

Great Blue Heron Way – Team Update Report
February 27, 2020



Graphic by Artist X^westenexan (Karl Morgan)

Prepared for March 3, 2020 meeting with:

**Tsawwassen First Nation
Chief Ken Baird and Executive Council**

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Prepared for meeting with TFN Chief and Executive March 3, 2020

It is an honour to receive an invitation to present to Chief Ken Baird and the TFN Executive Council. The Tsawwassen First Nation hosts the Great Blue Heron Way (GBHW), a pathway vision of Elder Ruth Adams that connects First Nations around the Salish Sea and along the Fraser River encompassing the Sto:lo nations. (For our GBHW team reading this report, *Stó:lō* is the Halqemeylem word for "river").

The Great Blue Heron Way is a visionary reconciliation path to welcome all peoples, young and old, to experience nature in an active, healthy way. This is a spiritual pathway, with the opportunity to educate on indigenous culture and environmental stewardship practiced for thousands of years.

Elder Ruth has received a genuine welcome at various presentation opportunities, and serious deliberation for the Great Blue Heron Way to go forward. The partnership of the Great Blue Heron Way team, led by Elder Ruth Adams, helps educate and share the pathway vision. That GBHW team currently includes; Tsawwassen First Nation, HUB Cycling, Arbutus Greenway Improvements Society and Trails BC - the BC representative organization for Trans Canada Trail.

Over the years since 2007, liaison on different aspects along the path of the visionary Great Blue Heron Way has taken place with; BC Ferries, BC Cycling Coalition, TransLink, City of Delta Councillors and staff, Provincial and Federal politicians and staff, Fraser Health, Safe Route Tsawwassen, B.E.S.T., Fraser Valley Regional Library and Experience the Fraser. The different aspects of engagement with different partners can be for broad ideas — regarding, education, outreach and economic potential, as well as site-specific ideas — related to providing barrier-free, safe off-road active travel.

Tsawwassen First Nation helped set the standard for off-road active travel infrastructure with the opening of the new multi-use path and boardwalk in 2016, with the potential to link BC Ferries at Highway 17 with Tsawwassen First Nation Village. BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (Bike BC), TransLink, and Aquilini were funding partners. Following this, once Elder Ruth's health was restored, the Great Blue Heron Way team started to meet again and during 2019 have held regular meetings. Elder Ruth has made important presentations that have garnered significant support. Team meetings, presentations and partner outreach, are listed further on in this report on Page 6.

The host of the Great Blue Heron Way is Tsawwassen First Nation and the natural focus has been in developing the coastal mainland pathway along the Salish Sea. The development vision is to connect the Squamish Nation Spirit Trail and Trans Canada Trail on the north shore, with the new Trans Canada Trail (TCT) southern spur. This TCT south spur travels along the Boundary Bay Regional Park dike to the Tsawwassen BC Ferry Terminal via the boardwalk and breakwater path at Tsawwassen First Nation. The GBHW vision continues south via Semiahmoo First Nation. A mainland pathways map is on page 3.

It was exciting to learn, at our December 10, 2019 team meeting from TFN senior planner Rasika Achara, that a Place-Making and Way-finding project is underway at Tsawwassen First Nation and signage the GBHW team has developed may be part of this. Discussions at the December meeting cemented approval of the artwork, and discussion regarding placement, structure design, the use of reflective paint on the artwork and way-finding to keep pedestrians and cyclists safe, also took place.

The path marker sign and welcome storyboard sign highlight Karl Morgan's original heron artwork and the Tsawwassen language, compiled with the help of Jesseca Adams. The sign examples are presented on Pages 4 and 5. An Addendum of accompanying documents is at page 8.



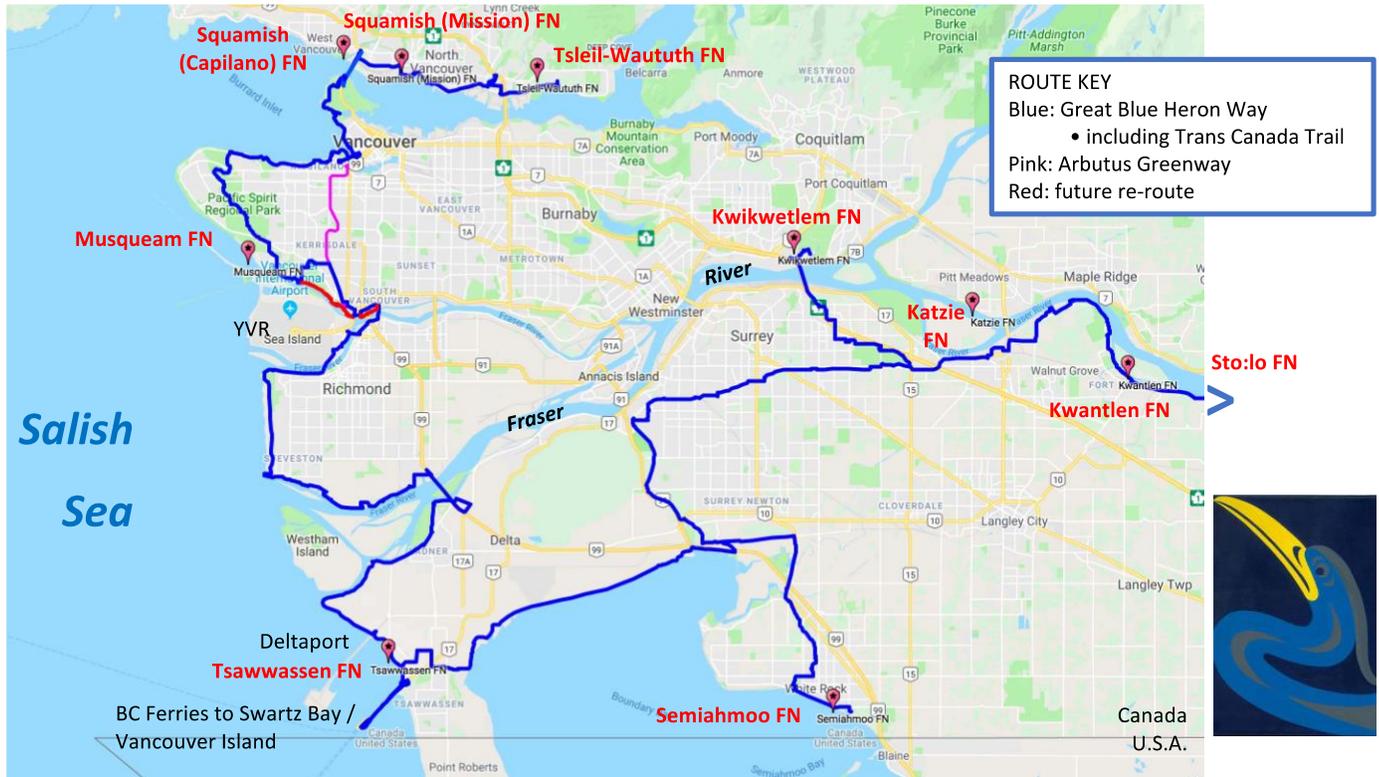
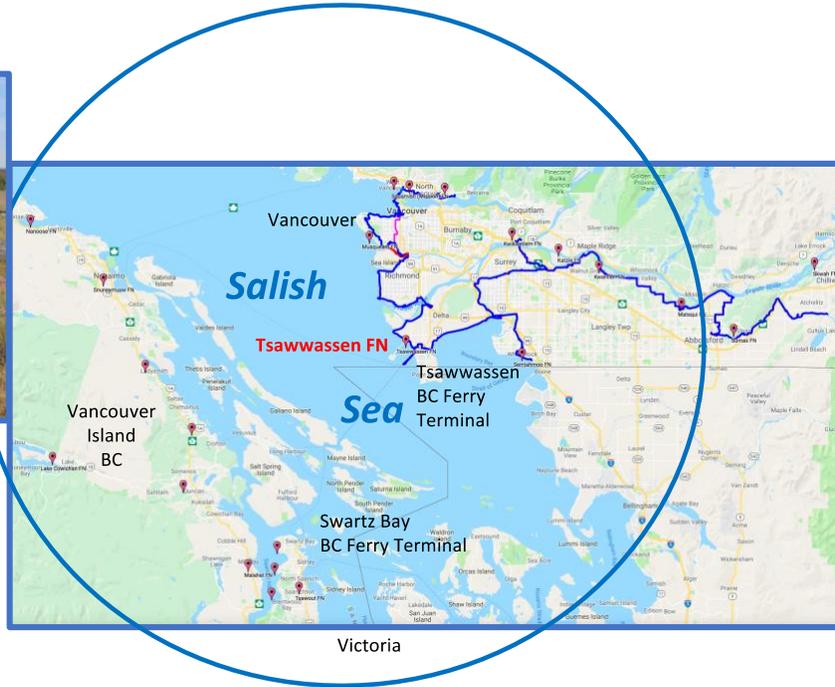
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The following maps show 1. the visionary connection of First Nations around the Salish Sea with a Valley pathway stretching into the BC interior, and 2. Lower Mainland detail.

Great Blue Heron Way



Elder xʷasteniya
 (Ruth Mary Adams)
 Tsawwassen
 First Nation



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The following photos depict the Great Blue Heron Way path, either side of the Roberts Bank causeway.



Breakwater path at Tsawwassen First Nation.



Dike path north of Deltaport near 34 St. looking towards the Deltaport rail lines.

Two signs have been prepared, with artwork by Karl Morgan and storyboard text by Elder Ruth Adams.



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Graphic by Artist X^wastanaxen (Karl Morgan)

mi ce:p k^wetx^wilem ʔəλ sməq^waʔ xeł

Welcome to the Great Blue Heron Way

Tsawwassen First Nation was a host nation to other nations travelling back and forth between Vancouver Island and the mountains where the sasquatch roamed. Now Tsawwassen is host to the BC Ferries, the Delta Vancouver Port and the Tsawwassen Mills / Commons shopping malls.

On the Salish Sea shore the Great Blue Herons live with the Tsawwassen people, and their presence is a link along this path to others. Welcome to all those friends who have helped in this journey, and welcome to everyone to share in this spiritual path now and in the future.

Elder X^wasteniya (Ruth Mary Adams)



(Welcome sign size: 17" wide x 22" tall)

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The following is a list of recent meetings, presentations and outreach. Detail meeting notes and other supporting documents are found on the HUB Cycling Tsawwassen Delta wiki, here:

[Great Blue Heron Way sub-committee](#)

Great Blue Heron Way (GBHW) team meetings took place:

- February 5, 2019 at Tsawwassen Mills
- August 13, 2019 at Ladner Pioneer Library
- December 10, 2019 at Tsawwassen First Nations Lands Department Office

GBHW Team update with Chief Ken Baird took place:

- August 15, 2019

Recent presentations include:

- June 2019, BC Active Transportation Summit
 - Elder Ruth was invited by the BC Cycling Coalition to be a feature presenter, with great success
 - The summit was funded by the BC Ministry of Transportation and TransLink
 - Minister Trevena launched the 'Clean BC : Move Commute Connect, BC's Active Transportation Strategy' at this summit
 - Significant connections were made with ministry and organization representatives.
- July 2019, City of Delta Community Liveability Advisory Committee
 - Elder Ruth spoke to the Great Blue Heron Way agenda item
 - A support motion was passed unanimously

Outreach by Elder Ruth and / or individual team members:

- HUB Cycling
 - A standard agenda item at meetings
 -
- MP Carla Qualtrough
- April 2019, BC Minister Claire Trevena.
 - Correspondence as part of a public consultation process on Active Transportation.
 -
- Organizations working with BC Trails
- The Vancouver Port Authority
 - The local Port Community Liaison Office
 - November, 2019. Correspondence as part of public consultation processes, to restore safe access across the rail tracks at the Roberts Bank causeway. (see Addendum).
- MLA Ian Paton and MLA Ravi Kahlon. Planned.



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Team members look for reference ideas. Here are some from the Spirit Trail at Squamish First Nation, a trail that Elder Ruth played an advisory role for, facilitating community connections.



New rail crossing for the Spirit Trail multiuse path.



Spirit Trail Gateway



Way-finding

Great Blue Heron Way (GBHW) team representatives look forward to our meeting the Executive Council on March 3, 2020. With thanks, the Great Blue Heron Way team.

- Elder Ruth Adams, TFN
- Karl Morgan, TFN
- Carol Vignale, HUB Cycling Tsawwassen Delta
- David Grigg and Ruth Grigg, Arbutus Greenway Improvements Society
- Léon LeBrun, Trails BC / Trans Canada Trail
- Sandra Jones, GBHW team resource support, HUB Cycling Tsawwassen Delta

Regards: [HUB Cycling](#) Tsawwassen Delta —
Roel Schootman, GBHW Team Sub-Committee Chair, and Neil Pope, Chair



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Addendum

Great Blue Heron Way Vision. By Elder Ruth Adams, TFN.

Illustrated map, TFN to Canoe Pass.

Port of Vancouver Land Use Plan Open House 27 / 11/ 2019.

Submission on the rail crossing barrier at DeltaPort by David Grigg, P.Eng.

Sign structure materials / design idea.



The Great Blue Heron Way

Recognition and acknowledgment of First Nation Traditional Territories is sacred to the Ancestors and the youth of today. The Great Blue Heron Way honours the people and their land past and present. By presenting these important land marks for the history of Canada. The Great Blue Heron Way is a journey where people can safely enjoy the nature of the 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^wəsteniya (Ruth Mary Adams). There are many hard working 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 territory of the Tsawwassen First Nation people. The path will honour each and every traditional territory that it connects with along the way.

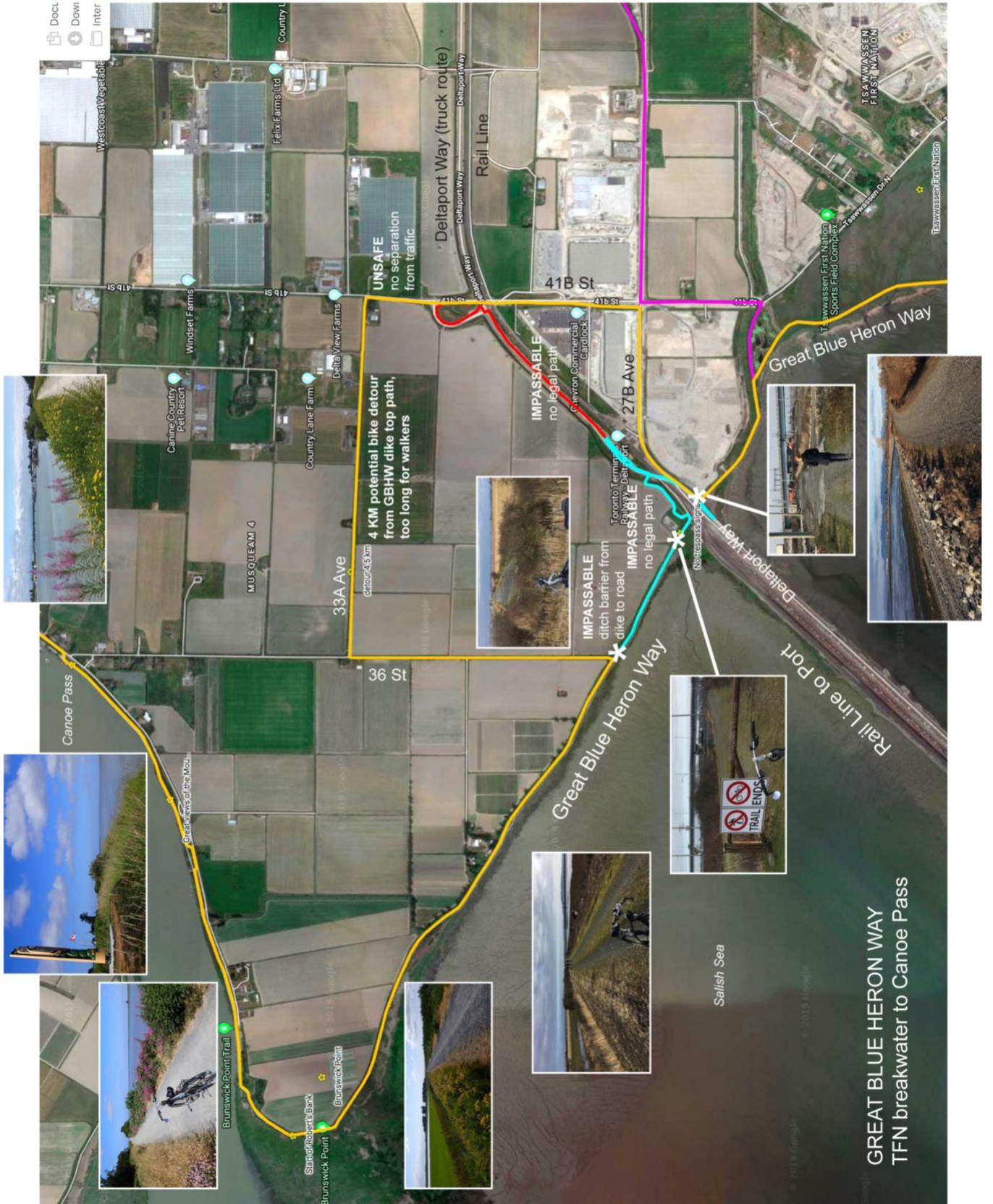


Written By: Tsawwassen
Elder x^wəsteniya
(Ruth Mary Adams)



GBHW Graphic by TFN Artist x^wəstenəxən
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GREAT BLUE HERON WAY
 TFN breakwater to Canoe Pass

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<  I attended the Open House on the 27th of November 2019 and spoke with Mr Ken Berglund and Mr Chris Bishop about the port's land-use plan.

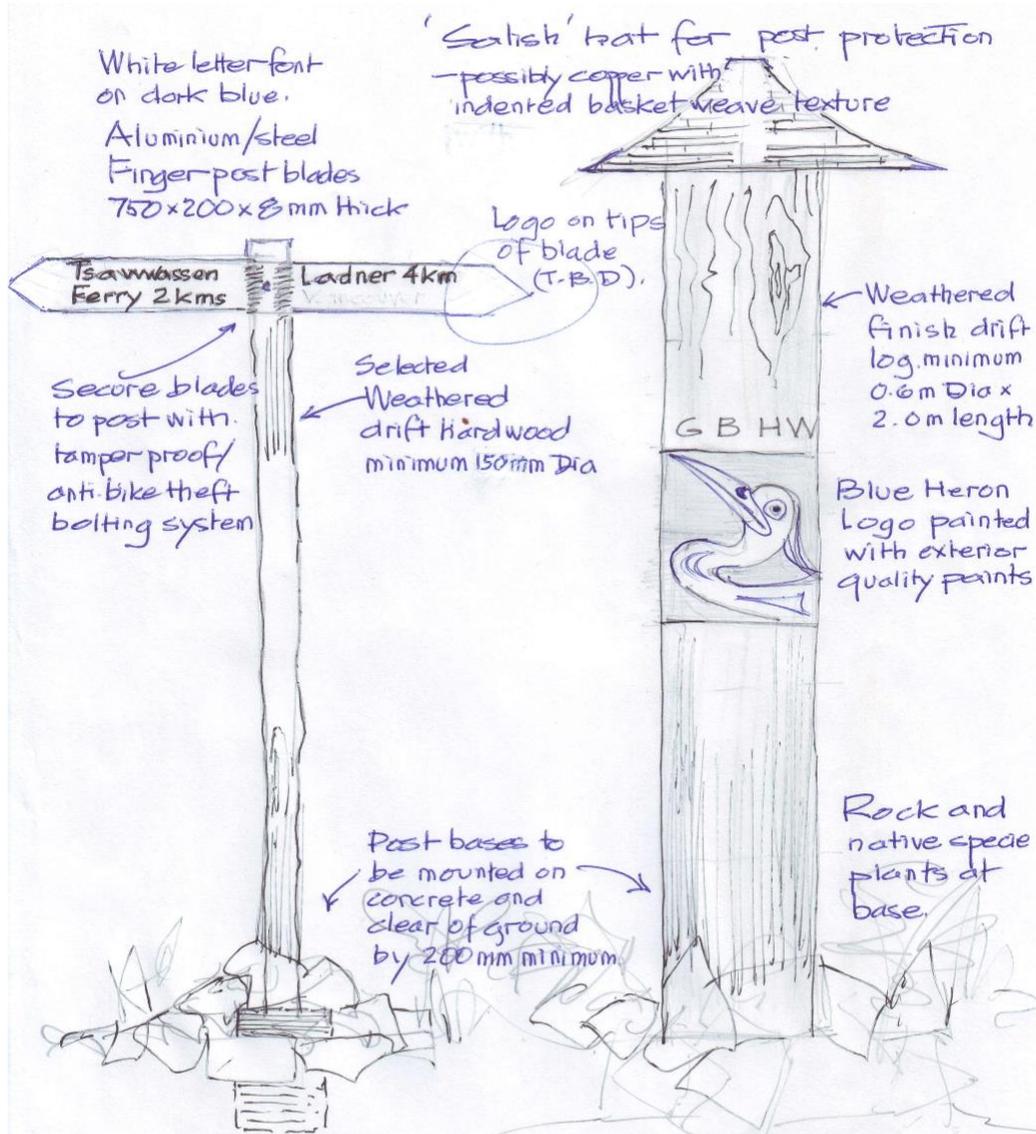
My main concern was about the closure of the shoreline trail at the Roberts Bank rail and road access causeway. This shoreline trail had long been a traditional walking path for the Tsawwassen First Nations people to the Fraser South Arm at Canoe Pass. Until very recently the public was also allowed access to the shoreline trail connecting Highway 17B and Ferry terminal with Ladner. The trail has been given the name of the Great Blue Heron Way by Elder Ruth Adams and approved by the Tsawwassen peoples. The trail's purpose is to physically and spiritually reconcile the First Nations - Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen, Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil Waututh) along the route, from the Peace Arch to the North Shore, with their compatriot bands as well as engage with the adjacent communities. The trail is recognised as a subset of the Great Trail formerly called the Trans Canada Trail. The trail is now over 60% complete along its projected length of 80 km. The severing of the trail at the causeway shoreline, by fencing, has disastrously impacted free access north and south. The only current alternative is a very noisy and somewhat dangerous 4 km detour to the east on commercially trafficked roads lacking sidewalks or bike lanes.

I would be pleased to provide photographic evidence if the staff or Board of Directors require clarification (this feedback format doesn't appear to allow me to do so).

I would also appreciate a response so that I may report back to the Great Blue Hereon Way group- possibly highlighting the Port's plan to permanently mitigate the impact of the abrupt closure.

David Grigg (David Grigg)

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NOTES Suggestions and considerations:

1. A material mix that reflects the semi-rural marine environment context and TFN culture.
2. Artwork should be entirely directed by Karl Morgan and display the Great Blue Heron Logo; the hat may not be the choice for TFN.
3. Durability is very important. In a marine (unprotected environment) wood needs to be weathered, protected from rain ingress at the top and encased in concrete at the base clear above grade.
4. Signage blades should be metal to prevent vandalism damage and secured by clamping with tamper proof screws.
5. Lettering/script should be high contrast with base colour such as black on white for visibility at low light levels (no street lamps), Ideally font and colour should be somewhat consistent with signage used throughout the adjacent housing and Tsawwassen Mills.
6. The Great Blue Heron logo may incorporate reflective paint.