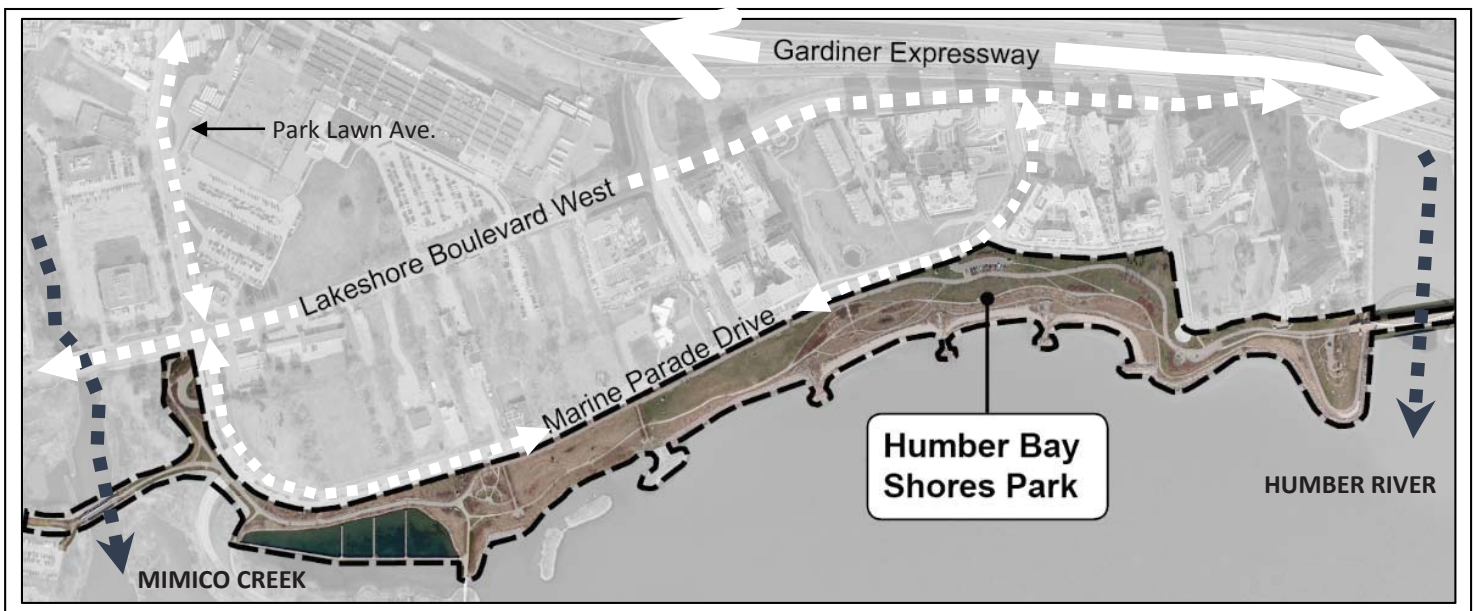


Humber Bay Shores Park Trail Improvements

Public Consultation Event

November 24th 2014

Summary Report



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Report Date:
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Overview

On Nov. 24th, 2014, LEES+Associates in partnership with the City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Cycling Infrastructure conducted a successful and well attended public consultation event for the Humber Bay Shores Park Trail Improvement project. Trail upgrades within Humber Bay Shores Park are needed to accommodate the increased popularity of this important waterfront park and trail system. As such, the goal of the public consultation event was to present a summary of the information and public feedback gathered on the project to date, to present results of site analysis, to collect additional public input, as well as inform and educate the public on the overall vision for the park and to present new ideas for trail improvements within the existing Humber Bay Shores Park framework.

The public consultation event showcased two proposed alternatives for upgrades of the trail system; Options A and B as well as on-street Cycling Infrastructure upgrades along Marine Parade Drive and Waterfront Drive. Each of the proposed design options showcased important improvements to trail safety and sight lines, changes to trail width and alignment, changes in trail materials, improvements to seating and views to the lake as well as an evaluation of existing lighting.

Public feedback regarding the proposed trail alternatives and on-street upgrades was solicited and collected via verbal conversations, Idea Rating Sheets and e-mail. This information has been documented and will be evaluated to develop criteria with which to develop the preferred trail improvement plan. It is understood by both LEES+Associates and the City of Toronto that considering all comments and feedback received by the participants and effectively addressing important issues raised to date will ensure the goals of the trail improvement project are achieved and well received by all trail and park users alike.

Public Communications

The following communications were used to advertise the public meeting:

E-mail Blast: November 7th, 2014

Live on Web Page: November 7th, 2014

Flyers: 9,873 Flyers sent on Nov. 10th, 2014
(via Canada Post Unaddressed Ad Mail).

At the informal public consultation event, staff and consultants were on site with display panels summarizing the site analysis and consultation completed to date, to gather further input from those in attendance.

Format

The public consultation event was conducted using an **Open House format complimented by Idea Rating Sheets**. Participants were invited to sign-in and review a series of panels that lined the walls of the room. Panel materials included:

- Existing Conditions;
- Site Analysis, and
- Summary and understanding of the issues and concerns expressed by Park and trail users to date.

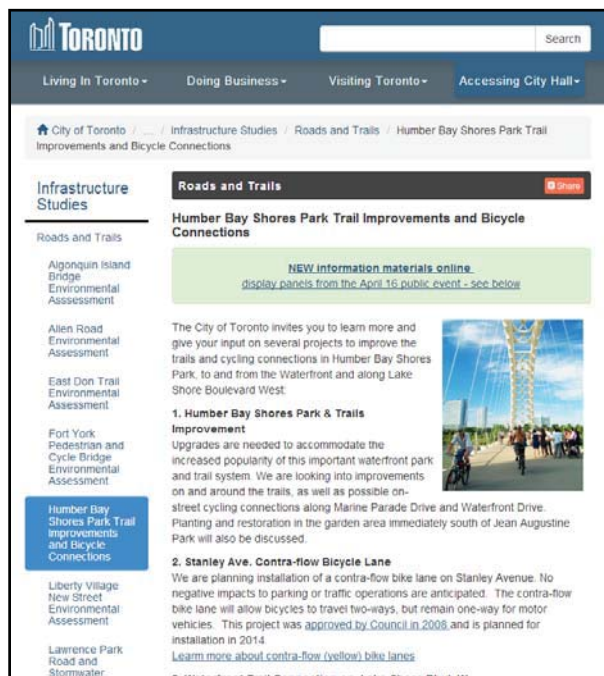
After reviewing all panels, participants were encouraged to review the two Trail Improvement Alternatives; Option A and Option B which were on display at the front of the room. Alternatives for the proposed improvements to the Stepped Planting Area were also on display for review and comment. Victoria Taylor, the Landscape Architect hired by the City to complete this work was available for detailed information on the proposed plans.

After viewing all panels, participants were encouraged to share their reactions to the plans and post their ideas + comments using Idea Rating Sheets on the tables at the centre of the room. The Idea Rating Sheets gave meeting participants the opportunity to share their reactions to the two concepts presented and/or to share new ideas relating the project. In either instance, the Idea Rating Sheets are designed to allow individuals to comment on (and/or “dot”) their level of agreement to others ideas, comments and/or opinions.

See www.ideaatingsheets.org for further explanation of the idea rating sheets process.

Materials shared at the public consultation event included:

- Two sets of Existing Conditions and Site Analysis display panels (16 in total);



- Two Trail Improvement Alternatives: Options A and B display panels with accompanying design standards and typical trail sections for the proposed trail improvements, and
- Idea Rating Sheets (Approximately 50 provided)
- Comments and Feedback forms for Options A and B. (Approximately 25 for each option)

Participation

Invitations to participate were sent via email and Canada Post to local area residents, key stakeholder contacts and park and trail users who had previously signed-up to the project mailing list. Staff from city divisions and partner organizations were also invited. The mailing list that was used was established through 2 previous public consultation events for the same project, as well as from recommendations by the Councillor's Office, the Consultation team and the Project Managers.

Over the course of the evening 85+ members of the public participated. Other Stakeholders invited included Staff from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the City of Toronto: Transportation - Cycling Infrastructure and Planning, Parks – Capital, Operations and Natural Environment, City Planning and Urban Design. Staff from City divisions who were unable to attend provided comment on the alternatives independent from the meeting.

Staff from the TTC were also invited but unable to attend. Participants were invited to sign-in as they entered the meeting, although it should be noted that not all participants signed in or declared their affiliation and or interest in the park.

A summary of participants is included as follows:

City of Toronto

- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Transportation Services - Cycling Infrastructure + Programs and Planning
- Parks – Capital Projects, Park Operations and Natural Environment
- Community Planning and Urban Design

Stakeholders, Businesses and Interest Groups:

- Canada Bikes
- Citizens Concerned about the Future of Etobicoke Waterfront
- Cycle Toronto
- Etobicoke South Cycling Committee
- Humber Bay Shores Condo Association
- Lakeshore Planning Council
- Waterfront Regeneration Trust
- Park and Trail users; pedestrians, cyclists



Idea Rating Sheets



In total, 29 Idea Rating Sheets were posted along with a few recorded verbal comments and over 25 follow-up e-mails received. All ideas submitted have been included in this report. Where Idea Rating Sheets included 5 or less dots, (6 sheets out of the 29), the idea shared has been included in the summary however the rating was considered 'not significant' and has not been included in

this summary. Most Idea Rating Sheets did include additional comments by fellow participants. A handful of Idea Rating Sheets included multiple ideas or were otherwise improperly filled out. In such cases, the ideas written have still been included and recorded.

The following is a summary of the key findings identified through the Idea Rating Sheets process, roughly prioritized by importance. (Interpreted by Chris McBride of LEES+Associates and discussed and confirmed with City of Toronto Staff).

All Idea Rating Sheets have been included in their entirety in the Appendices as PDF scans.

Summary of Key Findings Identified

Below is a summary of the key findings identified during the public consultation event:

- **Cycling is a viable commuter option; it contributes to improved air quality;**
- **Safe cycling lanes for bikes are requested, which would increase safety for both cyclists and pedestrians;**
- **Concerns about high speed cyclists; creating a safe and separated space for them to travel on;**
- **Concerns about responsible dog walking, using appropriate etiquette and leashes;**
- **Concerns about winter maintenance, request for the trail to be ploughed in the winter (especially for the trail west of Humber River Bridge);**
- **A request for more frequent and thorough garbage pick-up in the park;**
- **A space where people can be active and enjoy nature was requested;**
- **A request to keep in mind long term planning, specifically the demographic and population changes that will occur with increased development and density near the parks;**
- **A request to focus on maximizing the amount of open space and natural habitat in the park.**
- **Clear and effective signage was requested for both residents and tourists;**
- **A request for both benches and tables – places for sitting and resting;**
- **A strong request to separate the pedestrian and multi-use trails was noted, and**
- **A separated trail along the edge of the storm water pond would be safer for all trail users.**

LEES+Associates recommends that the listed summary items that fall within the scope of work for this project be addressed in follow-up communications to participants. Note: *Addressing an issue may mean changes to the design, or may only require an explanation of why an idea is not recommended, or simply provide further details on the subject in question.*

[illegible]

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