



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: January 21, 2015
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RTS No.: 10833
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: February 4, 2015

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: New Park - Yukon Street at W 17th Avenue

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the use of Yukon Street between W 17th Avenue and the lane to the north for the purpose of creating a new neighbourhood park, with the source of funding as follows subject to approval of the 2015 Capital Budget:

- \$350,000 for park construction to be from the 2015 Capital Budget for the Conversion of Streets to Mini Parks;
- \$150,000 for Speed Humps and Curb Bulges to be from the 2015 Capital Budget for Traffic Calming, specifically CAC from the rezoning at 357, 376 and 391 West King Edward Avenue.

REPORT SUMMARY

On January 19, 2015 the Park Board unanimously approved a concept for a new park on Yukon Street between W 17th Avenue and the lane to the north. This concept incorporates the adjacent street right-of-way as an extension of the park and requires removal of vehicular traffic from this section of street. The Park Board is now seeking Council approval to change the use of the right-of-way to accommodate the new park design. Formal designation of the right-of-way would remain unchanged and the street would remain a City asset. In consultation with the neighbourhood on the proposal 75% of respondents indicated “strong support” for this project.

Engineering has reviewed the new park concept and supports the change of use within the context of Transportation 2040 and a desire by residents to traffic calm the neighbourhood.

The budget for this work is estimated to be \$500,000 with \$350,000 for park construction which will be funded by the Capital Budget for the Conversion of Streets to Mini Parks, subject to approval of the 2015 Capital Budget.

In addition, \$150,000 will be funded through a CAC contribution from a nearby development and form part of the Capital Budget for Traffic Calming, subject to the approval of the 2015 Capital Budget.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Permanent change of use of the street right-of-way requests are brought to Council for approval.

Transportation 2040 has a policy of making walking and cycling safe, comfortable and convenient for people of all ages and abilities.

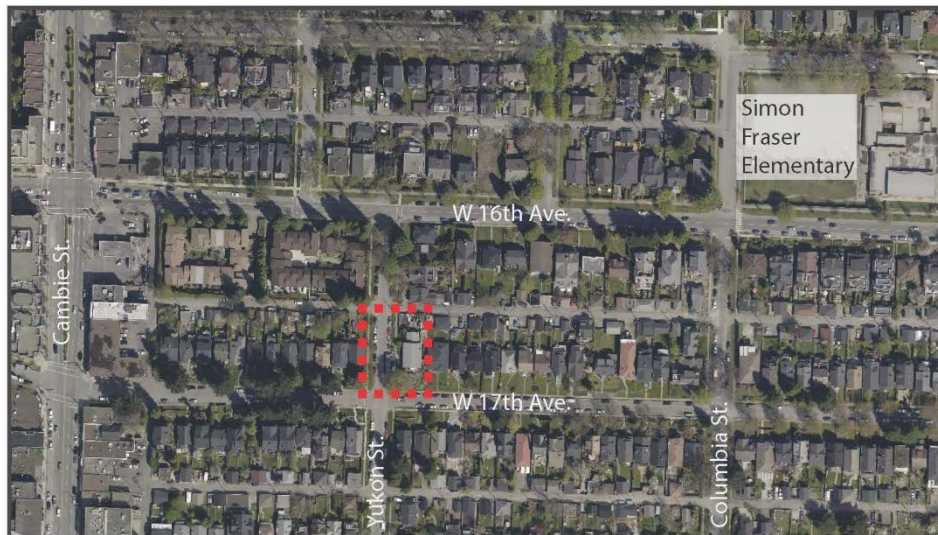
The Greenest City 2020 Action Plan identifies green transportation, access to nature and clean air as City goals.

On September 16, 2014 Council approved a rezoning application at 357-391 W King Edward Avenue which included a community amenity contribution for the purpose of traffic calming in the area east of Cambie Street between W 16th Avenue and W King Edward Avenue.

REPORT

Background/Context

The Park Board is proposing to develop a new park located on Yukon Street between W 17th Avenue and the lane to the north. The parcel at 3276 Yukon Street was acquired to address a deficiency in park space within the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood. As the park concept incorporates the adjacent street right-of-way as an extension of the park, the Park Board is now seeking City approval to change the use of the right-of-way to accommodate the new park design.



The new park is 0.15 hectare (ha) in size, including the 0.08 ha portion of the Yukon Street right-of-way. The street is proposed to be converted to park use but keep its legal status as a street right-of-way for the purpose of maintaining existing infrastructure.

Development of the park requires removal of vehicular traffic from this section of Yukon Street. Walking and cycling connections are proposed to be maintained and enhanced. Traffic calming measures are also proposed: speed humps, curb bulges at intersections and removal of parking adjacent to the park - see **Appendix A**.

Analysis

Park Board staff undertook two public open houses and two online surveys. A nearby rezoning at 357-391 W King Edward Avenue also informed the community engagement process. Engineering staff were consulted throughout the new park concept development process and participated at the two open houses. The results from the open houses and online surveys were supportive of the new park concept including closure of this portion of Yukon Street to vehicular traffic to increase the size of the park, addressing short-cutting and improving conditions for walking and cycling on Yukon Street - a designated bikeway.

Engineering staff also undertook a transportation assessment of the proposal. Significant reduction in short-cutting traffic is anticipated thereby reducing the risk of conflicts with pedestrians, cyclists and local motorists in addition to improving the livability of the neighbourhood.

Pre-project traffic conditions were measured on the intersecting and adjacent streets and lanes. As much of the neighbourhood is traffic calmed to the east and north it is expected that the short-cutting traffic will return to Cambie Street. Staff will follow-up with post-project surveys.

The Park Board staff report can be viewed online at:
http://former.vancouver.ca/parks/board/2015/20150119/REPORT2-ParkConceptPlan_17thAve_YukonSt-20150119.pdf

The report includes a summary of the public consultation process. As it relates to the proposed changes to Yukon Street, 75% of respondents “strongly supported” and 15% “somewhat supported” closing this portion of Yukon Street to vehicles in order to increase the park space by 50% and address safety concerns. A detailed summary of feedback from the recent open house and online survey can also be found in **Appendix B**.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk

Financial

The budget for this work is estimated to be \$500,000 with \$350,000 for park construction which will be funded by the Capital Budget for the Conversion of Streets to Mini Parks, subject to approval of the 2015 Capital Budget.

An additional \$150,000 in CAC funding is identified in RTS 10647 as a condition of rezoning 357, 376 and 391 West King Edward Avenue for the purpose of traffic calming in the area between 16th Avenue and King Edward Avenue. Subject to receipt, the funds will be used to construct speed humps and curb bulges adjacent to the new park. The budget will form part of the Capital Budget for Traffic Calming, subject to the approval of the 2015 Capital Budget.

Environmental

Development of new parks is consistent with the City's Greenest City 2020 Action Plan objectives. The park concept also contributes to a key goal of the City's Transportation 2040 Plan: to make walking and cycling on Yukon Street safer, more comfortable and more convenient for people of all ages and abilities.

CONCLUSION

The park concept has been widely endorsed by the community and approved by the Park Board at its January 19th meeting. It achieves a number of the City's corporate objectives while addressing the community's need for green space and improved traffic safety. If approved, Park Board staff, with support from Engineering, will begin detailed design followed by construction and projected opening of the new park to the public by late 2015.

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Appendix A - Park Concept Plan
(New Park - Yukon Street at 17th Avenue - RTS # 10833)



Appendix B - Summary of Consultation Results
 (New Park - Yukon Street at 17th Avenue - RTS # 10833)

Do you support the design of this new park?	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Unsure/Don't know
	36 (71%)	8 (16%)	3 (6%)	4 (8%)	0

Do you think this park will improve livability in your community?	Yes	No	Unsure/Don't know
	42 (82%)	6 (12%)	3 (6%)

How likely are you to use this park space?	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not very likely	Not at all likely	Unsure/Don't know
	32 (63%)	10 (20%)	3 (6%)	3 (6%)	3 (6%)

Do you support closing this portion of Yukon Street to vehicles in order to increase the park space by 50% and address safety concerns raised at previous open houses in your neighbourhood (i.e. reduce through traffic in your neighbourhood)?	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Unsure/Don't know
	38 (75%)	8 (15%)	1 (2%)	4 (8%)	0

Would this improvement - converting the 3200 Block Yukon Street to park - encourage you to walk and/or cycle along Yukon Street more often? Select all that apply.	Walk more often	Cycle more often	Neither (would not walk or cycle more often)	Unsure/Don't know
	36 (71%)	8 (16%)	3 (6%)	0