

# Arbutus Greenway:

A rails to trail project enabling healthier urban living

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Stanley Park  
English Bay

Downtown

Granville Island

Queen Elizabeth Park

Arbutus Greenway  
approx 9 km long

Fraser River

Context



North

# History of the Corridor



1902 @ W49<sup>th</sup>

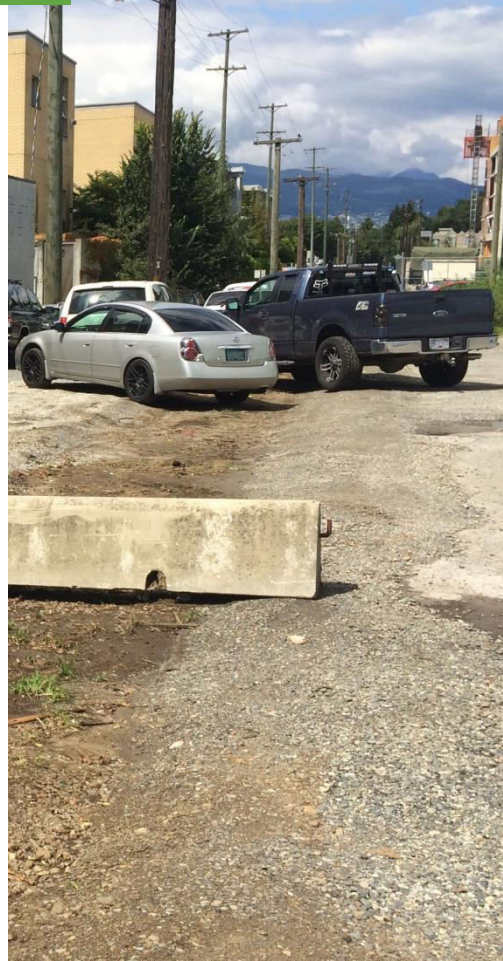


1950's @ W41<sup>st</sup>



1990's @ W16<sup>th</sup>

# Purchasing the Corridor



# Constructing a Temporary Path



# Temporary Path Features

Separate Paths

Benches

Community Gardens

Art Installations

Temporary Washrooms

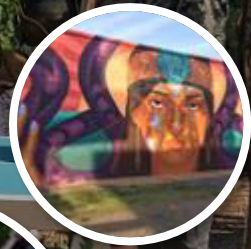
Temporary Murals

Solar Lighting Trial

Pollinator Gardens



# Life along a Temporary Path



# Unexpected Returns

**BROOKE & EVAN**





# Beyond Active Transportation

Health & Well-being

Accessibility

Recreation

Safe Spaces

Access to Nature

Environment

Community Building

# Arbutus Greenway Design Vision



# Arbutus Greenway Design Vision



## Zone 1: Harvest Table



W 6th Ave at Fir St ↔ W Broadway

## Zone 2: Electric Alley



W Broadway ↔ W 16th Ave

## Zone 3: The Ridge



W 16th Ave ↔ W King Edward Ave

## Zone 4: Woodland Bend



W King Edward Ave ↔ W 37th Ave

# Arbutus Greenway Design Vision

## Zone 5: Kerrydale Pass



W 37th Ave ↔ W 49th Ave

## Zone 6: Garden Path



W 49th Ave ↔ W 57th Ave

## Zone 7: Marpole Meander



W 57th Ave ↔ SW Marine Dr

## Zone 8: The Lookout

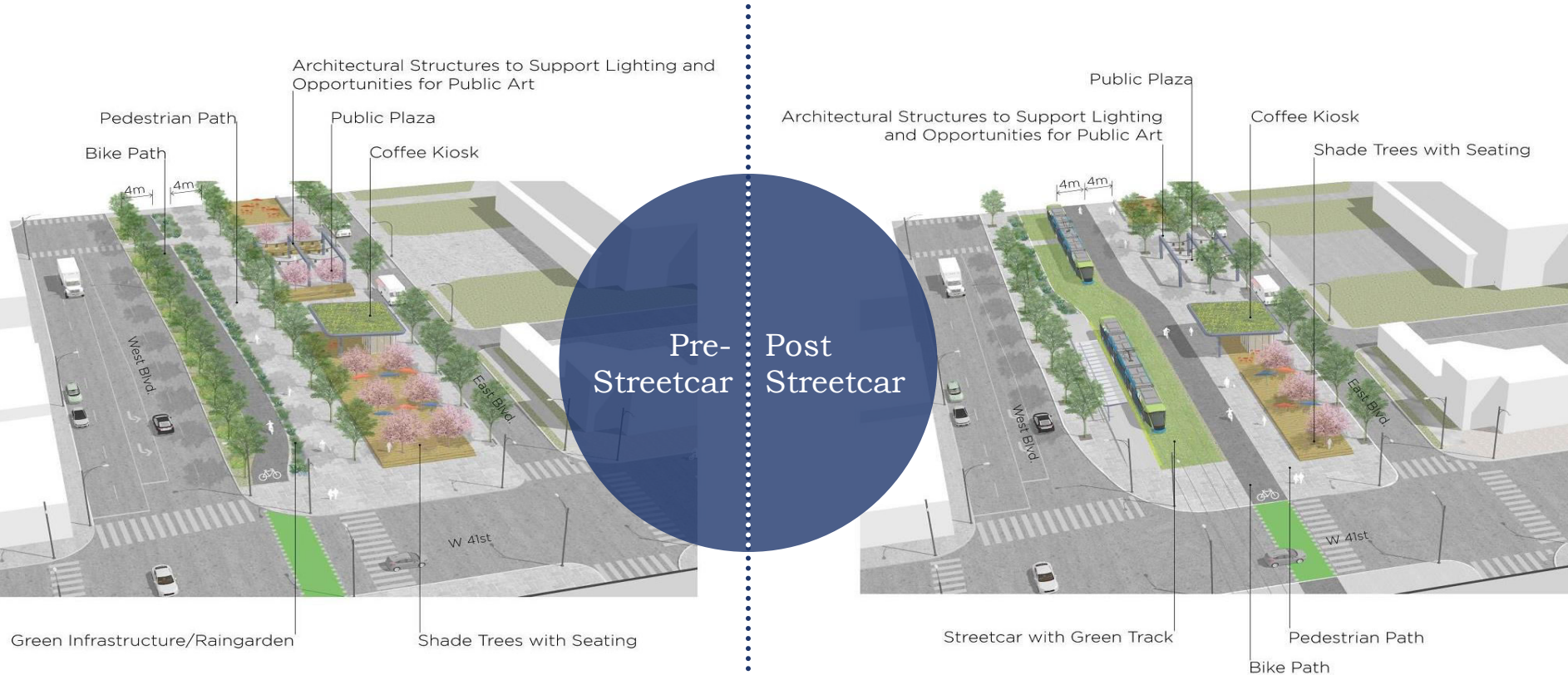


SW Marine Dr ↔ Milton St



# Arbutus Greenway Design Vision

Initial transportation requirements incl. separate walking & cycling pathways and reserve space for future streetcar



# Arbutus Greenway Design Considerations



Safe  
Intersections



Green  
Infrastructure



Public Art



Inclusive  
Design



Urban  
Ecology



Wayfinding



Dark Sky  
Lighting



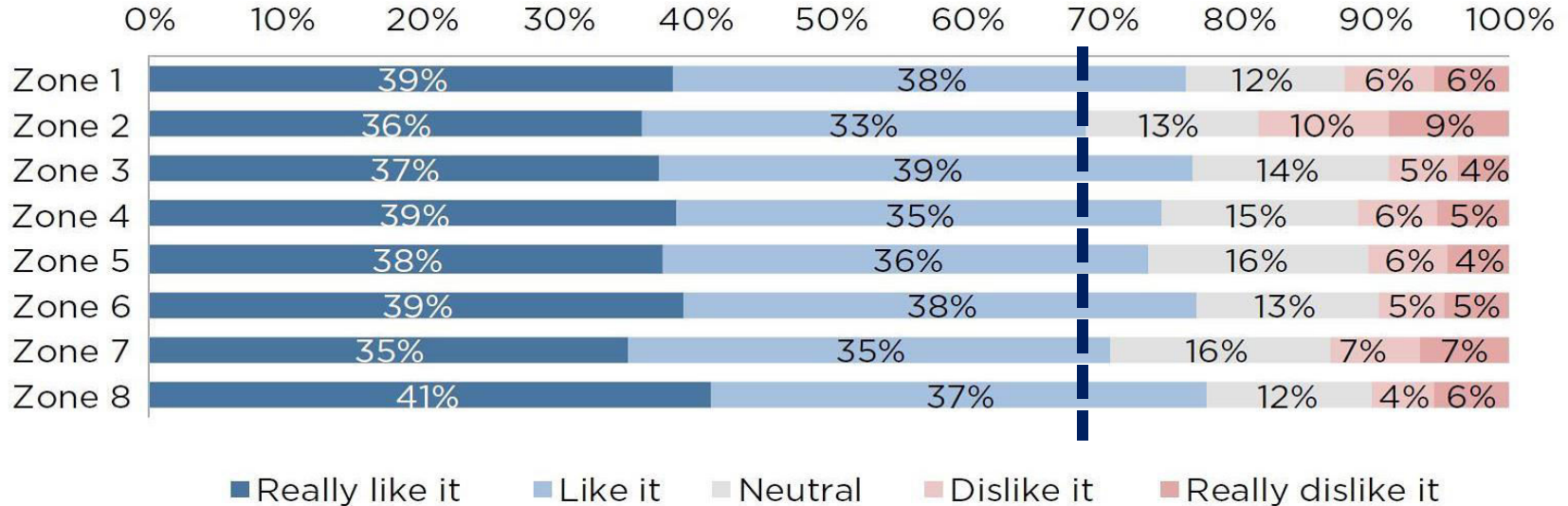
Public Realm

# Reconciliation with First Nations



# Public Feedback

Overall, what do you think of the proposed design (for each zone)?



70% either 'Like' or 'Really Like'  
the proposed design for the  
permanent greenway

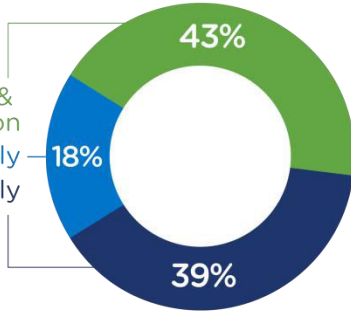


# Preliminary Findings

University of  
British Columbia  
Research

## Purpose of Greenway Trips

Recreation &  
Transportation  
Transportation Only  
Recreation Only



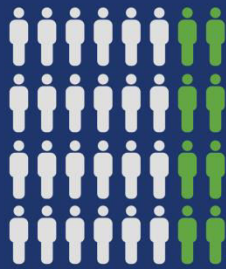
Goal: Understand who is using the temporary greenway, patterns of use (purpose, mode, frequency and duration of trips) over next 5 years



45% women  
.....  
55% men

3,200  
people  
counted

in 2018  
over 18 hr  
period



2017  
2018

+35%



live  
within  
1 km of  
greenway  
50%



24%

users  
over the  
age of 60

+20% increase  
over 2017

# Health Benefits: Urban Greenways

L. Frank et al in 2019  
Preventive Medicine

‘Causal evaluation of urban greenway retrofit: A longitudinal study on physical activity and sedentary behavior’

Longitudinal study examining correlation between Moderate to Vigorous Physical Activity (MVPA) and proximity to a greenway

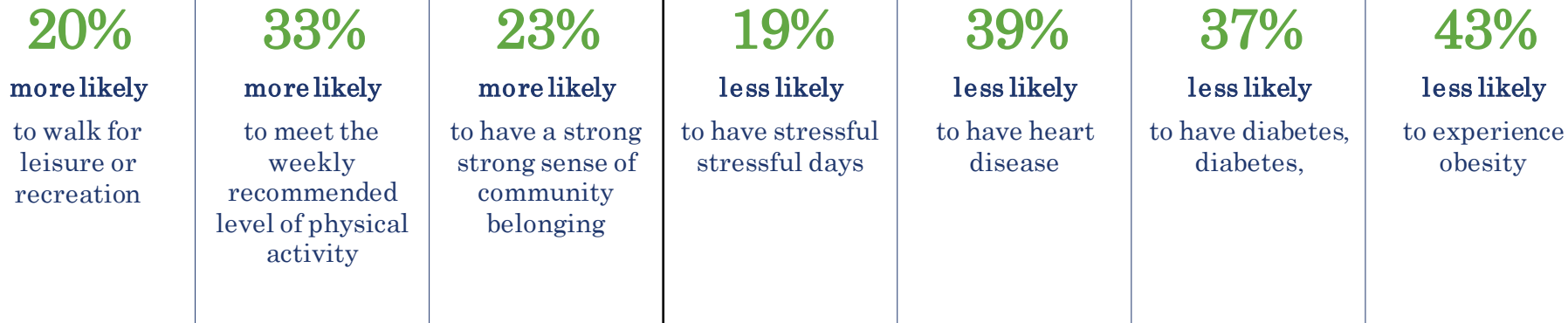
- Comox Greenway in Vancouver ( $\pm 2$  km away from Arbutus Greenway)
- 2 year study with pre and post greenway analysis

## Conclusions

- Urban greenways increase MVPA and decrease sedentary behavior for those living within 300 m of greenway
- MVPA benefit greatest for residents living within 100m of greenway
- Reducing sedentary behavior greatest for those living within 300m of the greenway
- Active Transportation facilities including greenways increase physical activity & reduce sedentary behavior

# Broader Health Benefits

For people living near 6 or more Parks & Greenways compared to those living near 0 to 1 Parks & Greenways



Note: The Arbutus Greenway is 16 hectares and connects 6 parks and eventually waterfront parks and paths in the north and south

# Lessons Learned

- Believe in your conviction - safety and inclusivity are paramount and non-negotiable.
- Build interest in the place - Plan activities that encourage people to visit the site as soon as possible, even before the design is underway or complete.
- Dream big and persevere - Listen to all voices even opposing ones but be wary of Bananas
- Be patient

