

The Great Blue Heron Way



**Elder x^wasteniya (Ruth Mary Adams)
Tsawwassen First Nation**

A Great Blue Heron Way team presentation

GBHW logo created by Tsawwassen First Nation artist x^wastenaxan (Karl Morgan)



Great Blue Heron Way

October 9 Meeting with — Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

Great Blue Heron Way (GBHW) team:

Elder Ruth Adams, Tsawwassen First Nation, GBHW Team Lead; Sandra Jones, GBHW Communications;
Roel Schootman, Chair, HUB Cycling Tsawwassen Delta GBHW sub-committee; Léon Lebrun, Trails BC

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority:

Evangeline Englezos, director, community and government relations; Naomi Horsford, manager,
municipal and stakeholder relations; Tanya Hawke, communications outreach advisor

Agenda

- Vision
- Project overview
- Barrier at the Deltaport Transportation Corridor
- Potential options to restore access for continuous travel along Salish Sea trails



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VISION STATEMENT



“Recognition and acknowledgement of First Nation Traditional Territories is sacred to the Ancestors and youth today. The Great Blue Heron Way honours the people and their land past and present. By presenting these important landmarks for the history of Canada.

The Great Blue Heron Way is a journey where people can safely enjoy the nature of lands and waters. The spirit of this path connects the people along the way, where friendships can grow naturally.

The Great Blue Heron Way is the vision of Respected Tsawwassen Elder x^wasteniya (Ruth Mary Adams). There are many hardworking friends who believe in this spiritual path that honours traditional territories and their people, past and present.

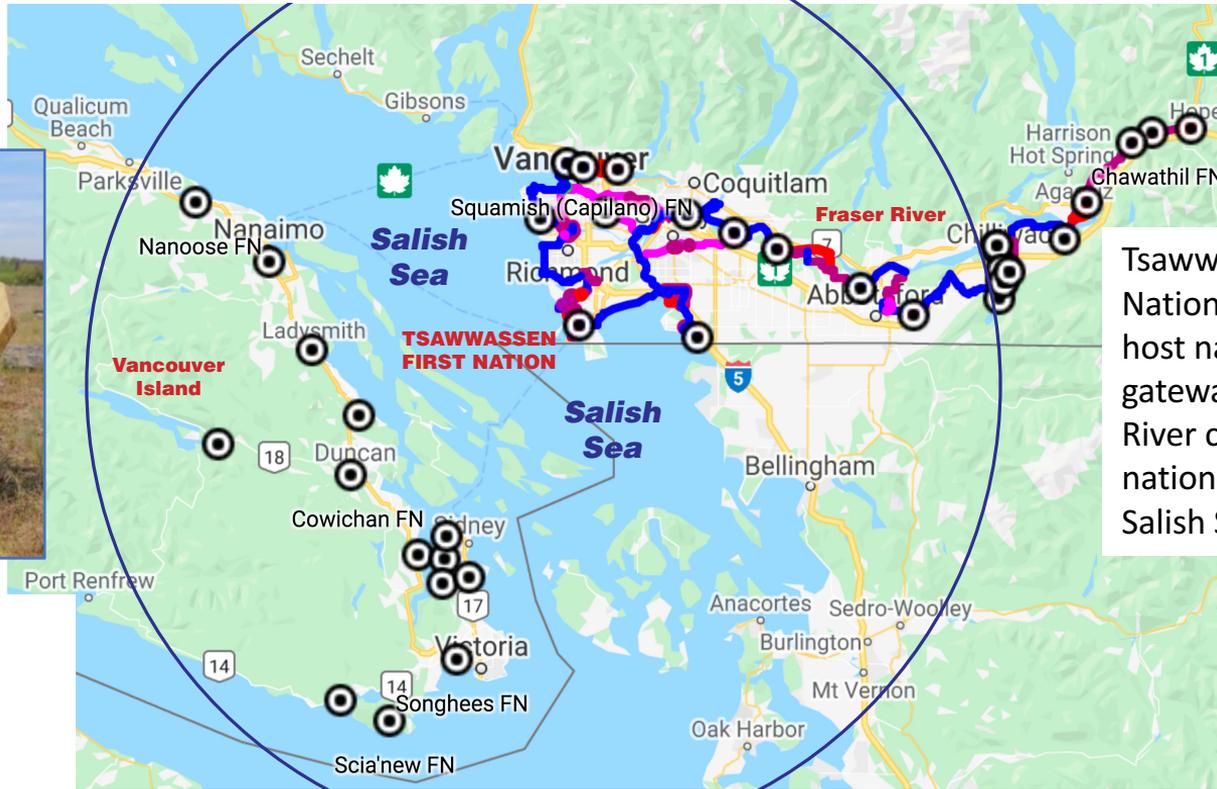
The Great Blue Heron Way honours the traditional territories of the Tsawwassen First Nation people. The path will honour each and every traditional territory that it connects with along the way.”



Great Blue Heron Way



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Tsawwassen First Nation is the GBHW host nation – at the gateway of the Fraser River connecting first nations around the Salish Sea.



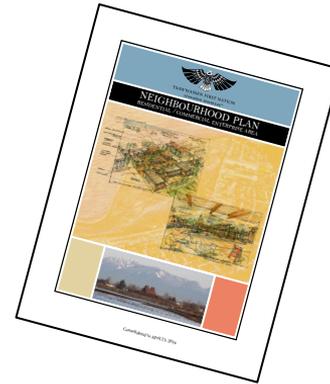
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Supporting partners of the Great Blue Heron Way (GBHW) 2007 – 2020:

BC Cycling Coalition; B.E.S.T.; Safe Route Tsawwassen; FVRL; BC Ferries; Trails BC / The Great Trail; Experience The Fraser; Arbutus Greenway Improvement Society; Fraser Health; City of Delta; MP Carla Qualtrough; HUB Cycling and the local HUB Cycling Tsawwassen Delta committee; Metro Vancouver.

TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
(2016. Consolidated to April 23, 2019)

- "... a clear welcoming path for **travellers** and **commuters**. The Great Blue Heron Way will connect and be a signed route for all connected routes on Vancouver Island and the mainland".



Great Blue Heron Way

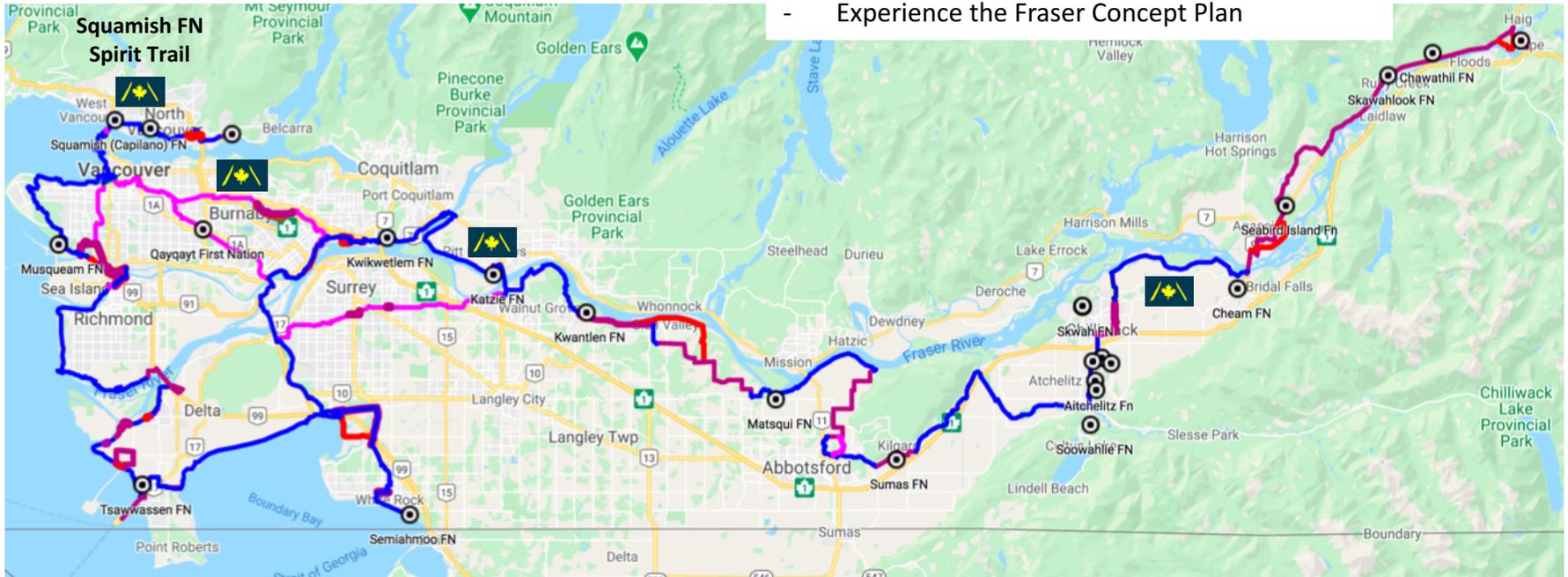
REGIONAL TRAIL ROUTE INTEGRATION

Map provided by Trails BC.

The Great Blue Heron Way is a Trails BC Project.

GBHW follows and connects with:

- The Great Trail (Trans Canada Trail) 
- US Coast Millennium Trail at Peace Arch
- Vancouver Island trails
- Metro Vancouver Greenways Plan
- Experience the Fraser Concept Plan



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ROUTE GAP

BARRIER Deltaport Highway Transportation Corridor
(rail and highway to the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Delta Port).



North of Deltaport Way on
Brunswick Point Trail



South of Deltaport Way on
TFN Breakwater Path



Great Blue Heron Way

The TFN Dock on Canoe Pass is not accessible to walkers from TFN. The communities of Ladner and Tsawwassen no longer have a safe multi-use path link.

A portion of the GBHW was opened in 2016 — the **Tsawwassen**

First Nation Breakwater Multi-use Path Project.

With funds from:
Bike BC - BC Government,
TransLink, TFN and Aquilini.

A complete trail could be restored.

Delta Routes Map, 2020



Great Blue Heron Way

ROUTE GAP

Barrier: Deltaport Highway Transportation Corridor

Cross-rail access for pedestrians and cyclists underneath the Deltaport Way overpass was stopped in 2016. No alternative has been provided. An indigenous trail between TFN lands on the Salish Sea and Canoe Pass at the mouth of the Fraser River could be restored. The use of an all-ages, naturally scenic, trail for recreation, BC Ferries users, commuters and tourists would be a valuable asset.



The best scenario solution — a cycling and pedestrian overpass on Salish Sea at port causeway re-connecting the Brunswick Point Trail and Breakwater Pathway Trail.

FEDERAL REVIEW PANEL REPORT FOR THE ROBERTS BANK TERMINAL 2 PROJECT, March 27 2020



- cites the vision and purpose of the Great Blue Heron Way
- Supports the need for a pedestrian and cycling overpass at the Deltaport Way causeway.
- A 2019 survey noted average summer and winter daily use numbers of people: Brunswick Dike trail; 78-100 people. TFN Outer dike; 56 people. (Active travel in 2020 has increased substantially. The City of Delta has had to provide extra parking and parking enforcement on River Road West for trailhead users, and cyclists parking at Deas Island Regional Park to cycle west along The Millennium Trail, river and Salish Sea shore has also increased).



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2. INTERIM SOLUTION FOR CYCLISTS. Ditch crossing from Brunswick Point dike at 34 St, 33A Ave, 41 B St and overpass, 27B Ave. Not suitable for walkers due to length (an extra 4.7 km). Easy addition for cyclists if small bridge built across ditch at 34 St / dike.



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3. PREFERRED INTERIM SOLUTION Use of substation dike access road (by 'barrier gate'), Deltaport Way service road, Deltaport Way overpass (to utilize an already-built structure across the rail lines) Total 1.3 km detour for cyclists and pedestrians.



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MAP of PREFERRED INTERIM SOLUTION Option 3. Use of Deltaport Way service road and Deltaport Way overpass. This map is for illustrative purposes only.



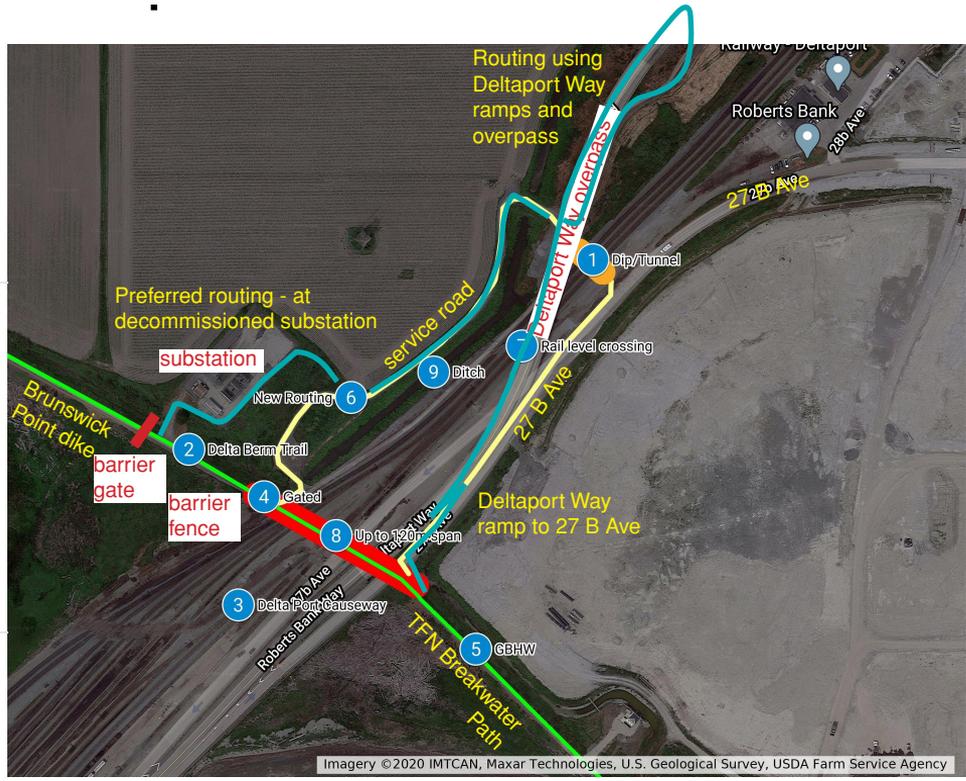
Alternative route



Trail route blocked by Delta Port

Labels

- 1 Dip/Tunnel
- 2 Delta Berm Trail
- 3 Delta Port Causeway
- 4 Gated
- 5 GBHW
- 6 New Routing
- 7 Rail level crossing
- 8 Up to 120m span
- 9 Ditch



Imagery © 2020 IMTCAN, Maxar Technologies, U.S. Geological Survey, USDA Farm Service Agency



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4. Another alternative. Use of substation dike access road, service road, Deltaport Way right-of-way, 41B St overpass and 27B Ave. (The substation can be seen in top left corner of picture on the left).



Deltaport Way looking west – service road goes under the Deltaport Way overpass



27 B Avenue at 41B St light



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2019 and 2020 team activities (detail):

- BC Active Transportation Summit, June 2019. The Great Blue Heron Way (GBHW) was a feature presentation, part of the 'Inclusive Active Transportation & Cities' panel. The summit launched the BC Active Transportation Plan and public campaign slogan “Move. Commute. Connect”.
- City of Delta Community Liveability Advisory Committee (presentation with endorsed motions of support, July 2019)
- GBHW planning meetings (August 2019 at Tsawwassen Mills and December 2019 at TFN Lands Office with TFN Lands staff)
- Tsawwassen First Nation Chief and Executive Council (endorsement for GBHW education and wayfinding signage, March 2020)
- HUB Cycling - tour of Tsawwassen and Ladner GBHW routes with local and regional trail representatives (permission granted to be on TFN lands during Covid 19 closure, June 2020)
- BC Ministry Transportation Active Transportation Team, June 16, 2020
- Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's Land Use Plan update open house webinar August 12, 2020
- Metro Vancouver Greenways Plan consultation, summer /fall 2020
- Squamish First Nation and Coquitlam First Nation consultation, summer / fall 2020



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Thank you!

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Roel Schootman, Chair, HUB Cycling Tsawwassen Delta GBHW sub-committee
Léon Lebrun, Trails BC
Sandra Jones, GBHW Communications

