



The Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project

Detailed Design Consultation Summary Report

Pinecrest Estates/Black Tusk Village

July 27, 2007

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1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.1 Project Scope

The Sea-to-Sky Highway links communities from West Vancouver to Whistler. With its spectacular mountain landscape, the highway presents complex engineering and construction challenges.

British Columbia's Ministry of Transportation is undertaking improvements to the highway between West Vancouver and Whistler to improve its safety, reliability and capacity. By 2009, extensive improvements will make travel along the corridor safer for residents, commuters and tourists. To be completed before the Olympics, the highway improvements will serve population growth and economic development in the corridor as demand increases for resident and visitor travel, as well as goods movement.

Improvements will include highway widening and straightening, improved sightlines, passing lanes and other design innovations to reduce hazards, shorten travel times and increase capacity of the Sea-to-Sky Highway.

The Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project will result in the following:

- **West Vancouver to Lions Bay** – 4-lane sections with continuous median barrier including straightening, widening and improved sightlines (eliminating several sharp curves).
- **North of Lions Bay to Murrin Park** – 2, 3 and 4-lane sections; about half of this section includes improved 2 lanes, and the remaining sections include additional passing opportunities with 3 and 4 lanes. Those sections that are 4 lanes will include a median barrier to prevent crossover accidents. Sections adjacent to Murrin Park and within the community of Britannia Beach will include improved 2-lane sections, which is consistent with community input from pre-design consultations. In Furry Creek, there will be 3 lanes moving to 4 lanes with a median barrier.
- **North of Murrin Park through Squamish** – 4-lane divided highway. This section will include median barriers throughout, including the addition of urban design features to the median within Squamish.
- **Squamish to Whistler** – 3 lanes throughout this section, including improved 2-lane sections and alternating passing opportunities provided by alternating the third lane.

1.2 Project Goals

The **primary goals** for the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project include:

- Safety improvements
- Reliability improvements
- Capacity improvements
- Project completion by late 2009
- Management of traffic flows during construction in order to minimize disruption and maximize predictability
- Completion of the project on time and on budget

1.3 Community Consultation

The Ministry of Transportation (MoT) has consulted about the scope and nature of highway improvements since 2002 with communities, businesses and residents along the corridor. Residents and community stakeholders have participated in hundreds of meetings. The design stages include:

1. Project Definition Consultation
(completed 2002–2003)
2. Pre-Design Consultation
(completed 2003–2005)
3. Preliminary Design Consultation
(completed 2005–2006)
4. Detailed Design Consultation
(February–October 2007)

The Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project maintains a community relations program to provide ongoing communications about construction activities, as well as current construction delays and highway closures updates.

The S2S Transportation Group is the contractor responsible for designing, building, operating and maintaining the Sea-to-Sky Highway. A key outcome of detailed design consultation is practical feedback on detailed design features for consideration by the Ministry of Transportation and the S2S Transportation Group, prior to completion of improvements in each section.

Detailed design consultation generally involves the discussion of fewer but very specific treatments related to the final design improvements, including such things as specific traffic calming and noise reduction features, shape and texture of gateway signage, detailed landscaping, lighting and other aesthetic treatments.



1.4 Traffic Management

A key goal of the **Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project** is to manage traffic flows during construction in order to minimize disruption and maximize predictability for travellers. Highway closures will be implemented at set times and publicized well in advance.

To plan ahead for a safe trip, call **1-877-4SAFE99 (1-877-472-3399)** for up-to-date traffic information or go to the website (www.seatoskyimprovements.ca) to access the following travel planning tools:

- **Weekly Schedule** – Weekly update on confirmed highway closures and delays
- **Travel Planner** – A list of the available closure/delay windows for current season
- **Closure & Delay Windows** – The maximum closure/delay windows to 2009
- **Road Alerts Service** – Frequent Sea-to-Sky travellers can receive text message alerts about major or unscheduled events that affect highway travel

2. OVERVIEW OF DETAILED DESIGN CONSULTATION ON HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

2.1 Stages of Consultation

As the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project proceeds through various design stages and ultimately into construction, communities and key stakeholders are being consulted. The design stages include:

1. Project Definition Consultation (completed)
2. Pre-Design Consultation (completed)
3. Preliminary Design Consultation (completed)
4. Detailed Design Consultation (**CURRENT STAGE**)

2.2 Detailed Design Consultation

The purpose of the consultation is to:

- **Inform** the community and stakeholders about the draft detailed design features for the Sea-to-Sky Highway within the Pinecrest Estates/Black Tusk Village area as well as the corridor-wide features.
- **Gather** input and feedback regarding detailed design features for highway improvements from the community and stakeholders.
- **Summarize** community and stakeholder input for consideration by the Ministry of Transportation and the S2S Transportation Group.
- **Distribute** the Consultation Summary Report to consultation participants and other stakeholders.

2.3 Detailed Design Consultation Topics

The following consultation topics are discussed in the Pinecrest Estates/Black Tusk Village detailed design community consultation:

- Community Gateway Signage
- Main Intersection Landscaping
- Gateway Landscaping

2.4 Detailed Design Consultation Methods

a. Discussion Guide and Feedback Form

A consultation discussion guide (see TAB 4) was developed to explain the purpose of the detailed design consultation and included a feedback form to assist in gathering community input.

The discussion guide also included:

- Maps showing the location of highway improvements and features,
- A summary of the results from preliminary design consultation with the Pinecrest Estates/Black Tusk Village community in May 2006, and
- Graphics illustrating the gateway feature options and landscape features

b. Feedback Forms

Feedback was gathered at the CAG meeting, at the Open House, and by e-mail, fax and mail (see TAB 5).

c. Web-based Consultation

All consultation materials were available on the web, including the feedback form that could be e-mailed, mailed or faxed back to the project office.

d. CAG Meeting

On June 26th, 2007, a meeting was held with the Pinecrest Estates/Black Tusk Village Community Advisory Group (CAG).

The discussion guide and display boards were reviewed and attendees provided comments on detailed design features for the Pinecrest Estates/Black Tusk Village community, and had the opportunity to ask questions.

A facilitator, recorder, Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project staff and members of the S2S Transportation Group team attended the meeting. See TAB 7 for the CAG meeting notes.

e. Open Houses

An open house was held to provide Pinecrest Estates/Black Tusk Village residents, community organizations and stakeholders with the opportunity to provide feedback on the detailed design options. Display boards provided background on the highway improvements, the gateway feature options and the landscape options. Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project staff and S2S Transportation Group team members were available to answer questions at the open house.

The open house was held on:

Thursday, June 28th, 2007

6:30pm-8:30pm

Garibaldi Volunteer Fire Department Hall

Black Tusk Village

f. Public Notice, Email Invitation, Phone Calls

An email notice was distributed to the Pinecrest Estates/Black Tusk Village residents. Open house reminder email notices were sent out to residents on June 20. Open house notices were posted at mail boxes, entry gates and garbage/recycling areas. Phone calls to stakeholders were also made.

3. KEY THEME SUMMARY

The Pinecrest Estates/Black Tusk Village Detailed Design consultation included gathering community feedback and input regarding community gateways and landscape features.

More than 45 people participated in the Pinecrest Estates/Black Tusk Village Detailed Design consultation as follows:

- 4 people attended the June 26th CAG meeting,
- Approximately 40 people attended the June 28th Open House.
- A total of 47 feedback forms were returned;
 - 4 feedback forms were submitted at the CAG meeting,
 - 38 feedback forms were submitted at the Open House,
 - 4 online feedback forms were completed, and
 - 1 feedback form was faxed to the project office.

3.1 Summary of Feedback from Community Advisory Group Meeting

- Participants noted the importance of the gateway rock signage being visible to passing motorists.
- Participants requested consideration of the possibility of a cul-de-sac at the Pinecrest entrance on the frontage road.
- Participants requested that the Sea-to-Sky Trail alignment be accommodated through the south end of the decommissioned area of the old highway.
- Participants asked if the Pinecrest and Black Tusk logos could be located above the respective names on the gateway sign.
- Participants discussed the location of the proposed bus turnaround suggesting that the location be closer to the community.
- Participants expressed appreciation for the project design and the work of the Project Team in getting the highway design to this point.

4. SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FORM QUESTIONS

The following is a summary of input provided through the consultation feedback form. The quantitative results (see TAB 1) are presented below and these are followed by a qualitative summary (see TAB 6) of feedback form comments.

4.1 Community Gateway Signage

The community rock gateway feature emphasizes the natural surroundings of the area. Each option will have the name of the community displayed in a contemporary, consistent typeface. A Salish name for each area will also appear on the sign.

Participants were asked: Please indicate your preference for option 1 or 2.

Quantitative Summary

Option 1: Faux rock boulder base with integrated faux rock sign.	84%
Option 2: Faux rock boulder base with the sign made of painted metal.	16%

The majority of respondents strongly favoured Option 1: Faux rock boulder base with integrated faux rock sign.

Summary of comments

- A few respondents suggested cutting the top of the sign to look like Black Tusk.
- Some respondents questioned the use of the Salish name on the sign.

4.2 Landscape Plans

4.2.1 Main Intersection Landscaping – 2 options

The proposed landscaping will highlight the entrance to the community through landscape features near the main intersection.

Participants were asked: Please indicate your preference for Option 1 or Option 2.

Quantitative Summary

Option 1: Coniferous Trees (evergreen) This option is to plant coniferous trees close together in a row, in a street tree arrangement. Douglas Fir is the proposed tree species.	90%
Option 2: Deciduous Trees (trees that lose their leaves) This option is to plant deciduous trees close together in a row, in a street tree arrangement. Tree species could include Red Alder or non-native Green Ash trees.	10%

A majority of respondents favoured Option 1: Coniferous Trees (evergreen) planted in a street tree arrangement.

Summary of Comments

- Several respondents suggested using both coniferous and deciduous trees.

4.2.2 Gateway Landscaping

The approach to the gateway landscaping is to plant 5 to 6 trees close together in rows along each side of the road just beyond the gateway sign. These trees could match the trees selected for the main intersection landscaping.

Using the following scale, please indicate your level of agreement with the proposed planting where 1 indicates 'strongly agree' and 5 indicates 'strongly disagree'.

Strongly Agree	56%
Agree Somewhat	35%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	9%
Disagree Somewhat	0%
Strongly Disagree	0%

Summary of Comments

- There were few additional comments provided for this question.

4.3 Additional Comments

- Several respondents expressed their support for the project and thanked the team and contractor for their work and constant communication with the community.
- Several respondents suggested posting signs on the highway such as "no engine brakes", "dead end"/"no exit"/"no through road".
- Several respondents recommended that the bus stop be located closer to the community.