

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

PHASE 2 | UVIC CAMPUS PLAN UPDATE

NOVEMBER 30, 2015



University
of Victoria

This document was prepared by DIALOG for UVic as part of the Campus Plan Update process. Further project information can be found here:

<http://www.uvic.ca/campusplanning/campus-plan-update/>

or please contact Neil Connelly, Director of Campus Planning and Sustainability at 250-472-5433 or planning@uvic.ca.



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Stakeholder Workshop, October 2015

BACKGROUND + SUMMARY

ENGAGEMENT PURPOSE, BREADTH, AND OUTCOMES

The primary purpose of public engagement during Phase 2 of the University of Victoria Campus Plan Update was to: educate and raise awareness about the Campus Plan update process; and to provide opportunities for stakeholders to share their input on draft concepts and, ultimately, the draft Campus Plan.

Engagement activities were designed to broadly reach a range of stakeholders, while providing the opportunity for focused input as desired. Building on extensive engagement in Phase 1, Phase 2 engagement activities included: a mobile booth situated in several high-traffic locations around campus in spring and autumn, two public open house events; and a broad stakeholder workshop. Input was also provided by email and meetings with the Office of Indigenous Affairs and residents associations in the broader community. A myriad of communications efforts ranging from a project website and social media presence (tweets and Facebook posts through Campus Planning & Sustainability and university-wide channels) to posters, the campus digital signage network, promotional handout material, and newspaper advertisements both on and off campus.

In Phase 1 alone, there were an estimated 1000+ individual engagements (e.g. survey participants, event attendees, mobile booth visitors), with over half of these being face-to-face engagements. In Phase 2, there was an estimated 600-700 individual engagements, with all of these being face-to-face. Based on event participation, it is clear that participation involved diverse stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, and broader community groups and residents.

Top overarching themes that emerged from the engagement include: protect Cunningham Woods from development (i.e. to not provide for a potential future building site location at its northern edge); enhance cycling infrastructure; separate pedestrian and cyclist facilities on Ring Road; protect, restore, and expand natural areas; and secure a permanent location for the Community Garden. There was general support for the vision, goals, principles, and big moves that lay the foundation of the draft Campus Plan.

PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT*

1 MOBILE BOOTH LOCATIONS

2 OPEN HOUSES

1 STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

3 RESIDENT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS**

25+ EMAILS

~600-700 DISTINCT ENGAGEMENTS

* While not summarized here, additional meetings were held with other campus stakeholders, including student groups and the Office of Indigenous Affairs.

** A presentation and discussion on the draft Campus Plan and the Plan update process were provided at meetings with representatives of the Gordon Head Resident Association on October 29th, Mt. Tolmie Community Association on November 6th, and with the Saanich Community Association Network (SCAN) on November 4th.

OVERARCHING THEMES

A detailed analysis of participant input, categorized by event and topic area, is outlined in this report. While there were some divergent viewpoints, overall, a handful of strong themes emerged across groups and engagement events. They are:

- **Protect Cunningham Woods from Development** – This theme received far more attention than any other issue. With the introduction of a potential future building site at this location, participants are concerned about the loss of ecological functioning and use of this area as a living laboratory, particularly as it is a place where many students and others have been active in restoration activities. Since safety was one driver behind identifying this location for a future building, many students offered suggestions for other safety measures, ranging from lighting to anti-violence programs. As noted in one participant’s email: “I truly appreciate you taking the time to listen to my concerns, and those of other students. This plan is exciting and innovative, but this one issue sticks out like a sore thumb.”
- **Enhance Cycling Infrastructure** – Suggestions for improvements to cycling infrastructure included more weather-protected bicycle parking, cycling lanes within campus, and safer routes connecting to/from campus. For the latter, many participants identified to need to work with municipalities since these areas fall outside the jurisdiction of UVic.
- **Separate Pedestrian and Cyclist Facilities on Ring Road** – While participants generally support the proposed approach to Ring Road, many identify the need to separate cyclists and pedestrians on the proposed shared path.
- **Protect, Restore, and Expand Natural Areas** – Over and above interest in seeing Cunningham Woods protected, many other participants wish to see more natural area restoration, expansion, and protection (including “perpetual” protection). Many indicated that they were pleased to see language in the draft Plan supporting restoration efforts.
- **Secure a Permanent Location for Campus Community Garden** – Many participants identified an interest in seeing the Campus Community Garden have a permanent location on campus.
- **Support Vision, Goals, Principles, and Big Moves** – Many participants identified general support for the vision, goals, principles, and big moves that lay the foundation of the draft Plan.

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MOBILE BOOTH #1

BACKGROUND + OVERVIEW

To launch engagement in Phase 2 and to obtain input on the refreshed vision, goals, and principles, a mobile booth was situated in locations across campus over the course of a two-day period – March 31 and April 1, 2015. The mobile booth was staffed by a member of the project team, and interactive panels were provided that included background information, proposed refreshed vision, goals, and principles, and spaces for leaving written comments. Locations were: University Centre, Engineering Lab Wing, the Student Union Building, McPherson Library, MacLaurin Building, and the Transit Exchange.

There were almost 90 direct face-to-face interactions and discussions, predominant with students, and approximately 25 comments were left.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Comments about the proposed vision, goals, and principles were positive.

For participants who had previously provided input, the majority indicated that they felt their input had been incorporated into the draft vision, goals, and principles, and did not leave further input.

For participants who had not already provided input, many took the opportunity to provide general feedback about priorities for physical improvements to campus. Key themes were similar to those emerging from Phase I engagement activities, and they included:

- Better pedestrian environment, including more connections and better lighting;
- Better waste management, including composting and recycling;
- More spaces for studying, napping and actively using green areas;
- Increased emphasis on sustainability; and
- More access after hours or during the summer to computers and food destinations.



Mobile Booth #2, October 2015

MOBILE BOOTH #2

BACKGROUND + OVERVIEW

To obtain input on the draft Campus Plan and advertize the upcoming open house, the mobile booth was situated in locations across campus over the course of a two-day period – October 19 and 20, 2015, with the overall email comment period extending for a three-week period. The mobile booth was staffed by a member of the project team, and interactive panels were provided that included background information, the concept plan and big moves, and spaces for leaving written comments. Large format copies of the draft Plan's maps were available, as well as copies of the draft Plan itself. Mobile booth locations were: the Student Union Building, Clearihue Building, Fine Arts Atrium, University Centre, McPherson Library, and the MacLaurin Building.

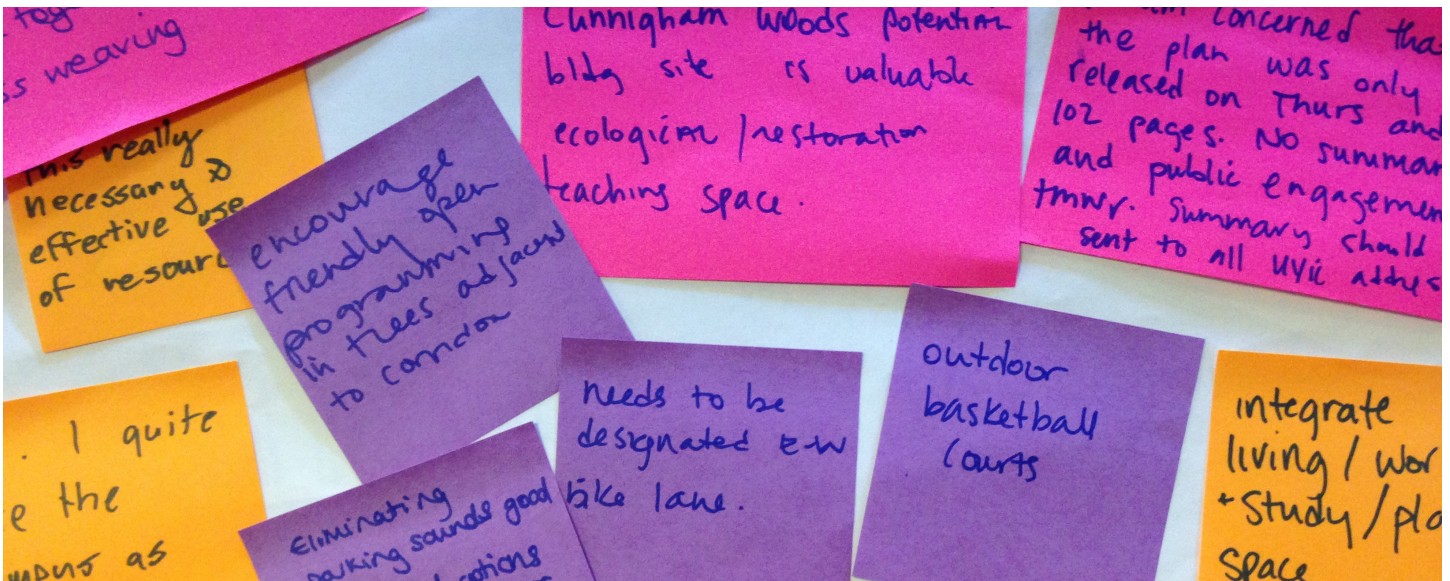
There were approximately 100 direct face-to-face discussions, predominantly with students, and approximately 25 comments were left. Approximately 175 cards advertising the upcoming open house were distributed to passersby.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Generally discussions were positive. Some students specifically sought out the mobile booth to leave a comment. Some students also vocalized a concern that the Plan was released just a few days before engagement events, as they were not aware that comments could continue being provided after the events.

While the mobile booth was effective in advertising the open house, very few comments were left. Of the 21 comments, themes included:

- Improve cycling connections;
- Support for the Ring Road approach;
- Help pedestrians and cyclists to better co-exist; and
- Promote accessibility (i.e. barrier-free design).



Open House, October 2015

OPEN HOUSES

BACKGROUND + OVERVIEW

Two drop-in / come-and-go open houses were held on October 21 in the Student Union Building to present and obtain input on the draft Campus Plan. To provide flexibility, the events were held during the day, from 11am to 2pm, and in the evening, from 6pm to 8pm. The content of the draft Plan were presented on interactive panels, on which participants left comments.

A total of 411 people attended the events, with 326 participants attending the first open house, and 86 participants attending the second open house.

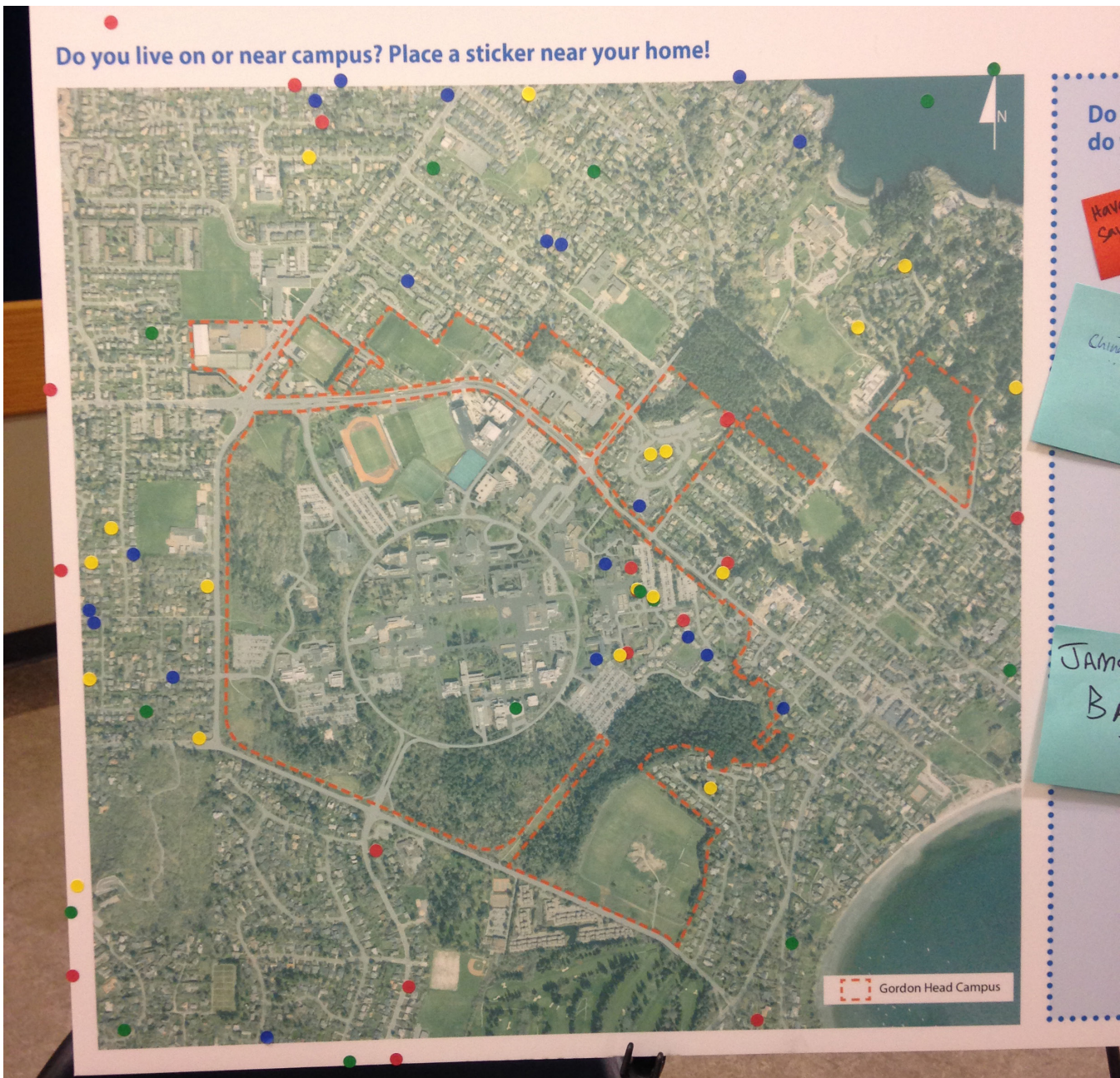
Open house panels were also posted online for people who were not able to attend, and comments were received by email for three weeks following the events.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Over 400 comments were received. Results are organized by topic area, and outlined on the following pages.

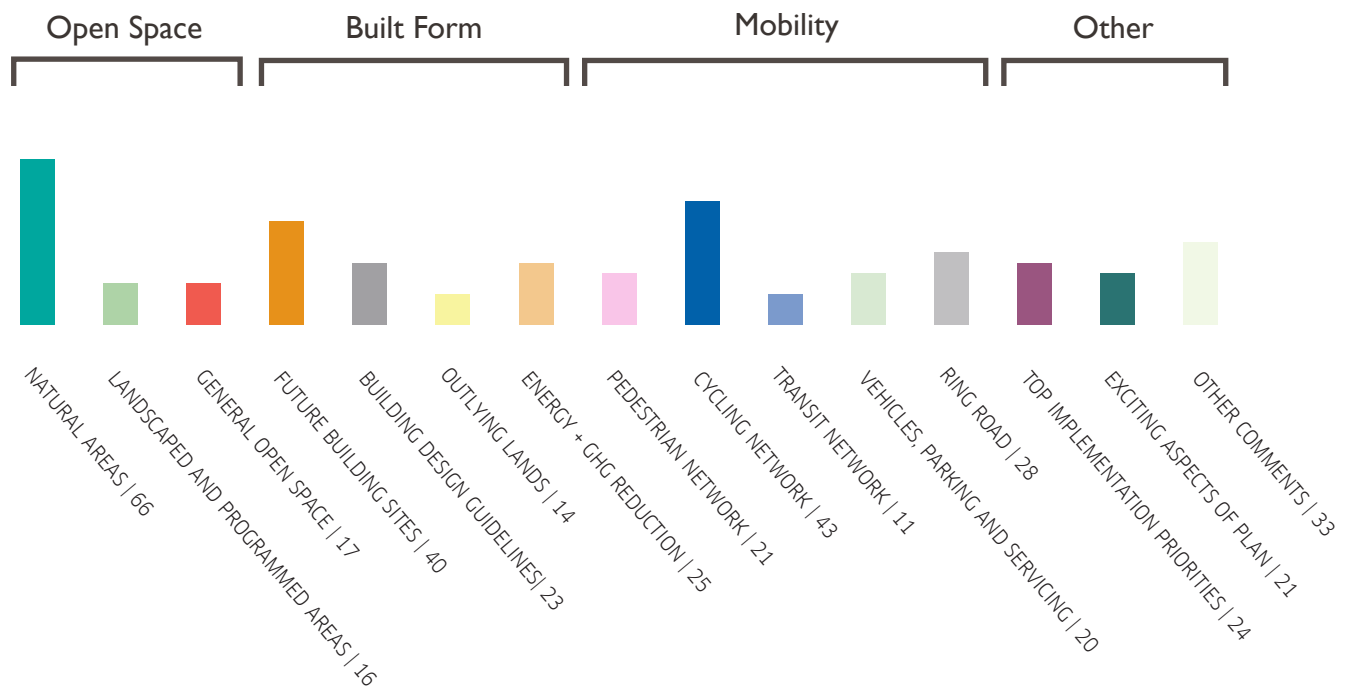
Where do you live?

Participants identifying the location of their home on a map indicate that they live on campus, within walking distance of campus, and elsewhere in the region. Based on the identified locations and discussions at the events, participants included students living both on and off campus, as well as faculty and staff, and neighbours in the broader community.



Frequency of Comments by Topic Area

On the interactive panels, fifteen questions were posed about open space, built form, mobility, and more. Over 400 comments were left by participants. As shown in the chart below, the questions receiving the most comments were about “Natural Areas” (66 comments), “Cycling Network” (43 comments), and “Future Building Sites” (40 comments). Given the high number of comments received in these three topic areas, comments have been categorized by theme and presented in graphs. Please note that other questions / topic areas did not receive sufficient comments to warrant graphs, however key themes have nonetheless been identified for each.



Open Space Framework

NATURAL AREAS

With 66 comments, the topic of “Natural Areas” within “Open Space Framework” received the most attention at the open houses. Strong themes emerged in the outcomes, including the following top three:

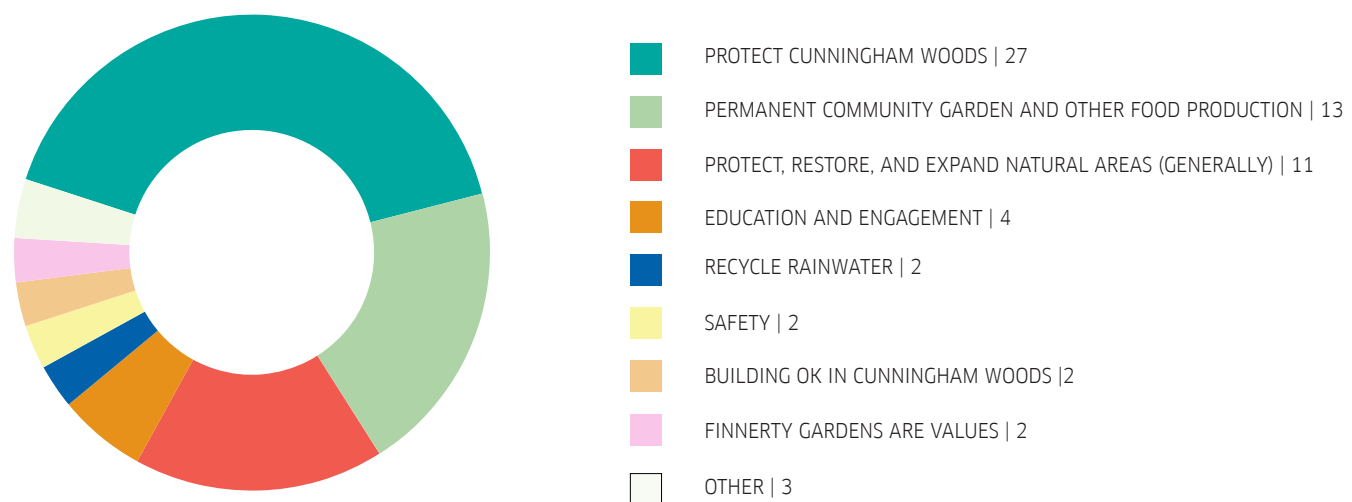
- **Protection of Cunningham Woods**, primarily with regards to removal of the potential future building site at the northern area of the Woods
- **Natural area protection, restoration, and expansion more generally**, with many comments specifically referencing “perpetual” protection.
- **A permanent or expanded location for the Community Garden**. Other urban agriculture opportunities were also identified.

Other comments focused on education and engagement of people within natural areas, recycling rainwater, encouraging safety, support for a building south of the Medical Sciences Building, and the value of Finnerty Gardens. Other comments referenced making the Quad more of a people place, providing weather-protected seating, and fixing up the Fountain.

“In Their Words” - Representative Comment Examples

- *Protect Cunningham Woods to the same extent of Mystic Vale. It is a living classroom and valuable ecological asset.*
- *Protect Cunningham Woods: The addition of green space elsewhere will not make up for the disturbance at Cunningham.*
- *Give the Community Garden a permanent location.*
- *Natural spaces are important. Protect them perpetually!*
- *I like the commitment to restore natural areas and incorporate indigenous land-based learning.*

Natural Area Comment Themes*



Note that the above chart includes comments received in response to the question about “natural areas”, regardless of whether some comments (e.g. community garden comments) are likely more aligned with other questions/topics (e.g. landscaped and programmed open space).

LANDSCAPED AND PROGRAMMED OPEN SPACE

This topic received 16 comments, with the following receiving multiple mentions:

- More food production including rooftop gardens, permanent location for Community Garden, and edible landscaping
- Support for utilization and revitalization of courtyards, and other communal spaces
- Support for the plaza at Gabriola Road near CARSA, as meeting place and for cycling facilities

“In Their Words” - Representative Comment Examples

- *Cornett courtyard need revitalization. Benches, places for lunch and conversation*
- *There is a need for more food-production spaces that address the needs of our student body*
- *I like the focus on vitalizing existing and underused open communal spaces and adding covered seating*

GENERAL OPEN SPACE

This topic received 17 comments, with the following receiving multiple mentions:

- Natural area protection
- Permanent location for Community Garden
- More native plants and restoration

“In Their Words” - Representative Comment Examples

- *Work with the campus community garden to keep or identify a permanent location*
- *Protect natural areas on campus. It's what we're known for, so it's very important.*
- *More natural ecological restoration programs.*

Built Form Framework

FUTURE BUILDING SITES

With 40 comments, the topic of “Future Building Sites” within “Built Form Framework” significant attention. Strong themes emerged in the outcomes, including the following top three:

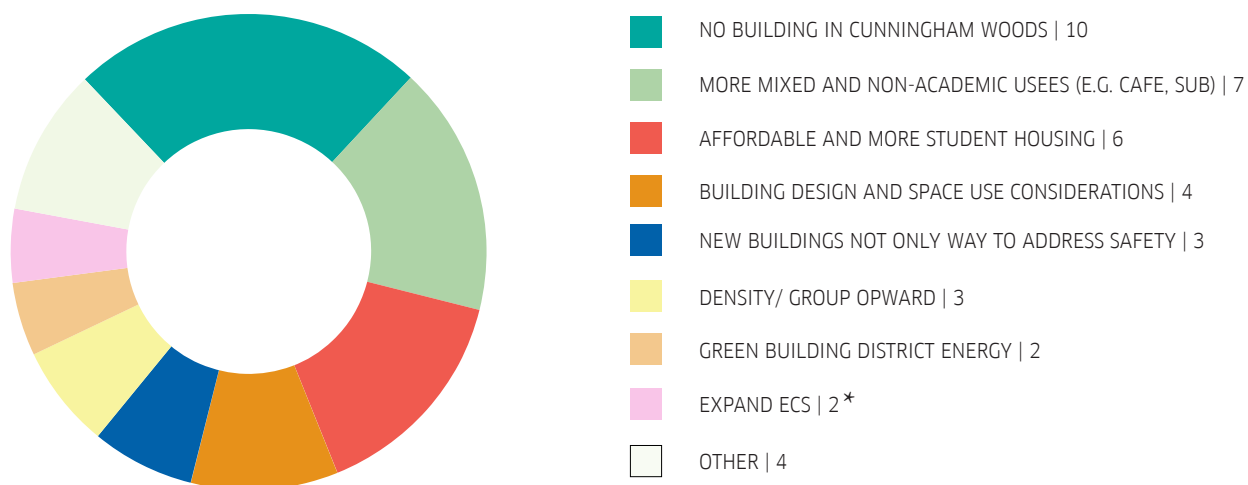
- **No building in Cunningham Woods**, including reference to not “appropriating” the safety issue to make the case for a building south of the Medical Sciences Building.
- **More uses, including non-academic uses** such as cafes, music venues, events, etc.
- **More affordable student housing**, and more student housing overall.

Other comments with multiple references focused on safety through measures other than building/ natural surveillance, densifying and growing upward rather than outward, better use of space or other design considerations for new and replaced buildings, green buildings and district energy, and the desire to see ECS expanded or have additional development nearby. Additional comments referenced more study areas, cheaper parking, and support for buildings closer to Ring Road as proposed.

“In Their Words” - Representative Comment Examples

- *Protect Cunningham Woods, Part of UVic’s identity exists because of natural spaces like this. Protecting it is part of UVic pride.*
- *Do not co-opt safety to leverage support for development rather through education and prevention!*
- *Cafe/music venue near theatre.*
- *Housing - not affordable.*

Future Building Site Comment Themes



*ECS refers to the Engineering / Computer Science Building.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

This topic received 23 comments, with the following receiving multiple mentions:

- Improved lighting for safety and also minimized light pollution
- Address safety through anti-violence work, consent training and awareness, and more
- More bike infrastructure, including covered racks and designated lanes
- Innovative and high quality building design, including green buildings

“In Their Words” - Representative Comment Examples

- *Invest in full cut off light fixtures. UVic has some of the WORST light pollution in the ENTIRE CRD!*
- *Safety involves education and community support, consent culture and anti-violence work. Not more buildings.*
- *Designated cycle lanes through campus to improve safety for both cyclists and pedestrians.*
- *Character and heritage and exemplary green buildings in the built form*

OUTLYING LANDS

This topic received 14 comments, with nearly all comments focusing on the following:

- Use Cedar Hill as permanent home for the Campus Community Garden or for agricultural studies
- Use lands for student and/or affordable housing (e.g. Queenswood, Ian Stewart Complex)

“In Their Words” - Representative Comment Examples

- *Return Cedar Hill Corner to agricultural intensive land-use, CC Garden. Integrate interior department use as living class room.*
- *Graduate/affordable housing on ISC*

ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTIONS

This topic received 25 comments. Several comments (nine) referred to fossil fuel divestment, which falls outside the scope of the Campus Plan. Other topics receiving two or more mentions are as follows:

- Renewable energy (e.g. solar, waste biomass)
- Green roofs
- Improvement on LEED Gold
- Green wastewater treatment

“In Their Words” - Representative Comment Examples

- *Involve Engineering students in renewable energy projects*
- *LEED Gold outdated – LEED Platinum or Living Building Challenge should be looked at*
- *Wetland ecosystem for water treatment*

Mobility Framework

PEDESTRIAN NETWORK

This topic received 21 comments, with the following receiving multiple mentions:

- Improved crossings required, including on Ring Road
- More separated cycling facilities
- Improved connections near transit exchange and CARSA
- Improved accessibility, including for people with disabilities

“In Their Words” - Representative Comment Examples

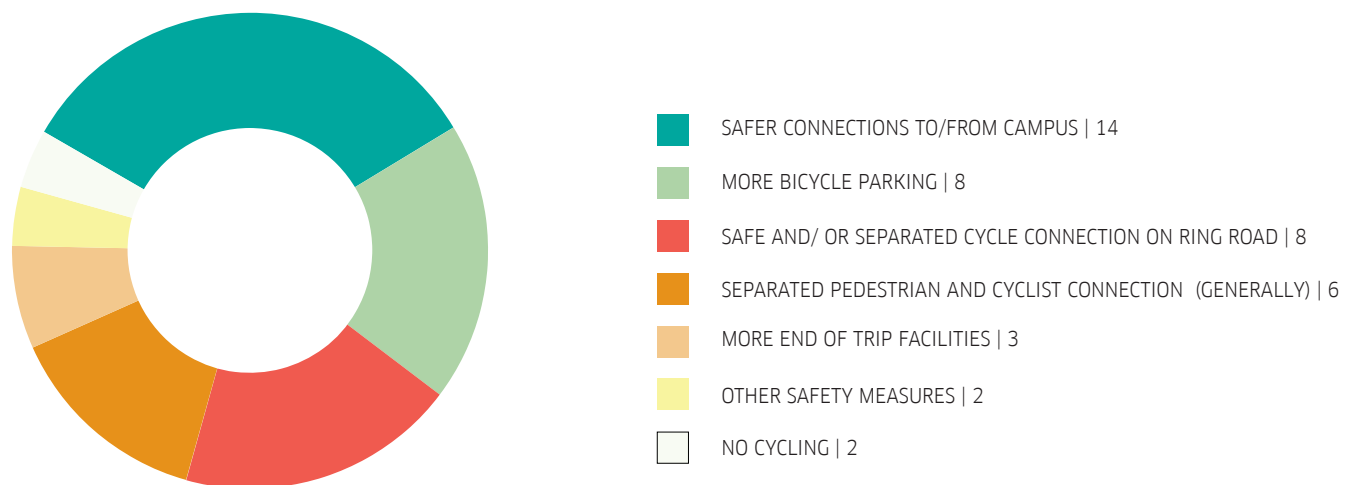
- *Cross walk traffic lights for controlled crossing to improve safety of pedestrian and convenience to drivers*
- *Maybe have some bike lanes around campus*
- *More direct visible route from bus loop to quad*
- *Ensure all daily needs are accessible to those with disabilities.*

CYCLING NETWORK

With 43 comments, the topic of “Cycling Network” within “Mobility Framework” receiving the second highest number of comments. The top three themes were as follows:

- **Enhancing bicycle crossings and connections leading to/from the core of campus,** including Sinclair, Shelbourne, University Drive, Henderson, Midgard, Gordon Head, and Mackenzie. Separated facilities and concerns about safety were often mentioned, as well as a suggestion to work with municipalities to implement safer connections.

Cycling Comment Themes



- **Separated cycling facilities on Ring Road.** Several comments referenced the desire to separate cyclists and pedestrians specifically.
- **More bicycle parking**, including more weather-protected parking. The CARSA location was identified several times.

Other comments with multiple references focused on general separation of cyclists and pedestrians, more end-of-trip facilities (e.g. showers) and services, other safety measures, and a desire to see no cycling at all.

“In Their Words” - Representative Comment Examples

- *We need a safe bike route to campus! Ideally tree lined like the Galloping Goose trail!*
- *Great idea making Ring Road a destination. The bike path on the inside is much needed. It should be divided from the pedestrians.*
- *Covered bike parking throughout campus. CARSA needs more bike parking!*
- *No shared bike and pedestrian lanes.*

TRANSIT NETWORK

This topic received 11 comments, with the following receiving multiple mentions:

- More lighting, for safety, at crosswalks, and along cycling lanes
- Prioritization of active modes and transit on Ring Road
- Improved or more waiting facilities, including at stops and at the transit exchange

“In Their Words” - Representative Comment Examples

- *More lights on Ring Road and at bus stops - it's scary at night.*
- *Bumps on Ring Road; cars drive too fast.*
- *I hope we don't have to walk far to transfer buses.*

VEHICLES, PARKING, AND SERVICING

This topic received 20 comments, with the following receiving multiple mentions:

- Reduced parking prices
- Reduced and/or underground/parkage parking
- Encourage transportation demand management
- Charging stations and tap technology / mobile parking app

“In Their Words” - Representative Comment Examples

- *Affordable monthly parking passes*
- *Great commitment to phase out surface parking and replace with parking structures*
- *NO expanded parking lots, discourage people from driving to campus*

RING ROAD

This topic received 28 comments, The most commonly referenced theme was **separating cyclists and pedestrians on the proposed shared path.**

Other topics with multiple references include:

- No parking on Ring Road
- Encourage slower vehicular movement on Ring Road, or remove personal vehicles altogether
- Do not reduce to one lane, or dedicate one lane to transit or cycling

“In Their Words” - Representative Comment Examples

- *We like separating bikes from pedestrians on shared path*
- *No vehicles on Ring Road except buses and trade vehicles*
- *Convert one lane to bus only HOV*

Other Panels

IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

This topic received 25 comments, with the following receiving two or more mentions:

- Protection of Cunningham Woods
- Natural area protection generally
- Transparency and student involvement in planning process
- Edible landscaping and permanent space for the Community Garden
- Mobility improvements, including cycling infrastructure and accessibility measures
- More destinations and activation of people-places

“In Their Words” - Representative Comment Examples

- *Another moratorium should be put on Cunningham Woods for its ecological, academic, and intrinsic values.*
- *Restoration on a huge scale, involving as many students as possible*
- *Transparency of development plans, protection of natural areas, listening to student opinions, improved efficiency and sustainability*
- *Food plants and urban foraging*
- *Mobility is a top priority, especially in the Ring itself*
- *Centres of animation, especially near Science and Art Buildings*

EXCITING ASPECTS OF PLAN

This topic received 21 comments, with the following receiving two or more mentions:

- Cycling infrastructure
- On campus shops and amenities
- Focus on transit and cycling, rather than cars
- Ecological restoration and green corridors
- Green buildings and architectural opportunities

“In Their Words” - Representative Comment Examples

- *I think the plan is great so far!*
- *External businesses on campus, small condensed villages like UBC (Wesbrook Village, University Village), SFYI (UniverCity)*
- *Less cars more bikes*
- *I'm very excited to see ecological restoration included!*
- *Opportunity for architecture*

OTHER COMMENTS

This topic received 32 comments, with the following receiving two or more mentions:

- More student representation in process and engagement with First Nations
- Permanent location for Community Garden
- More public art
- Protect Cunningham Woods
- Better outreach on consultation process
- Safety measures, including through lighting and social changes
- Transportation and parking options for seniors and people with accessibility challenges

“In Their Words” - Representative Comment Examples

- *More student voices in the committees. Sticky notes doesn't mean seats at the table.*
- *Long term plans to keep campus community garden and Cunningham Woods*
- *Commitment to public art especially First Nations*
- *Notice of this consultation process should be sent to everyone at UVic email addresses*
- *Safety changes need to come from social changes, not just buildings. Make sure to focus on that too.*
- *Need to ensure parking is still available for most buildings for those with accessibility.*

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Stakeholder Workshop, October 2015

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

BACKGROUND + OVERVIEW

Similar to the first phase, a stakeholder workshop brought together diverse participants representing students, faculty, staff, and the broader community, including neighbours. The workshop included a presentation on the draft Campus Plan, small group discussions, and large group report back. Approximately 50 participants attended.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Group discussion was tracked on flip charts, and the following themes emerged across groups:

Does the Plan resonate? Does it capture the Vision?

- The vision and principles are good.
- The Plan reflects the input of participants through ideas like compact campus and the promenade.
- There are some concerns related to green space / natural areas, as well as Ring Road.

What considerations do you see for implementing the Plan?

- Ring Road is a positive idea, however consideration must be given to accessibility and cyclist conflicts with pedestrians and vehicles. Separated areas for pedestrians and cyclists on the Ring Road may be necessary. Increase the number of pedestrian crossings, and slow traffic.
- To activate the Grand Promenade, consider incorporating a coffee bar, cheap covered space (like a pavilion) with necessary infrastructure such as electricity hook-up, and seating to avoid damp grass. Also consider cycling access, food production, art, urban agriculture, study friendly tables and weather-protected seats, and accessibility.
- Continue with engagement.
- Protect Cunningham Woods from development. Since the potential future building site on the northern edge would encourage safety through natural surveillance, in its place, explore other safety measures.
- Find academic opportunities for restoration, land-based learning, nature connectivity, and sustainable agriculture.
- Densify on brownfield or pre-developed sites. Consider what happens with displaced parking.
- Address cycling conflicts with other uses. Provide additional cycling infrastructure. including lanes, end of trip facilities, and parking.

EMAILS

BACKGROUND + OVERVIEW

Participants were encouraged to submit additional comments on the draft Campus Plan by email. Approximately 30 emails were received by students, faculty, and community residents, including the Students for Cunningham Woods, Native Students Union, the Gordon Head Residents Association, the Mt. Tolmie Community Association, Goward House Society, Land Conservancy of BC, and the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

While emails were diverse, themes are as follows:

- *Most commonly referenced issue:* Protect Cunningham Woods from development, as this has ecological value and is an important location as a “living laboratory”.
- Separated cycling and pedestrian areas on Ring Road should be reconsidered.
- Enhance natural spaces and corridors.
- Encourage and commission public art.
- Enhance cycling facilities, including more bike lanes, covered bike racks, “all-ages and abilities” routes from campus borders to Ring Road, and better/safer connections leading to/from campus. Work with municipalities to advance cycling infrastructure.
- Do not reduce vehicle access on Ring Road or parking.
- The Plan looks excellent - it is exciting and innovative.

Other topics covered in single submissions included the following:

- Provide bird habitat by retaining standing dead trees, and avoid bird-window strikes by retrofitting the most high-risk window exteriors.
- Create a stronger link between academic activities and campus design.
- Encourage a strong unique West Coast architecture.
- Protect a significant portion of the Queenswood property as protected forested area.
- Encourage comfortable, weather-protected seating.
- Consider child friendly infrastructure on campus.
- Explore opportunities for university spaces beyond campus (ie. in the community).

NEXT STEPS

The outcomes of the engagement are being used to refine the draft Campus Plan. A Final Campus Plan will be presented to the campus and broader community early in 2016.

Engagement outcomes and project updates will be provided on the project webpage at:

<http://www.uvic.ca/campusplanning/campus-plan-update/index.php>

