



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: September 5, 2018  
Contact: Heather Gordon  
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RTS No.: 12736  
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20  
Meeting Date: September 18, 2018

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: Deputy City Manager  
SUBJECT: Commemorative Naming of Civic Assets

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT Council approve the engineering lands, south side of the Cambie Bridge, east off-ramp, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix A, be named as "Barbara Howard Plaza".
- B. THAT Council approve the triangular plaza where Main Street and Kingsway meet, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix B, be named as "Gertrude Guerin Plaza".
- C. THAT Council approve the portion of 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Knight Street to the Khalsa Diwan Society Ross Sikh Temple, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix C, be given the commemorative supplementary name of "Gurdwara Sahib Road".
- D. THAT Council approve the plaza at Trutch Street and Broadway, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix D, be named as "Harnam Kaur Plaza".
- E. THAT Council approve the bridge over the Grandview Cut at Commercial Drive, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix E, be named as "Hide Hyodo Shimizu Bridge".
- F. THAT Council approve the plaza at the north end of Spyglass Place, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix F, be named as "Husain Rahim Plaza".
- G. THAT Council approve the Town Hall Meeting Room in City Hall be named the "Joe Wai Meeting Room".

- H. THAT Council approve the Japanese garden at City Hall, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix G, be named as “Manzo Nagano Garden”.
- I. THAT Council approve the public space at Commercial Drive and Napier Street, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix H, be named as “Margaret Mitchell Plaza”.
- J. THAT Council approve the West 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue tree boulevard, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendices I, J, K, L, M, N, and O, be named as “Master Toa Wong Commemorative Boulevard”.
- K. THAT Council approve the North Arm Trail Greenway, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix P, be re-named as “Masumi Mitsui Greenway”.
- L. THAT Council approve the plaza with clock at Kingsway and Joyce Street, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix Q, be named as “Mel Tobias Plaza”.
- M. THAT Council approve the overpass crossing the railway tracks at Raymur Avenue and connecting with Keefer Street, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix R, be named as “Militant Mothers of Raymur Overpass”.
- N. THAT Council approve the area known as the Olympic Village Plaza, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix S, be named as “Milton Wong Plaza”.
- O. THAT Council approve the plaza at the Southwest corner of Pender Street and Beatty Street, as shown on the graphic attached as Appendix T, be named as “Sara Anne McLagan Plaza”.
- P. THAT Council approve the use of \$193,000 from the 2018 Council Contingency budget to fund the above recommendations.

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

On July 24, 2018, Council approved, in principle, the commemorative naming of certain civic assets and directed City staff to review the names and locations and identify any constraints that might preclude the proposed naming. This report recommends confirmation of commemorative names approved by Council for fifteen civic assets. The assessment conducted by staff included an ownership review of each site and identification of necessary site improvements.

This report further provides an estimate of the budget required to acknowledge the commemoration at each of the proposed civic asset sites.

### **COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

On July 24, 2018, Council approved *in camera* the naming of certain civic assets, in principle, and directed City staff to review and report back in September 2018.

### **CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

## **REPORT**

### **Background/Context**

In accordance with Council's direction, staff have reviewed the name and location of each asset to confirm:

- That the City owns the identified asset;
- That there are no legal agreements precluding the City from exercising naming rights;
- That there are no immediate plans for redevelopment of the site, and;
- That there are no existing commemorations on the site that conflict with the proposed naming.

Staff have also estimated the cost of site improvements that staff recommend as appropriate to acknowledge the commemoration.

### **Strategic Analysis**

Based on staff's assessment, it is appropriate for Council to confirm commemorative names, as approved in principle on July 24, 2018, for the following civic assets.

**Barbara Howard Plaza.** Athlete, educator and community leader, Barbara Howard (1920-1917) was the first black female athlete to represent Canada in international competition. In 1941, she became the first racialized person to be hired by the Vancouver School Board. She had a 43-year career in education, including 14 years as a physical education teacher, before retiring in 1984. The site, located at the south side of the Cambie Bridge and north of the east off ramp (see Appendix A attached), is currently named the Cambie Street Plaza, dedicated in 2009. The existing name is set in a concrete retaining wall, and could be covered by a large plaque with the new name.

**Gertrude Guerin Plaza.** Chief, politician, community advocate, fierce protector of First Nations people and culture, Gertrude Guerin (1917-1998) was a Squamish woman who married a Musqueam man. She became the first women elected as Chief in Canada and was a founder of both the Native Education Centre and the Aboriginal Friendship Centre. The site, the triangular plaza at Main and Kingsway, features a Portrait V2K Vancouver Millennium Project plaque that would coexist with any new signage. For map see Appendix B.

**Gurdwara Sahib Road.** Gurdwara Sahib Road is a street moniker given to many streets in England near a Sikh Gurdwara. It is proposed that "Gurdwara Sahib Road" be acknowledged on commemorative supplementary sign blades on the proposed portion of West 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue, from Knight St. to the Khalsa Diwan Society Ross Sikh Temple, similar to those used for "Wasserman's Beat" on Homer Street and "Lilian To Way" in Chinatown. Of note, the primary access to the Temple is from Ross St. and, as such, Council could consider the blocks of Ross St. south of 57<sup>th</sup> Ave as an alternative location for this commemorative street moniker. For reasons of public safety, staff do not support renaming of numbered avenues, nor do they support renaming of portions of streets. Although this portion does not connect with other sections of West 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue, it does

cross Inverness Street, and if re-named would create a two-named street intersection. Such an intersection is more difficult to locate than an intersection with a numbered street and a named one. Similarly, changing a numbered street or a named street half way along its length has the potential to create confusion during an emergency response situation and should be avoided. For map see Appendix C.

**Harnam Kaur Plaza.** Born in Peshawar, Harnam Kaur (1885-1914) was one of the few women from India to enter Canada before the First World War. She was admitted by the Minister of the Interior as an act of grace, only after a major protest within the Canadian South Asian community against the regulations that excluded her. She had been held in immigration detention sites by US and CAN immigration sites for months. She died soon after giving birth to a daughter in 1914 and was honoured with the largest South Asian public funeral at that time. The site is located on the southwest corner of Trutch Street and West Broadway (see Appendix D).

**Hide Hyodo Shimizu Bridge.** Hide Hyodo Shimizu (1908-1999) was one of the first Nisei (second-generation Japanese-Canadians) to earn a teacher's certificate. After being interned during WW2, Shimizu established a system of schools for approximately 3000 Japanese-Canadian children within the internment camps. In 1982, Shimizu was awarded the Order of Canada for these efforts. The bridge, which spans the Grandview Cut at Commercial Drive, is currently named the Commercial Drive Bridge, dedicated in 1989. The existing plaque, which names the Mayor and Council and Engineering staff responsible for the bridge's construction, could be replaced with one that declares the new name and acknowledges those who had been involved the bridge's construction. For map see Appendix E.

**Husain Rahim Plaza.** Husain Rahim (1865-1937) was a member of the Shore Committee who, along with Bhag Singh, took over the charter of the Komagata Maru after it arrived in Vancouver. Rahim was the one of the few Indians who had managed to obtain legal residence in Canada after the regulatory immigration barrier was erected. He went on to found and publish a South Asian, English-language newspaper in Chinatown entitled *The Hindustanee*. The site, located on the seawall at the north end of Spyglass Place, features a public art-related plaque that would coexist with any new signage. For map see Appendix F.

**Joe Wai Meeting Room.** Architect Joe Wai (1940-2017) designed some of the city's most significant cultural and community projects, including the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, the Chinatown Millennium Gate, and the Chinese Cultural Centre Museum and Archives. Mr. Wai was instrumental in designing and building affordable housing uniquely adapted to neighbourhoods and communities and in fighting for the preservation of Chinatown and the Strathcona neighbourhood when the area was slated for freeway construction. Included among his many awards are the prestigious Architectural Institute of BC Lifetime Achievement award and the City of Vancouver's Civic Merit award. The meeting room is located on the first floor of City Hall.

**Manzo Nagano Garden.** Manzo Nagano (1853-1924) was the first known Japanese immigrant to Canada. In March 1877, at age 24, he left Japan for the West aboard a British steamer, arriving in May in British Columbia. He eventually settled in Victoria, where he ran a number of businesses, including one selling supplies to prospectors headed to the Klondike. Staff note that the proposed asset chosen to commemorate Mr. Nagano, the Japanese Garden at City Hall, located west of the Helena Gutteridge Plaza,



may be moved as part of future development of the City Hall campus, but the name would move with the garden to any new location. The site features two plaques speaking to the creation of the garden as a collaboration between the Consulate-General of Japan, the Vancouver Japanese Gardeners Association and the City, and these would coexist with any new signage. For map see Appendix G.

**Margaret Mitchell Plaza.** As MP for Vancouver East from 1979 to 1993, Margaret Mitchell (1925-2017) was one of the first politicians to raise, in the House of Commons, the issue of violence against women. Ms. Mitchell voted against a pension increase for MPs and diverted her share of the increase to a special account to help the poorest in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. With her support, the Margaret Mitchell Fund for Women continues to grow and assist organizations in East Vancouver to support programs and initiatives that promote economic and social justice for women. After retiring from public service, she continued to serve British Columbia in many volunteer capacities, including as the first Chair of the BC Advisory Council on Human Rights. In 2000, Mitchell was recognized as a Member of the Order of British Columbia. The site, located on the west side of Commercial Drive at Napier Street (see Appendix H), is currently named the Napier Square Greenway, dedicated some time in 2000-2002. It is part of the Neighbourhood Greenway Program and maintained by community volunteers.

**Master Toa Wong Commemorative Boulevard.** An internationally-recognized Cantonese opera musician, Master Toa Wong (1914-2015) trained several generations of Chinese-Canadian musicians, singers and performers, many of whom have established their own opera associations in Canada and abroad. Master Wong immigrated to Vancouver in 1960 and was instrumental in raising the calibre of Chinese-Canadian performing arts in Canada. The site, limited to the centre tree boulevard, runs along 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Trafalgar Street to Blanca Street (see Appendices I to O). The use of "Commemorative Boulevard" in the name is intended to represent the landscaped median in the street and is not to be confused with the actual street name, the latter used for wayfinding and emergency response purposes.

**Masumi Mitsui Greenway.** (1887-1987) Masumi Mitsui was a Japanese Canadian WWI veteran. Who fought at Vimy and won the Military Medal for Bravery at Hill 70. After the war, he campaigned for enfranchising all Japanese Canadians but in 1931, the vote was only extended to veterans. He and his family were interned during WWII, eventually resettling in Ontario. In 1985, he was an honoured guest at the relighting of the lantern in the Japanese Canadian War Memorial at Stanley Park. The site, currently named the North Arm Trail Greenway (see Appendix P), runs along Upland Drive, 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Vivian Drive and Angus Drive.

**Mel Tobias Plaza.** Mel Tobias (1939-1917) was born in the Philippines, spent many years in Hong Kong, and in 1993 settled in Vancouver. As a writer and radio host, Mr. Tobias chronicled the challenges and achievements of his community in Canada and inspired countless Filipino-Canadians to celebrate their unique and multi-faceted culture. He also championed causes that sought to uplift newcomers, live-in caregivers, immigrant youth, and women leaders. The site, located at the southwest corner of Kingsway and Joyce Street, is currently referred to as the Collingwood Clock Tower Garden, but this is not an official name. The Collingwood Clock was installed in 1992 by the Vancouver East Rotary Club, the City of Vancouver and the Province of British

Columbia, and the interpretive signage on the site is owned and maintained by the Collingwood Business Improvement Association. For map see Appendix Q.

**Militant Mothers of Raymur Overpass.** In 1971, many mothers living at Stamps Place Housing were worried about their children crossing the railway tracks on their way to Seymour School. The Canadian Pacific Railway promised the mothers the train would not run during the times the children went to and from school but did not carry through on this promise. Led by Judith Stainsby, the mothers risked their lives sitting and eventually camping together in the path of the trains until the federal government finally agreed to build a pedestrian Raymur overpass. The asset, located on Raymur Avenue and crossing the railway tracks to connect with Keefer Street, is currently named the Keefer Street Pedestrian Overpass. For map see Appendix R.

**Milton Wong Plaza.** Milton Wong (1940-2011) contributed to Vancouver in a wide variety of areas—finance, arts and culture, sustainability, community development, multiculturalism, academia and philanthropy. Born and raised in Vancouver, Mr. Wong embarked on a long and successful business career after graduating from the University of British Columbia. He founded his own investment firm, which was subsequently acquired by HSBC, where he served as chairman until his retirement. He founded the Laurier Institution, a national non-profit organization dedicated to the study of Canadian diversity. He was instrumental in the creation of the internationally renowned Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival, and was a key fundraiser and advisor for Science World, the Salvation Army, Red Cross, BC Cancer Agency, and YMCA. Mr. Wong also served as Chancellor of Simon Fraser University. The site is located in the Olympic Village, bordered by Athletes Way, Manitoba Street, Walter Hardwicke Avenue and Salt Street. For map see Appendix S.

**Sara Anne McLagan Plaza.** Sara Anne McLagan (1855-1924) was the first Canadian female newspaper editor. McLagan co-founded the *Vancouver Daily World* with her husband, James C. McLagan and, after his death, continued as the newspaper's president and editor. The site is located on the southwest corner of West Pender Street and Beatty Street. For map see Appendix T.

### **Site Commemoration:**

Commemoration at each site will take the form of signs and/or an explanatory plaque, as appropriate. Plazas will receive, if needed, minor upgrades or maintenance to improve their appearance. Staff aim to conclude installations and any upgrades by the end of 2019.

## ***Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)***

### ***Financial***

The budget for implementation of this report's recommendations is estimated at \$193,000, to be funded from the 2018 Council Contingency budget. The estimate, as outlined below, includes sign and/or plaque fabrication and installation at each site, minor improvements to hardscapes and plantings, and purchase and installation of some street furniture. It does not include any ceremonial commemoration activities.

<b>Asset</b>	<b>Budget Estimate</b>	<b>Details</b>
Barbara Howard Plaza	\$25,000	Plaque fabrication/installation and grass/planting renovation
Gertrude Guerin Plaza	\$5,000	Plaque fabrication/installation
Gurdwara Sahib Road	\$5,000	Plaque and signage fabrication/installation
Harnan Kaur Plaza	\$10,000	Plaque fabrication/installation and planting renovation
Hide Hyodo Shimizu Bridge	\$5,000	Plaque fabrication/installation
Husain Rahim Plaza	\$5,000	Plaque fabrication/installation
Joe Wai Town Hall	\$5,000	Plaque fabrication/installation and signage replacement
Manzo Nagano Garden	\$5,000	Plaque fabrication/installation
Margaret Mitchell Plaza	\$5,000	Plaque fabrication/installation
Master Toa Wong Commemorative Boulevard	\$5,000	Plaque and signage fabrication/installation
Masumi Mitsui Greenway	\$33,000	Plaque fabrication/installation and replacement of existing signs
Mel Tobias Plaza	\$35,000	Plaque fabrication/installation, garden renovation, clock repainting and new benches
Militant Mothers of Raymur Overpass	\$15,000	Plaque fabrication/installation, planting renovation and replacement of existing signs
Milton Wong Plaza	\$5,000	Plaque fabrication/installation
Sara Anne McLagan Plaza	\$30,000	Plaque fabrication/installation, landscape and hardscape improvements

## **CONCLUSION**

Staff recommend Council confirm the commemorative names, for the associated assets, put forward in this report.

\* \* \* \* \*

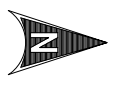




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Barbara Howard Plaza  
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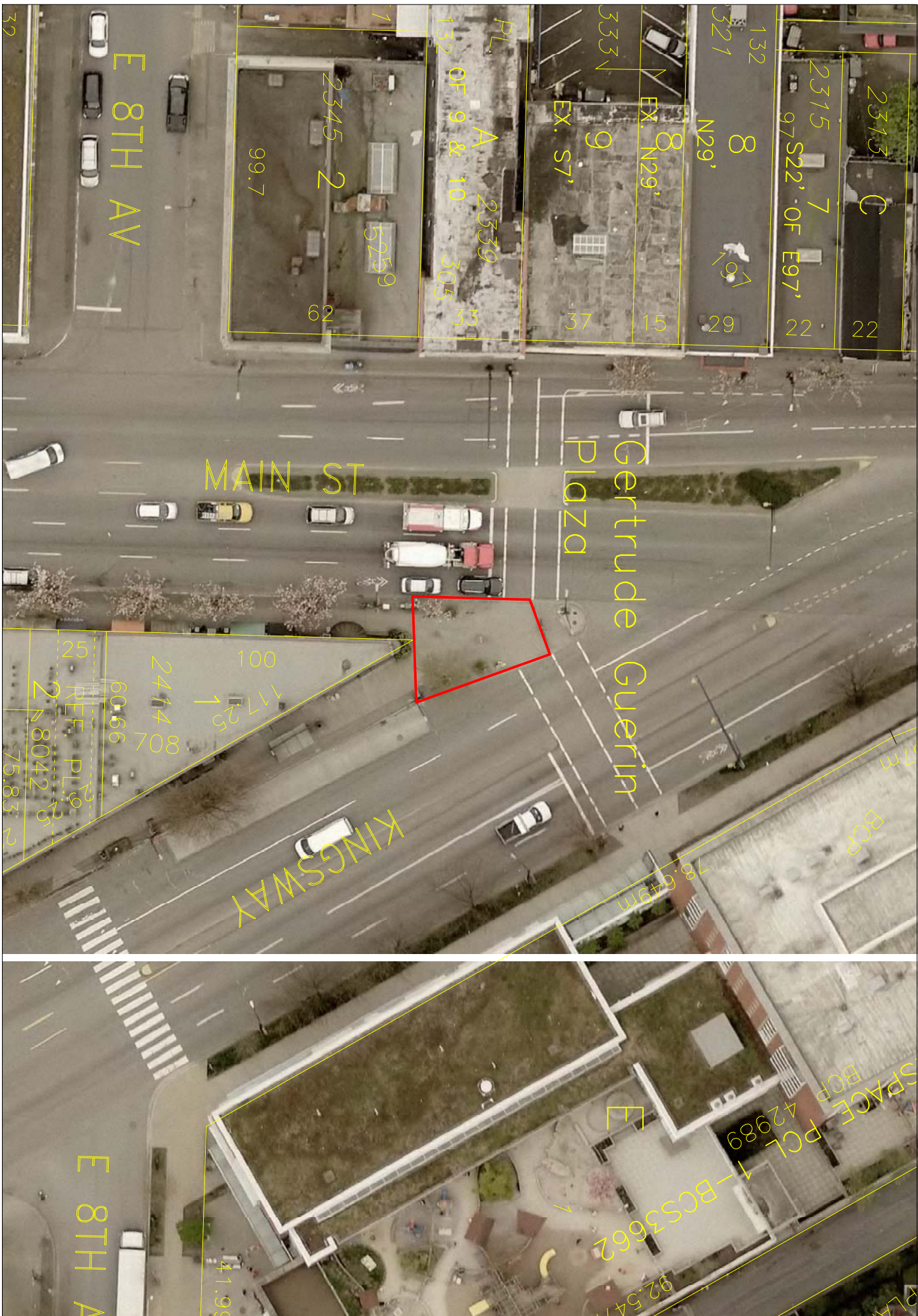




Gertrude Guerin Plaza

**APPENDIX B**

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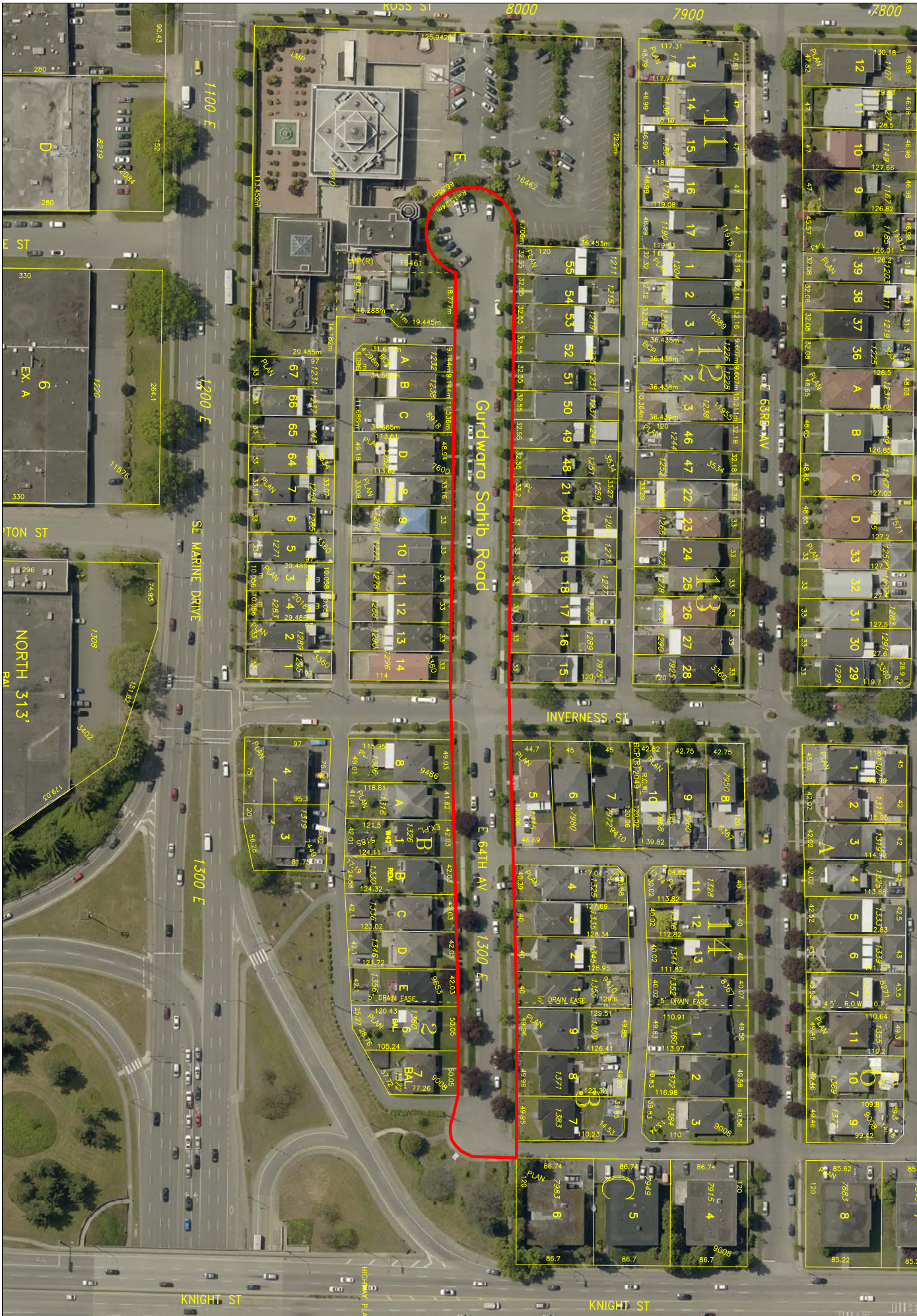


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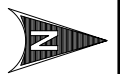


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Gurdwara Sahib Road  
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Haram Kaur Plaza  
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**Hide Hyodo Shimizu Bridge**  
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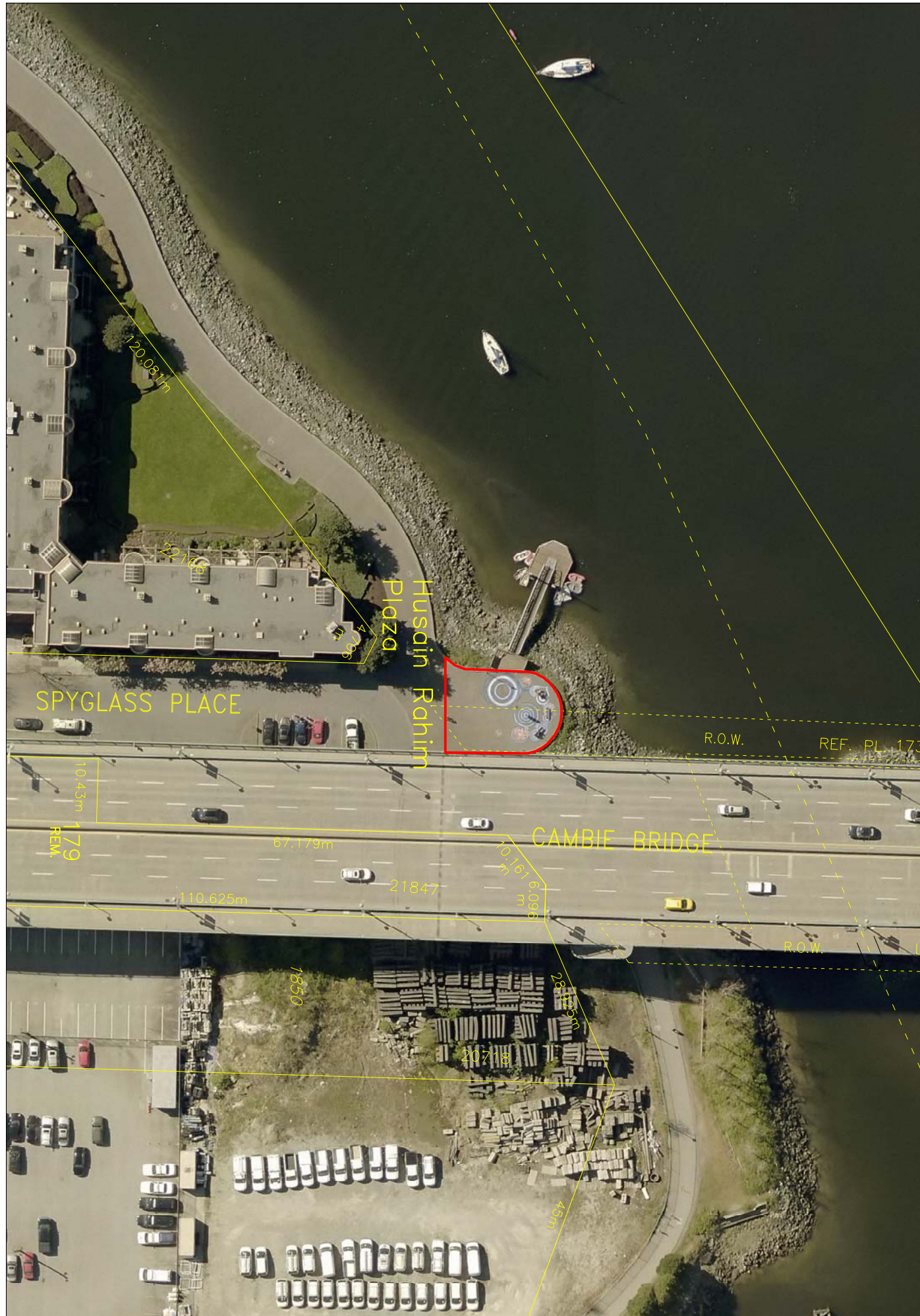


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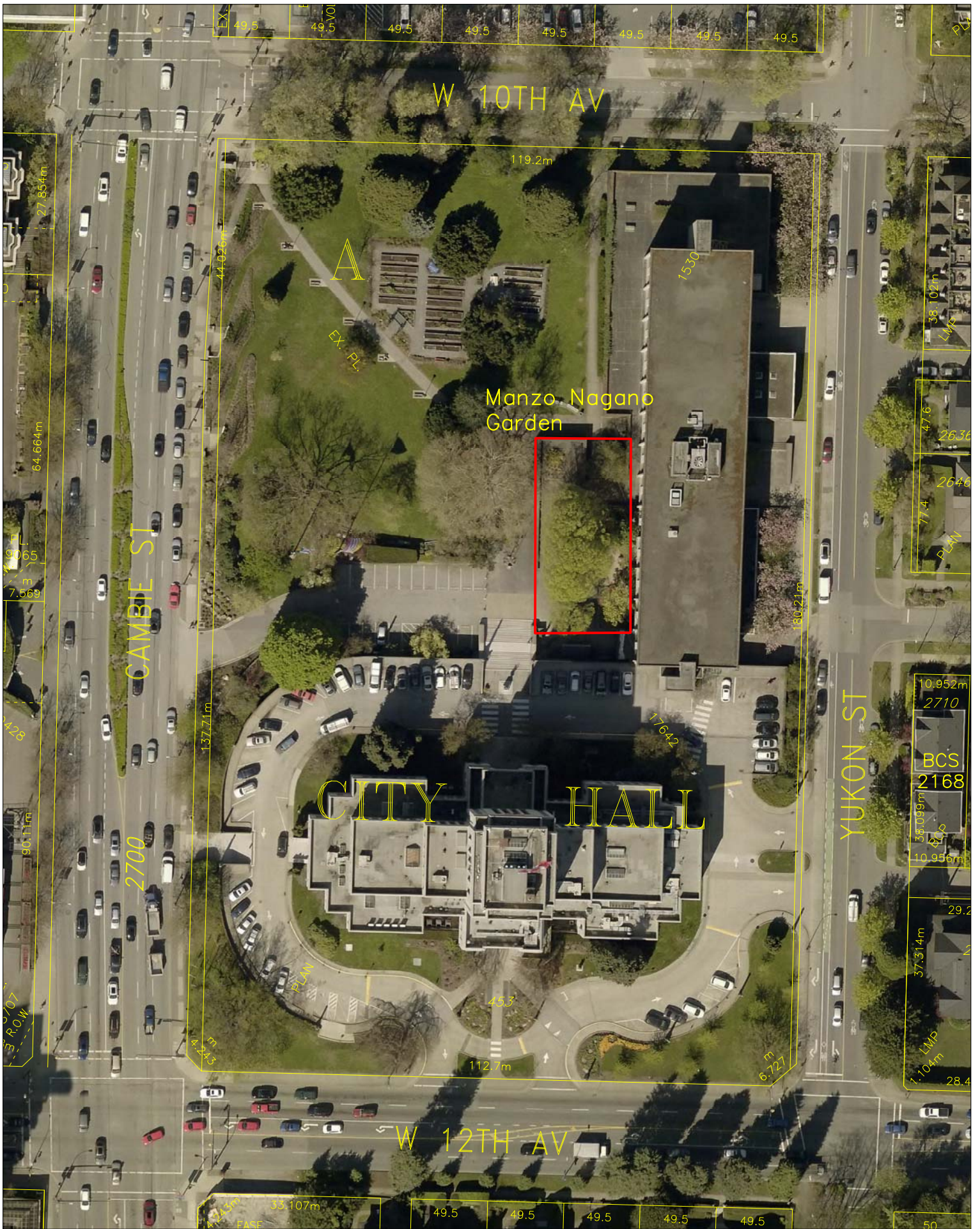


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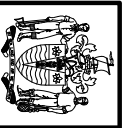
Husain Rahim Plaza  
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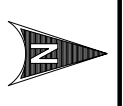




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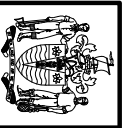
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Margaret Mitchell Plaza  
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Master Toa Wong Heritage Commemorative  
Boulevard (1 of 7)  
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**Master Toa Wong Heritage Commemorative**  
**Boulevard (2 of 7)**  
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Master Toa Wong Heritage Commemorative  
Boulevard (3 of 7)  
APPENDIX K



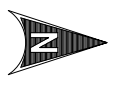




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**Master Toa Wong Heritage Commemorative**  
**Boulevard (4 of 7)**  
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Master Toa Wong Heritage Commemorative  
Boulevard (5 of 7)  
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Master Toa Wong Heritage Commemorative  
Boulevard (6 of 7)  
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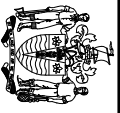


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Master Toa Wong Heritage Commemorative  
Boulevard (7 of 7)  
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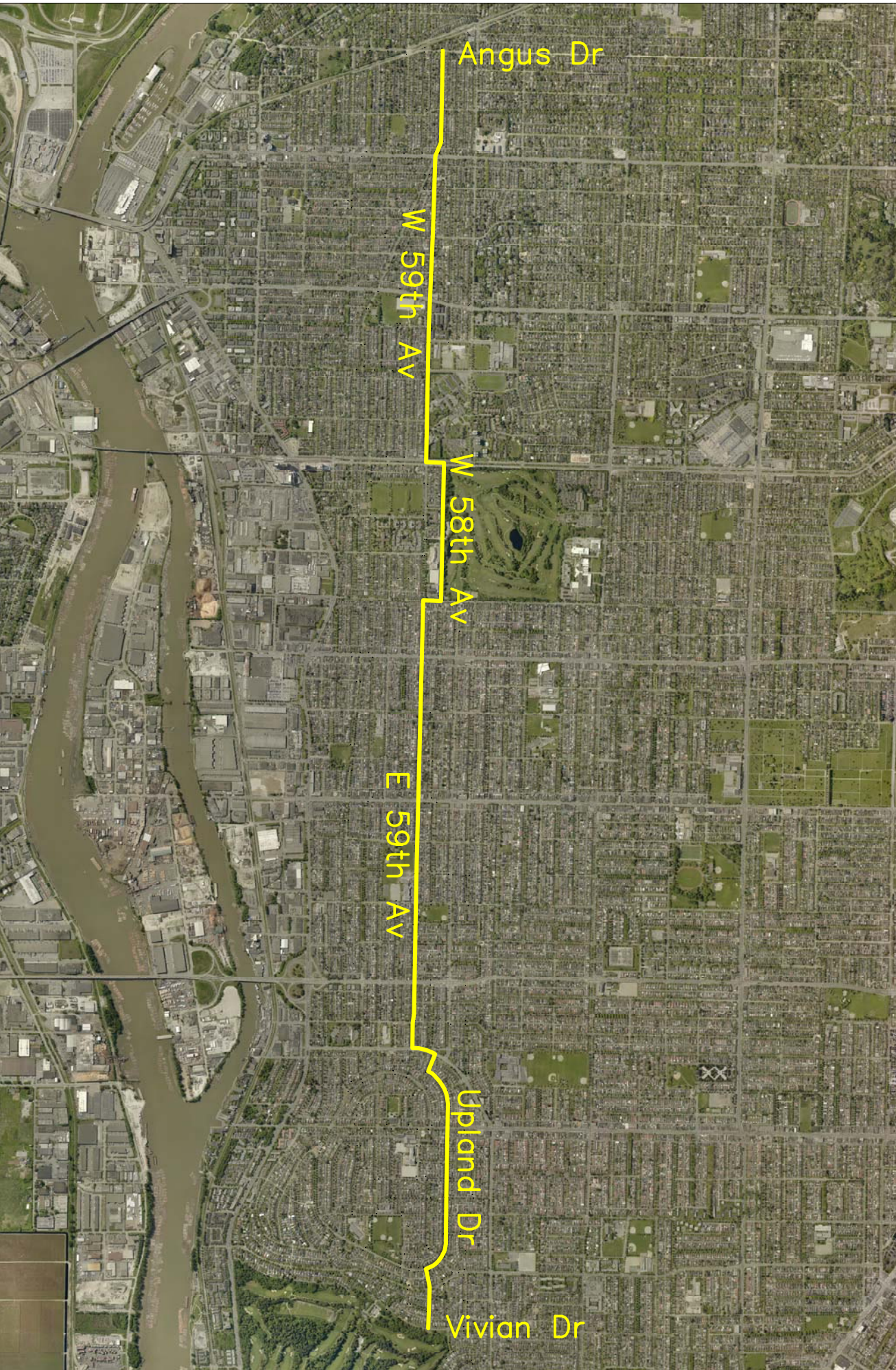


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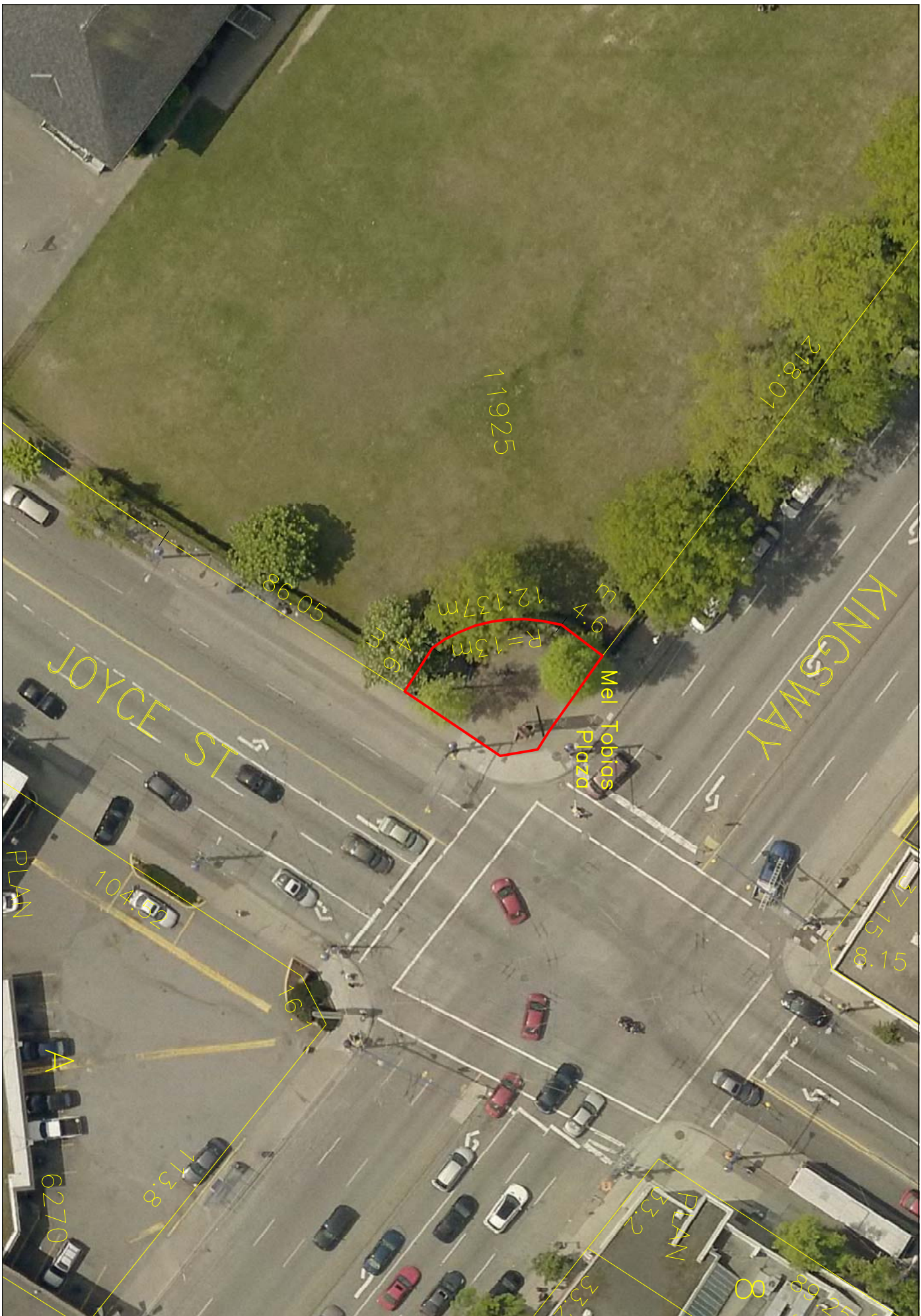


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Masumi Mitsui Greenway  
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Militant Mothers of Raymur Overpass

APPENDIX R

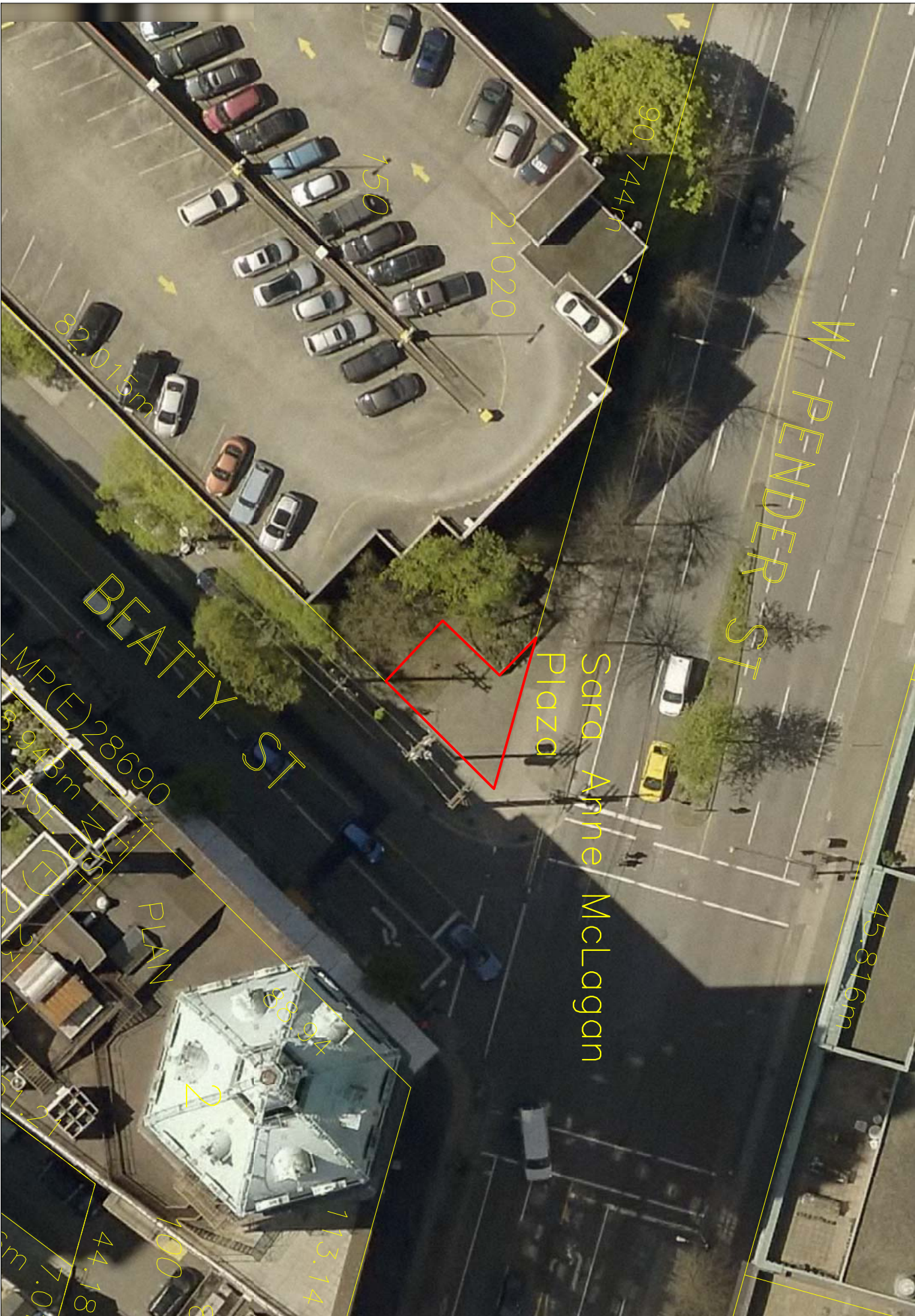
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Sara Anne McLagan Plaza  
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