

Burnaby Mountain Gondola Transit Project Consultation Summary Report – Phase One Pre Consultation

Overview

TransLink is exploring the possibility of constructing a gondola system to improve reliability and travel times to and from Burnaby Mountain and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions currently produced by the fleet of diesel buses that service the area. This assessment was initiated after review of previous work undertaken by the Simon Fraser University Community Trust.

The proposed Burnaby Mountain Gondola Transit Project would serve SFU students, faculty, staff and visitors as well as residents and businesses of UniverCity.

The current phase of work is the development of a business case for the project. It will determine the costs and benefits and identify whether a decision to proceed to procurement is warranted. Indications from initial work are that the gondola could cost less to build, operate and maintain than the existing bus service, on a life cycle basis. If the business case confirms this, the gondola could be implemented without affecting other regional priorities. Indeed, any savings could assist other projects. However, if the business case finds that the gondola would require additional funding, it would join the list of other projects in determining regional priorities.

TransLink is committed to a robust consultation program and is working closely with the SFU Community Trust to gather, consider and report on community and stakeholder input on the proposed project. Stakeholder and community input will be considered, along with technical and financial considerations, in three phases of project planning:

Phase One – Pre Consultation (completed December 2010) Six small group meetings of stakeholders including students, UniverCity community residents, recreation users, environment advocates, residents, and business.

Phase Two – Spring 2011 –small group meetings and two open houses to raise awareness about the proposed project, provide information, and solicit participation and feedback from the community.

Phase Three – timing to be determined - will take place if a decision is made to proceed with the project. This phase will provide more detailed planning information and solicit feedback to be considered in the final design stage.

Phase One (Pre-Consultation) goal was to provide information about the proposed Project and solicit input on the ways in which people/groups wish to be consulted.

Should the Burnaby Mountain Gondola Transit Project proceed, stakeholder and community input will be considered, along with technical and financial considerations.

Feedback from each phase will be recorded and summarized in a consultation summary report, which will be presented to the TransLink planning team for consideration.

Phase One – Pre Consultation Input Summary

Phase One of the consultation program included six small-group meetings that were held in November and December 2010 to provide information about the proposed Project and solicit input on the ways in which people/groups wish to be consulted:

- SFU Undergrad Society
- Burnaby Mountain Biking Association
- SFU Community Association
- Stoney Creek Environment Committee
- Forest Grove Community Strata Representatives
- Burnaby Board of Trade

In the small-group meetings, participants were asked to fill out a feedback form (see Appendix A). The feedback form asked for input on the preliminary information provided and for contact information and consultation preferences should the project proceed to the next stage.

In total, 31 participants attended the small-group meetings and 27 feedback forms were submitted.

The following is a key themes summary of the feedback form responses. The number in brackets indicates the total number of responses that mentioned the key theme. It should be noted that a response may have included more than one key theme.

1. Do you think the Burnaby Mountain Gondola Transit Project is a good idea for improving public transportation to and from SFU and the UniverCity community?

Yes	19
No	2
Unsure	6

For those who said no or were unsure, the following concerns were identified:

- Impacts on residents - privacy, noise, visual, lights, and safety (5)
- Impacts on conservation area/impacts on wildlife, trees, and water (3)
- Impacts on property values (2)
- Approval conditional on route (2)

2. All respondents asked to be contacted with information about next stages of planning and consultation.

3. Information people would like to receive if the project moves ahead:

- Environmental impacts /EA process information (10)
- Location or terminals and towers and route (7)
- Next steps, timeline/what will happen when (5)
- Costs (2)

4. Topics people would like TransLink to consider in planning:

Environmental impacts –streams/ trees/fish habitat/vegetation/soil stability/trails (7)

Impacts on residents – concerns re privacy/ noise/ light/safety/visuals (5)

Mixed use of terminal building – community space/Student Union Building (3)

5. Other groups suggested for future consultation outreach:

- Grad Student Society and SFSS Forum Group, SFSS Clubs Days
- Sustainable SFU
- Eagle Creek Streamkeepers and Silver Creek Streamkeepers
- Residential owners in Cornerstone
- UniverCity Business Assn
- School Board District 41 and PAC
- UNES (University Neighbours for Environmental Sustainability)
- SFU Security, Transit Police, RCMP
- University student residents
- Park users and bikers
- Presidents of every strata
- Port Moody, and managers of Tri Cities, Abbotsford, Mission
- Strata newsletters
- Kinder Morgan