

MACC Questionnaire: Question 1

1. As a member of Council, would you support the concept of a pedestrian focused green corridor connecting downtown Prince George to the Fraser River utilizing existing City lands? If not, what do you envision for City Works Yard once it is eventually vacated and how would this contribute positively to the downtown area?

Mayor

Rogers:

I certainly support the concept. In fact fits right into the general concept included in the Trails Implementation Plan (Centennial Trails Project). I would like to see productive utilization of the old city works yard but we would need to have a good sense of the environmental condition of the property as some remediation may be required and that could impact what it is used for or if it would be better left as greenspace. I would like some answers with respect to the old works yard within the next few months.

Zurowski:

I would seriously consider adding the MACC proposed green corridor to the City's trail strategy as connecting the downtown to the river(s) could be the most expedient and desirable access route. I am open to discussion and consideration of alternate uses of the City Works Yard. They are currently underutilized and in my view would be a great location for a business park that should include mixed uses.

Council

Arcand:

After walking it with your group (thanks for arranging that, by the way) I believe that it needs to change; first of all to be cleaned up (the moose head was disgusting), and then to be rethought in terms of what it should look like, and how it should become part of the "new" downtown. The green corridor concept is great, but there needs to be supporting development along that corridor – development that would encourage people to view the corridor as a destination, not just a pass-through. The optics of looking at the back sides of industrial buildings, the salvage yard, etc mean that a lot more than just the corridor itself needs to be considered, and "quick fixes" or "bandaids" are not going to cut it.

The City Works Yard, because of its location, has great potential to be a multi-use development – a "Granville Island" type of place that could house shops, cafés, a year-round farmers market, retail, office storefronts and other services that would enhance the concept of our renewed downtown as a "gathering place".

Basserman:

The concept of a pedestrian/bicycle focused green corridor connecting downtown Prince George to the Fraser River, and ultimately the Nechako, have significant merit. Building on the aesthetics of the embankment along Patricia Boulevard and linking to Connaught Hill provides real opportunity for a walkway that could highlight the display of the native plant species of our region. It may be that the aboriginal community could add value to discussion of such a walkway, given their historic ties to the rivers, and to Fort George Park.

I see the current city yards contributing some real estate to such a walkway and would suggest creative thinking around using the remaining real estate of the city yards. This thinking could include use by clean and green businesses, forms of housing and potentially, a year round Farmer's Market. I would further suggest that such a market have a meaningful link to the downtown and furthermore a relationship with the site of a potential downtown Performing Arts Center.

Cranston:

If I'm elected to council, I would be proud to support the concept of a pedestrian focused green corridor connecting downtown Prince George to the Fraser River utilizing existing City lands. Should I not be lucky enough to get elected, I would hope that you would invite me to be part of your coalition even though I don't live in your area. I also think it is a great idea to get the City Works Yard removed from that area particularly with the dangerous goods that are being stored in that area as it should not be near residential. I think your plan is wonderful and makes complete sense. I have a vision there for a Performing Arts Centre, a Year Round Farmers Market and perhaps even an Ikea or similar smaller box store to help pay some

Derrick:

I would support a green corridor. I also believe that the location of the existing yards would be a great location for a Northern BCIT. They could work together to beautify downtown.

Frizzell:

I like the concept of the pedestrian focused green corridor, and it is certainly high on my list of concepts to do my due diligence on. For years when I lived in the Millar Addition, I often considered how to improve the hill, as I would walk from home on Hemlock Street to work in the industrial area of Queensway, as my business began. While my vision was never as comprehensive as what was proposed by MaccPG, it is not at all hard to see the benefits the project would bring.

The concept of a farmer's market replacing the works yard is appealing, and I have also liked the idea of a mixed-use concept, incorporating market and senior's housing, in

conjunction with a farmer's market. This would complete the connection between the residential area of the Millar addition, and the urban area of downtown. I want a Prince George where it is safe and feasible to walk a stroller from Fort George Park to this market, to the library and back.

Green:

Yes, I support this concept and have since I learned about it back in May. This area needs to be reclaimed and I believe additional green space in our downtown is long overdue. I am fortunate to be able to bring my dog to work with me, and it would be nice to go for a walk at lunch to such a place (with a plastic bag of course!) Connecting to the river is a missing piece of our downtown landscape and anything to tie to it is a positive.

Kauk:

Yes, I could support the pedestrian-focused green corridor candidates were able to tour with members of maccpg. As a strong advocate for the city's trail system, I can definitely see the benefits of adding this section to our trails network. As for the current City Works yard, I would be open to suggestion for future uses of this land. I believe your group has suggested its potential as a year-round farmers market. I could support this venture, however, we would definitely need the input of the organizers of the farmers market. I do know that they have opted not to change locations recently when the civic plaza was proposed a potential site.

Krause:

Yes, I do support the concept of a pedestrian focused greenway connecting downtown to the Fraser River. At some time someone or a group must have had a similar vision that saw the creation of Granville Island, Nanaimo water front development and similar projects throughout Canada and indeed North America. My first foray into municipal politics in the early 1980's, was after a group of Millar Addition residents that I was a member of, successfully protested the extension of Patricia Blvd to the new Fraser River bridge. So I know that citizen engagement can do amazing things and the process does work.

Munoz:

I went on the proposed green corridor all candidates walk and I saw real potential for a future multi-use pedestrian trail and green space enhancements connecting downtown PG to the Fraser River along City lands. Regarding future use of the City works yard, although, in principle, I agree with the proposal, I feel it is too soon to commit this area, because we need to see how this project fits into the overall downtown revitalization and development. Planning for downtown revitalization must be done in a coordinated, integrated manner and complete with a long-term plan.

Nakamura:

Yes I fully support the Green Corridor and this is reflected on my campaign website and pamphlets.

Once the city works yard is vacated I could envision this area being ideal to house a year-round farmers' market, the performing arts center, some attractive housing to attract residents to downtown. I would like to see a mix of different businesses and housing developments in this area with the Green Corridor meandering through.

Skakun:

I support the green corridor idea 100%. As it stands now our connectivity to the trails and river are an issue not only downtown but throughout the community. I would love to see a nice trail starting in the downtown hooking up with the trails on the Fraser River. I think it would be great for people working downtown to take a healthy lunch break and walk to the river or Fort George Park.

I do not want the former City yards to be used for any industry, light or heavy. I think it would be a great opportunity to have some high density housing be it seniors or other types. If we get more residential in that area it is not only a buffer to the Millar Fort George area and would ensure that there would be no industry located there by future councils. If that area was developed it would go along way in cleaning up that end of the downtown with a focus on developing more housing and parks closer to Queensway.

Stoltz:

My vision of the City Works Yard starts with low income housing for seniors which includes a community garden. Attached to that would be a farmers market which would have a permanent indoor area and an expanded outdoor area for the summer. I see this as part of the beginning of improving our downtown core. Seniors would have easy access to Sacred Heart, restaurants downtown and would have easy access to our trail system next to the river.

Ulch:

I support your Green Corridor to the Fraser River. I am NOT in favor of shrinking parks or green spaces in the City. There is a need to reserve these. The green strip on the map along Patricia Blvd. from Queensway toward the River: is that sufficient or is that to be expanded?

On the Green Corridor walk the City Yard and area near, and outside their compound is an eye opener. The debris, dust piles, garbage, the City seems to hold as valuable. To me it looks disgraceful and needs to be cleaned up; yesterday.

I have been at indoor Farmers markets in big cities. I can visualize those City Garages, used for that purpose; markets, crafts, hockey card traders, etc. As Councilor it is not what I want but what you and the Public want; I represent you. That being said, I suggest; to have pride in the neighborhood, and a watchful eye, this area and or downtown could have a residential mix whether residential lots and or business containing residence.

Wilbur:

Yes I support the concept of a green corridor, using existing city land. I would be proactive in supporting it on council. The city works land backing on to the base of the escarpment from Patricia Boulevard is ideally located to link the downtown core to the Fraser River. The area behind the city works land is currently a dumping ground which is littered with various drug paraphernalia and other dangerous material. As a first step this area needs to be made safe.

I agree with the notion that there are better uses to which the yard and building could be put to, which would be complimentary to a green corridor. Some of the challenges to changing its use are:

- 1) The need to convince stake holders that it is a priority for infrastructure investment;
- 2) Zoning (not a big problem);
- 3) It is within the 200 year flood plain (perhaps this can be overcome by elevating building sites and the engineering study's underway to identify solutions to manage the reoccurring flood risk), and
- 4) The buildings are clearly under code (in my view these buildings are likely not good subjects for renovation).

A key to a rejuvenated safe downtown is year around "farmers market". My vision is to convert the city works land to a covered and an open farmers market. It could be a real benefit to the Millar Addition residents as it would be a relatively short walk and could become Granville Island like in its synergy for shopping downtown for local products, while enjoying the green corridor.

