



Cassiar Corridor

public realm committee

public workshop summary report

workshop facilitation and summary report prepared by
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Workshop Summary

date: 09.04.16

location: Cassiar and Hastings

participants: Jiri, Alison, Terrie, Beverley, Georgina, Armin, Nancy

Introduction:

The Public Realm Committee has selected a under-utilized site for improvement, located at the intersection of Hastings Street at Cassiar. The site is situated at the east entry to the Hastings-Sunrise neighbourhood, and is characterized by heavy traffic volume along the Hastings Corridor and Highway 1. The Committee would like to invest in a simple, low-cost and low-maintenance upgrade that would improve the site aesthetically and create an improved environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

Workshop Overview:

Participants met on site to review challenges and opportunities, and then generated a list of goals and ideas for site improvements. A simple voting exercise helped determine the key goals and ideas that were most valued by the participants.

Site Description:

The project site is located at the southeast corner of the Hastings and Cassiar intersection, adjacent to a McDonalds restaurant. The heavy vehicle traffic volume along Hastings Street and Highway 1 generates a lot of noise, and the numerous vehicle lanes and marked crossings creates an environment unfriendly to pedestrians. The volume of cyclist traffic crossing through the site is high, and the existing concrete sidewalk is too narrow to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists.

There are good views from the site to the northwest, with sightlines to the PNE and the wooden roller coaster, to the Lions in the distance.

Fact-Identifying Exercise:

Participants were invited to share information they knew about the site, along with their unanswered questions about the site, in order to identify what we know about the site along with the 'gaps' in our knowledge. Their input is documented in the appendix. Key concerns among the facts collected were that neighbourhood residents have observed that the site is used for drug deals and alcohol consumption, that people occasionally sleep there, and that there is a significant amount of litter. It was also estimated that approximately 90% of the traffic crossing through the project site is cyclists, and that pedestrians generally use the gravel path that runs parallel to the wall along the west edge of the McDonalds property.

It was also noted that the planters surrounding McDonalds appear to be irrigated, so a water supply is in close proximity. This represents a potential opportunity to provide a hose bib so local residents could hand-water any trees or vegetation introduced to the site.

Workshop Summary Cont.

Idea-Generating Exercise:

Participants were invited to generate goals and ideas for improving the site. These ideas were recorded, and may be reviewed in the appendix. To identify which goals and ideas were valued most highly, each participant was given six stickers to vote for their 'top three' goals and 'top three' ideas. The results are as follows:

Goals and Visions:

- a more pleasing space (4 votes)
- easy to maintain (3 votes)
- no 'litter traps' / does not collect garbage (2 votes)
- minimize conflict between pedestrians and cyclists (2 votes)
- inviting to the community / re-vitalize, inspire future ideas (2 votes)
- a 'gateway' (1 vote)
- not encourage graffiti (1 vote)

Ideas:

- incorporate the cobblestones the public realm committee has (3 votes)
- widen the existing path with a curvilinear gravel path beside it (2 votes)
- create a gateway to the site, and to east Van. (2 votes)
- celebrates Hastings-Sunrise neighbourhood, eg. sun ray graphic (2 votes)
- involve McD w/ improvements, eg. garbage collection, ivy removal (1 vote)
- public art (2 votes)
- tells a story about the surroundings, eg. PNE, the Lions, the bridge (1 vote)
- widen pathway at entry (non-cobblestone) (1 vote)
- trees / veg. to screen view of traffic and maintain view to mtns. (1 vote)

Conclusions:

The group reviewed the results of the voting together, and affirmed that the exercise gave clear direction for proceeding with the concept design. Alison thanked all the participants for their contributions, and confirmed that the next steps for the project are for her to generate two conceptual design approaches, based on the input from the workshop.

Appendix


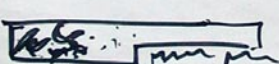
Facts:

- who owns the property?
CoV?
MoT?
- who maintains it? Parks Board?
- concrete block → purpose?
(it's been here since
anyone can remember)
• can it be moved?
- how far down is the H₂O main?
what's its location?
- great views
- noisy
- lots of bike traffic
- bike/pedestrian circulation
path too narrow

FACTS

- ped. path mainly adjacent to McD
- 90% bike traffic?
- will light be installed? [footing]
- litter issue → a McD responsibility?
- drug/alcohol use / ~~drug~~ dealing
- CoV will not approve robbers
as paving in foot traffic areas

Goals:

- more pleasing space ○○○○
- ~~x~~ not collecting garbage / litter ^{no} traps
- * no conflict btwn. bikes + peds
minimize [safety] ○○
- ~~reduce loitering~~
- not encourage loitering / drug use
- * easy to maintain ○○○
- gateway
- ~~As~~ cost effective
- not encourage graffiti 
- 
- [not a 'lingering']
- ~~is~~ inviting to the community
↳ revitalize, inspire future ideas

Appendix Cont.

- Ideas:
- have cobble stones → include as ground plane design?
 - blooming trees, sim. to cherry trees across st.
 - trees/veg. to screen view of traffic → not necessarily solid, & not to block mtn. view
 - involvement of mcd. for site improvements / garbage collection / remove ivy? → rats
→ 2 Vanoc
 - Parks Board as source for trees?
 - Stewards / volunteers to water trees in summer / till established
 - mural on mcd wall?
 - mcd to provide hose bib?
 - funding? Home Depot community contributions? mcd?

- IDEAS:
- public art site?
 - widen pathway at entry
↳ non-cobble
 - lobby city further to widen path
↳ haven't id'd who owns it
 - snit trees fr. city?
↳ vermon/rats? trash?
 - seperated paths?
 - gateway: to site, & to east Van.
-
- yield to pedestrians sign
 - garbage container
 - Parks Board to provide + maintain?

