



Project: Under Gardiner

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting #3

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Location: Harbourfront Community Centre – 627 Queens Quay West, Toronto ON, M5V 3G3

DESIGN WORKSHOP

During the May 19, 2016, approximately 25 members of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee participated in 45-minute design workshop for Project: Under Gardiner. The purpose of the workshop was for members of the design team to engage directly with stakeholders, answer questions about the design, gather comments about the plans and facilitate problem-solving discussions for any issues that emerged.

TABLE #1 COMMENTS

- How do cyclists access the space under the Gardiner from Strachan?

From multiple routes. For example, going south through the park/parking lot will put you in front of the Strachan Gateway. Adam Nicklin marked out several routes on tracing paper in green. Other access points and connections were discussed. A bike path connection is planned for the intersection of Bathurst and Fort York Boulevard to be connected to the National Historic Site.

- Please extend the sidewalk along Lake Shore Boulevard north of the baseball diamonds.

Parks staff confirmed this is one of the plans they are working on.

- What does the skating space look like in the summer? It should be something interesting.

It will look like a path. [The plaza] can be flexible and used for different things.

- Could there be a crossing under the Strachan Bridge to improve connectivity [for cyclists]?
- How does the project/vision provide connections to Queens Quay?

Along the street that has the least distance from the Gardiner to Queens Quay, Dan Leckie Way, it is also an opportunity to connect to the largest park in the area [Canoe Landing].

Where are the service facilities / taxi stands, etc.? People don't want to park far from the skating area, for instance.

There could be drop-off areas close by and this way people will experience the space.

- How would those drop-off areas be regulated?

The demand is very high. The Bathurst study is looking at it, in addition to other long-term and short-term studies.

There may be some space along the north-side streets for pick-up and drop-off. There will also be a parking lot in front of the Fort York Visitor Centre, accessed from Fort York Boulevard, for when volumes are higher.

The Ward's Councillor also encouraged developments to have more parking spaces and that could be a way to resolve some of the drop-off issues. Some committee members speculated that there may be a way to convert some of that private parking to paid public parking, as a way for condominium boards to generate some revenue while also alleviating parking pressures.

- Four lights along Strachan in 250 metres is working, so we may need these pedestrian lights for better connectivity from the surrounding areas.
- Where is the playground for kids?

Someone mentioned that the Underpass Park playground is empty and mostly used for skateboarding.

- Library along Bathurst is like a focal point which connects to the Under Gardiner. It is a hub.
- We need playgrounds for kids.
- Water feature under the highway for kids.

What is missing in the area that you folks need?

- Space for kids!

TABLE #2 COMMENTS

- What about the stones [public art work] between lanuzzi & Bathurst?

We designed the path around them.

- It's a short distance between Fort York Boulevard and the new signalized crossing at Bathurst. There's already lots of traffic that backs up in that area. Signalling has been an issue.
- Where will the children play?

The lot west of Strachan.

Think of the playground at the Brickworks or the adventure playground at High Park.

- A shared trail could be risky.
- Look at Atlanta's Beltline Trail. Lots of conflict between cyclists and pedestrians.

This is a different idea than Queens Quay, which attempts to segregate users. The Under Gardiner trail will be shared the whole way through.

- The three boulders offer a warning.
- Need to ensure historical references made through art are accurate
- Don't forget about the history of the Gardiner
- The Gardiner is the principal heritage structure on the waterfront.
- Is there any opportunity to coordinate with the TTC to rehab the TTC loop at Spadina?
- The western portion of the Under Gardiner was part of the 'Military Precinct'
- Create a 'map' you could essentially walk through of the historic area, with buildings you could sit on.
- What about security?
- How do we ensure eyes on the trail?

- An additional challenge in the interface with ordinary city functions / actions:
 - o i.e. highway traffic barrier that exist near Dan Leckie Way – avoid this!
 - o We should try to anticipate these points of conflict, with normal regulatory demands and defeat them.

TABLE #3 COMMENTS

Bathurst crossing → important to maintain views to the lake down Bathurst

- Concern re: TTC and closeness between signals at Fort York Boulevard and Bathurst crossing.

Question about the cost of the bridge related to overall \$25 million donation

- Lauren says bridge is estimated at cost of \$4 to \$5 million

Are there any provisions / considerations in the design for possible future removal of the Gardiner?

General feeling that phase one is moving in the right direction.

- Important to include elements related to unlocking programming space.

Again, comment about ensuring that we are thinking about dogs, including the materials that are used in the projects. [Reference to earlier discussion about materials being corroded by dog urine – need to avoid this.]

Need to focus on the Bathurst crossing and ensuring continuity and safety.

Interest in the idea of designing the skating trail so that it could also accommodate curling.

Importance to get lighting right initially, in order to make the space feel warm and inviting

Importance of leaving some unprogrammed flat surfaces for more spontaneous activity.