

27 April 2023

Dear Mayor and Council;

We are writing to you to express our concern about active transportation routes to the new Temesewtxw aquatic center.

We provided feedback regarding access and site amenities for people walking and cycling during the consultation process in 2019, and, now that the building is starting to take shape, we are watching to see how the landscaping unfolds.

It is very difficult to find out what the plans are for the site layout, but we managed to find the attached drawing in one of the reports to council; again, dated 2019. Current construction appears to be following this plan, so we presume it to be accurate.

We'd like to make the following observations; please refer to the images.

1. We applaud the improved sightlines to the Central Valley Greenway (green arrow on the diagram). It is now a "straight shot" to the bridge from the crossing at Cumberland. It is impossible to tell from this diagram what the design of the Greenway is, but we assume that it is a multi-use path that is separated from traffic.
2. It appears from the diagram that access for pedestrians from E6th (155 and community shuttle transit route) is excellent, and we are happy to see this. However, passengers of the 128 bus route bound for the facility currently walk through the Justice Institute parking lot from 8<sup>th</sup> Ave and pass through to the grounds via a small, gated access road that is difficult to make out on this diagram. We hope this *desire line* (blue arrow) will still exist in the new configuration. The access to the Justice Institute should not be fenced off to people walking and cycling.
3. We note that there is a new "auxiliary" parking lot located north of the Greenway, and that there are 3 access routes to this lot which cross the Greenway (red circles). These crossings are dangerous for Greenway users. We suggest the following:
  - a. The lot be used for overflow parking only, and fenced off with gates which are opened only when required. The default should be that it is not used. The lot, when not required for overflow parking, could be used as sports courts – basketball, hockey, etc. – and provided with appropriate paint/infrastructure.

b. The Greenway pavement should be continuous and raised, so that the cars must cross the sidewalk. This gives clear priority to the Greenway users, and is a standard Vision Zero design – see photo.

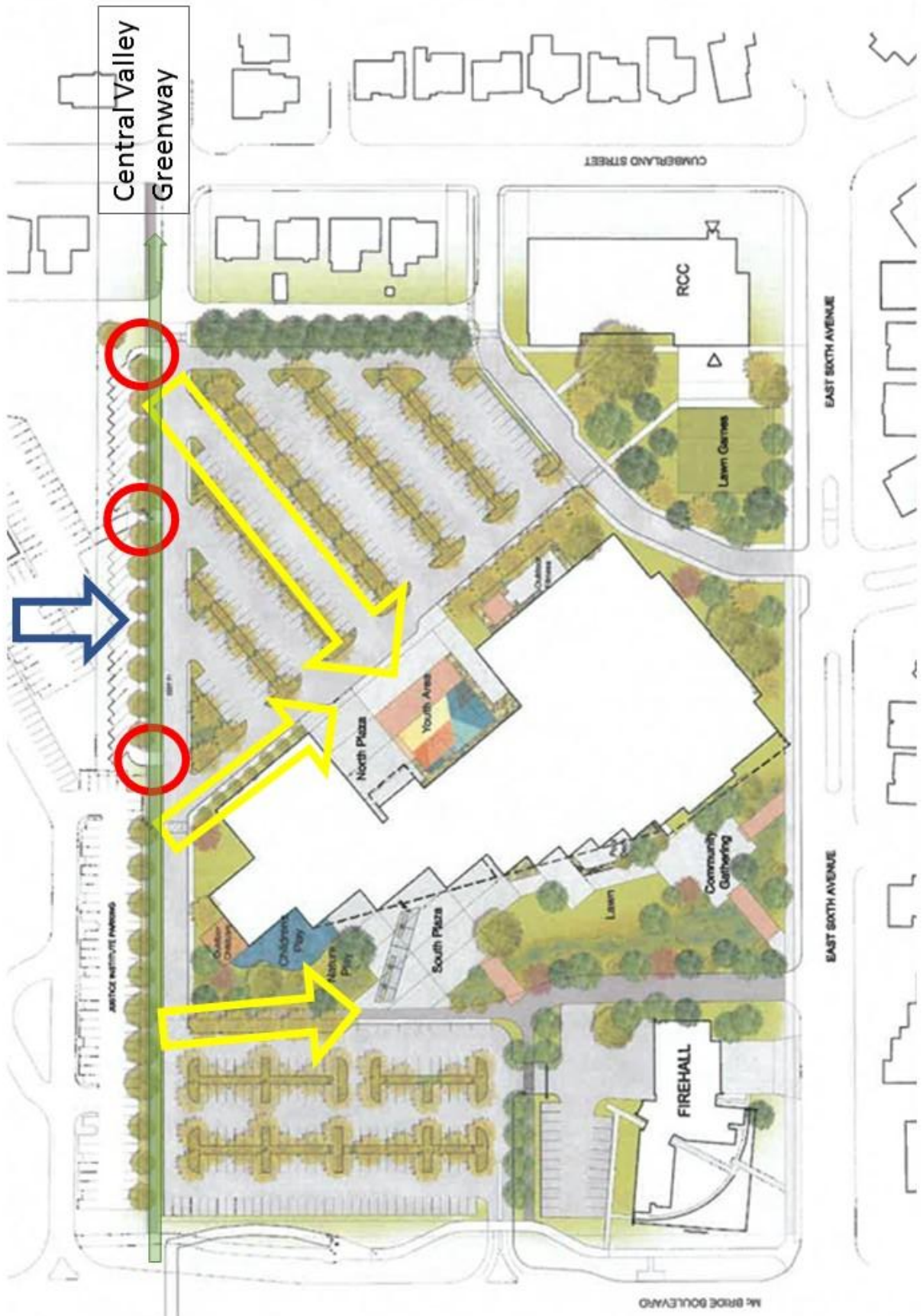
4. Additional bike and walkways should be designed into the parking lot, so that active transportation users can safely get to the Aquatic Center with minimal interaction with cars. The yellow arrows indicate the direct routes that Greenway users will take to the entrances of the Center, and these routes should be multi-use paths: wide, separated from traffic, and as direct as possible. The routes should be well-lit, with lights *below* the tree canopy to prevent excessive shadowing. While one access route (the middle yellow arrow) seems to have been planned, the others are missing. There should be covered bicycle racks at every entrance, with appropriate direct access provided.

With this new facility, we'd like to see active transportation be treated as high priority to reflect City policy. In order for us to meet the City's climate and equity goals, we need to be thinking about what the future will be like, and design land use appropriately. We expect far more people will be using active transportation in the future, so let's establish active user-friendliness now instead of having to adapt subpar infrastructure later. Ideally, the design should encourage visitors to arrive sustainably, by showcasing attractive, safe and convenient walking and biking facilities, and should de-emphasize unsustainable modes of transportation.

We look forward to your response to these issues.

New Westminster Walkers' Caucus

HUB Cycling New Westminster Local Committee



Central Valley  
Greenway

CUMBERLAND STREET

RCC

Lawn Games

EAST SIXTH AVENUE

North Plaza

Youth Area

Children's Play

Community Gathering

Lawn

FIREHALL

South Plaza

EAST SIXTH AVENUE

JUNIOR RECREATION CENTER

M. BRIDE BOULEVARD



Raised greenway design