
- 36/13% by car

55% of respondents do not normally get around by bike

What type of cyclist are you?

- I’m strong and fearless: 31/20%
- I’m enthusiastic and confident: 89/57%
- I’m interested, but have some concerns: 32/21%
- There is no way, no how that I’ll cycle: 4/3%

I feel like my input was valued and will help shape #BIKETORIA

- 85/83% Neither agree nor disagree
- 16/15% Agree
- 2/2% Disagree

These responses were collected at the #BIKETORIA engagement events using interactive ‘dotmocracy’ boards.
What’s your style?

The 2018 All Ages and Abilities Network will consist of three distinct types of cycling facilities. At the #BIKETORIA engagement events, we displayed a board with images of four different styles of each of the three types of cycling facilities. Participants were asked to vote for their favourite style of each facility type using stickers. The participants were instructed to consider safety and comfort for people of all ages and abilities when making their selection. The numbers represent how many stickers appeared under each image, and the percentage show the proportion of votes each style received in their respective categories.

**Protected Bike Lane:** Exclusive bike facilities that are physically separated from motor vehicle travel lanes and the sidewalk, but are located on-street.

**Neighbourhood Greenway:** Shared bike routes on local streets with lower traffic volumes that have been optimized to prioritize bicycle traffic.

**Off-Street Pathway:** Physically separated from motor vehicles and provide sufficient width to be used by cyclists and non-motorized users.
Destinations and Origins
This information was collected through a mapping exercise at four engagement events on Nov. 1-2.

Trip Destinations
Trip Origins

2018 AAA Network
- Government St. / Gorge Rd.
- Cook St / Graham and Fifth St.
- Harbour Rd / Wharf St / Belleville St.
- Fort St.
- Pandora Ave / Oak Bay Ave
- Begbie St / Shelbourne St
- Haultain St / Bay St and Kings Rd
- Humbolt St / Fairfield Rd
- Other AAA Routes (built or designed by others)

- Community Facilities
- Arena
- Downtown
- Town Centre
- Large Urban Village
- Small Urban Village
- Commercial Zoning
- Hospital
- Schools
- Public Facilities, Institutions, Parks and Open Space
- Municipal Boundaries
Corridor Feedback

The #BIKETORIA engagement events featured display boards with detailed information about each of the eight corridors in the 2018 AAA Network. Participants were invited to complete a short survey to provide feedback on each corridor. The results of those surveys are presented below.

**Harbour Rd. / Wharf St. / Belleville St.**

If protected bike lanes are installed, which of the following options would you prefer? (n=14)

- Remove vehicle travel lane: 36%
- Remove vehicle parking lane: 21%
- I have no preference: 43%

If protected bike lanes are installed, would you prefer a one-way or two-way facility? (n=14)

- One-way: 64%
- Two-way: 36%

If parking is removed on one side of Wharf St., would you prefer that it is removed on the West or East side? (n=14)

- West side: 64%
- East side: 36%

If parking is removed on one side of Belleville St., would you prefer that it is removed on the South or North side? (n=14)

- North side: 89%
- South side: 11%

**Government St.**

If protected bike lanes are installed north of Yates, this would require removing either vehicle parking lane or vehicle travel lane. Which of these options would you prefer? (n=13)

- Remove vehicle travel lane: 62%
- Remove vehicle parking lane: 38%

Which option do you prefer south of Yates? (n=13)

- Neighbourhood bikeway with enhanced pedestrianization: 55%
- Two-way protected bike lane: 36%
- Contraflow protected bike lane: 9%
Corridor Feedback

**Humboldt St. / Fairfield Rd**
Which option do you prefer? [n=12]

- One-way protected with no parking on either side: 50%
- Parallel neighbourhood bikeway: 50%

**Fort St.**
Which option do you prefer? [n=16]

- One-way (East-bound only): 62%
- Two-way: 38%

**Cook St. / Graham St.**
If protected bike lanes are installed, this would require removing either a vehicle parking lane, or the two-way left turn lane. Which of these options would you prefer? [n=13]

- Remove vehicle parking lane: 20%
- Remove vehicle two-way left turn lane: 7%
- No preference: 70%

**Pandora / Oak Bay**
Which option do you prefer? [n=12]

- One way protected bike lanes with no parking on either side: 50%
- Parallel neighbourhood bikeway: 50%

**Haultain St. / Kings Rd. / Bay St.**
If protected lanes are installed on Bay, this would require removing two vehicle travel lane. How would this have a day to day-to-day impact on you? [n=13]

- Positive impact: 54%
- Negative impact: 18%
- No impact: 27%

**Begbie St. / Shelbourne St.**
If protected bike lanes are installed, this may require removing vehicle parking along Shelbourne from Hillside St. to Bay St. How would this impact you? [n=12]

- Positive impact (safer): 42%
- Negative impact: 58%
- No impact/neutral: 14%
Social Media

All posts and comments about the 2018 All Ages and Abilities Network were tracked using the #BIKETORIA hashtag. The findings below reflect social media activity from October 17 – November 18, 2015.

**Facebook**

- 183 Facebook comments/replies on the City of Victoria’s Facebook page
- 357 “Likes” for Facebook posts with the #BIKETORIA hashtag
- 119 Additional Facebook posts using the #BIKETORIA hashtag
- 135 “Shares” for Facebook posts with the #BIKETORIA hashtag

**Twitter**

- 259 Tweets using the #BIKETORIA hashtag
- 155,136 Accounts reached
- 266,337 Impressions made
- 93 Twitter users interacted directly with the hashtag

**Instagram**

- 16 Images posted with the #BIKETORIA hashtag
- 515 “Likes” for images with the #BIKETORIA hashtag

**Keywords on Twitter & Facebook**

- Mayor Lisa Helps (83)
- Gil Penalosa (73)
- Summit (68)
- Bike lanes (65)
- Survey (50)
- Community (50)
- Mia Birk (43)
- Cook Street (27)
- Route (24)
- All Ages and Abilities (25)
- Safety (21)
- Road (21)
- Inspire/ vision (11)
- Drive (10)
- Connect (8)
- Minimum grid (5)
Local Media Coverage

The #BIKETORIA team has actively reached out to local media sources at important project milestones to ensure that information about the network and engagement opportunities are widely available. The response from media has been positive as they recognize the significance of the #BIKETORIA project to their audience. Key media coverage is listed below:

**Victoria's Ticket to Ride**
Times Colonist [online: November 19, 2015]
http://goo.gl/6r2aZT

**Victoria Harbour pathway project inches forward**
CFAX 1070 [online: November 19, 2015]
http://goo.gl/umP0le

**Victoria rolls out grand vision for bicycle routes: Council hopes $7.75-million plan will make capital "the best small cycling city in the world"**
Times Colonist [online, November 12, 2015]
http://goo.gl/4uvN33

**Victoria tries ‘pop-up’ bike lane**
Chek News [online video: November 1, 2015]
http://goo.gl/uFAFEO

**#BIKETORIA cycling summit brings experts to Victoria**
Times Colonist [online, Oct. 30, 2015]
http://goo.gl/uXwExs

**Bike lanes in Victoria could be significantly expanded:**
Biketoria plan calls for more complete network suitable for all ages and experience levels
CBC [online: October 23, 2015]
http://goo.gl/AMTT2U

**Victoria eyes expanding bike lane network:**
Cyclists in Victoria could have some more options when it comes to getting around if city council passes a new plan.
CBC, All Points West [radio interview: Oct. 22, 2015]
http://goo.gl/EztUqT