



**Taché Promenade**  
Public Engagement Report



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# 1.0 Background and Introduction

Enhancements to Winnipeg's waterfront areas for increased use and enjoyment by residents have been envisioned for some time. In 2014, a 20-year downtown waterfront vision was developed for several significant waterfront areas of the City of Winnipeg, including St. Boniface and The Forks. The Taché Promenade is part of this vision as identified in the 2014 *Go To the Waterfront* document.

In 2015, the City commissioned a riverbank condition assessment and a functional design for the sidewalk expansion and the lookout structure along Taché Avenue.

On March 7, 2016, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks, recommended a three phase capital funding approach in the 2016 Capital Budget for riverbank stabilization, multi-use riverbank pathway, and lookout structure (known as the belvedere) for the Taché Promenade.

The Taché Promenade project will improve public spaces and the riverfront area along Taché Avenue between Provencher Boulevard and Despins Street featuring a widened promenade-style walkway and pedestrian belvedere elevated above the riverbank that incorporates public art. Together, these features will build on the success of Winnipeg's core waterfront areas, improve connections with destinations in St. Boniface and enhance pedestrian and cycling opportunities. The project also involves riverbank stabilization work, which will protect the promenade, protect important sewer and water infrastructure in the area, and increase the reliability of the City's primary dike.

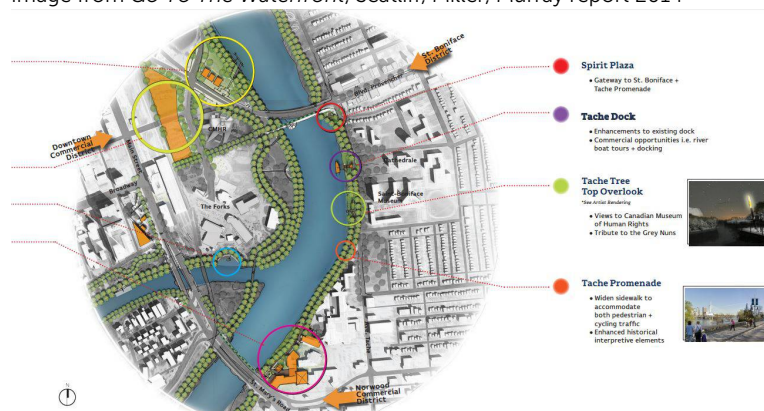
The Taché Promenade project is supported with additional capital funding from The Winnipeg Foundation and Entreprises Riel.

Consultation with stakeholders and the general public was sought in the detailed design phase occurring from May 2017 to October 2017. This report includes an overview of the public engagement process for the project and a summary of the input received from the stakeholder groups and residents.

## Background Documents

- *Go to the Waterfront* planning document.  
<http://clkapps.winnipeg.ca/dmis/viewdoc.asp?docid=13138>
- *St. Boniface Rivertrail Tree Top Lookout and Sidewalk Expansion Riverbank Condition Assessment and Functional Design Report*.  
[http://www.winnipeg.ca/finance/findata/matmgt/documents//2017/180-2017//180-2017\\_Appendix\\_C-Riverbank\\_Cond\\_Assessment.pdf](http://www.winnipeg.ca/finance/findata/matmgt/documents//2017/180-2017//180-2017_Appendix_C-Riverbank_Cond_Assessment.pdf)

Image from *Go To The Waterfront*, Scatliff, Miller, Murray report 2014



## 2.0 Engagement Goals

The following public engagement goals were identified for the Taché Promenade project:

- Consult with the Taché Promenade project sponsors (funders) and the Taché Working Group\* on the design development of the Taché Promenade taking into consideration other ongoing projects that are a part of the larger vision for The Forks/St. Boniface loop.
- Inform key stakeholders of the technical requirements and implementation strategy for the stabilization works, promenade expansion, boardwalk structure and incorporate, where possible, feedback into the detailed design.
- Develop a robust stakeholder list that includes a diversity of individuals and organizations and interests i.e. Francophone community, heritage, active transportation, nearby institutions (church, museum, hospital, college), residents, seniors groups, local businesses, etc.
- Update stakeholders on the status and direction of the project. Inform them of the City's progress with moving towards detailed design and construction of the Taché Promenade.
- Provide context for the Taché Promenade project in relation to the larger vision for The Forks/St. Boniface loop.
- Inform stakeholders of project objectives – i.e. stability improvements and erosion protection, Promenade widening, treetop boardwalk and the incorporation of public art.
- Inform stakeholders of opportunities and means by which they can provide feedback to the detailed design (in-person and online).
- Develop a project information bulletin and invitation to attend a public information session and distribute by direct home mail, and through posters at local businesses and institutions and through email.
- Hold a public information session to solicit feedback on the Taché Promenade design and create public awareness around the project stages and timeline.

*\* The Taché Working Group is comprised of key stakeholders within the The Forks/St. Boniface loop. The Working Group includes land owners, funders, institutions and organizations adjacent to the proposed loop. The Working Group have been meeting for several years to advance the vision of a contiguous walking/cycling loop that includes St. Boniface, The Forks and Spirit Island, and Parks Canada.*

## 3.0 Stakeholder and Public Notification

### Walking Tours

The Taché Working Group organized a walking tour on May 23, 2017. The project team were invited to take part in a walk beginning at the Forks, across Queen Elizabeth Way, and along Taché Avenue to the Esplanade/Provencher Bridge. The goal of the walking tour was to gain an understanding of the Taché Promenade project scope in relation to The Forks/St. Boniface loop. This was an opportunity to discuss 'in-the-field' the site redevelopment plans and specifically the areas of riverbank stabilization, new multi-use pathway, the widened promenade, the new belvedere structure and public art feature. A meeting following the walking tour allowed for further discussion of areas that would benefit by ongoing coordination and collaboration in the greater Loop context such as lighting, signage and wayfinding.

### Project Website

A project web page was developed on the City's website to provide key information about the project. Web content included project scope and goals, a site map, timeline, frequently asked questions, and information on the opportunities to get involved. The project web page was available in both English and French - [winnipeg.ca/tachepromenade](http://winnipeg.ca/tachepromenade) and [winnipeg.ca/promenadetache](http://winnipeg.ca/promenadetache), respectively.

The project bulletin, public information session invitation, advertisements, presentation materials and feedback survey were posted on this web page for public viewing and comment. All printed materials that were circulated in the community are listed and linked to the project web page and available in both languages (see appendices).

### Project Bulletin and Public Information Session Invitation

An information bulletin was prepared to provide background key aspects of the project such as riverbank stabilization, The Forks/St. Boniface loop, and the 100m section of suspended walkway that is known as the Belvedere. The project web URL address and invitation to attend the information session were included in the bulletin.

The bulletin/invitation was delivered through direct home mail and bundles of invitations were left at area apartments and condominiums, as well as nearby businesses and institutions.

## Project Poster

Posters in both English and French were developed and distributed in the study area. Locations included:

Université de Saint-Boniface	St. Boniface Museum
St. Boniface Library	St. Boniface Hospital
Centre culturel franco-manitoban	Accueil Francophone
Café Postal	Promenade Bistro
Le Garage Café	Entreprises Riel
Notre Dame Community Centre	St. Boniface Cathedral
Archdiocese House	Société franco-manitobaine
Radio-Canada	Provencher Boulevard businesses (6)

## Newspaper Advertisements

English and French advertisements for the public information session were run the 'The Lance' (Canstar) and 'La Liberté' community newspapers.

## Media

Social media (City of Winnipeg Public Engagement newsletter, Twitter, Facebook) was coordinated by the City of Winnipeg communications department to broadcast announcements about public engagement opportunities. Invitations were emailed to stakeholder groups via the consultant team and the area community centre that hosted the public information session.

News releases and public notices were also distributed by the City of Winnipeg. The project was featured on Radio-Canada, and television stations CityTV and Global Winnipeg (October 17, 2017) and in the Winnipeg Free Press (October 18, 2017).

## Notification by the Numbers

- 1 email sent to 46 stakeholders and organizations
  - email invitation sent on October 5, opened by 41.% of stakeholders
- 1700 printed bilingual project bulletins/information session invitations delivered to area homes and apartments
- 22 posters placed throughout the park, nearby businesses and study site
- 60 public information session attendees and 27 surveys completed in-person
- Online survey completed totalling 44 participant responses
  - feedback open online from October 3–31, 2017
- One City of Winnipeg news release sent on October 3, 2017
- City of Winnipeg Public Engagement Newsletter on to 5,300 recipients.
- Facebook post with 18,402 followers.
- Twitter post with 82,700 followers.

## 4.0 Feedback Survey

A feedback survey (see Appendix D) was developed to solicit general feedback to the Taché Promenade design. The public was invited to contribute feedback to several key components of the Taché Promenade project and share any additional comments or concerns. The feedback survey was made available online on the project web page two weeks in advance of the public information session and remained open for an additional two weeks following the session. A similar hard copy feedback survey was available at the public information session for participants to fill in following their review of the project information.

## 5.0 Public Information Session

A public information session was held on October 17, 2017 at Notre Dame Community Centre, inviting area residents and stakeholders to provide their comments on the design concept for the Taché Promenade.

In advance of the public information session, the presentation boards were available on the project website. These boards (see appendices) highlighted: background information, site context, and project timeline; technical and environmental considerations; pathway, promenade and belvedere design; public art and; frequently asked questions.

City staff and members of the consultant team were in attendance to answer questions from the public, and to facilitate informative tours of presentation boards. After reviewing information session materials, participants were encouraged to provide feedback through the survey (see full responses in Appendix D).



Image: Taché Promenade Public Information Session, Notre Dame Community Centre, October 17, 2017

Approximately 60 people were in attendance and 27 comment forms were completed. Additional project bulletins (from the home delivery printing) were available for attendees with the project website address if they chose to fill out the feedback form online instead of in-person at the public information session. Participants could also share this information with family, friends and neighbours who were unable to attend the event.

Following the public information session, the consultant team and City of Winnipeg of staff met to debrief on ideas presented by the community and document new ideas coming forward from the feedback.

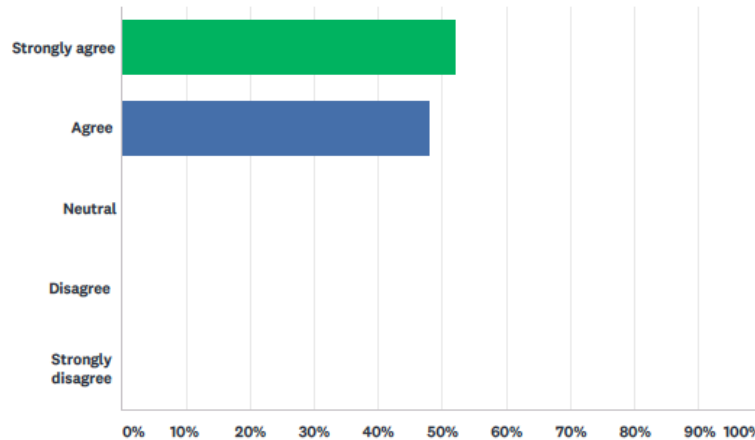


## 6.0 What We Heard

The following is a summary of feedback generated during the public information session and the online comment form.

**Q1 – I was able to find the information I was looking for.**

- 100% of respondents attending the Public Information Session strongly agreed or agreed that they were able to find the information they were looking for.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	52.00%	13
Agree	48.00%	12
Neutral	0.00%	0
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>25</b>

**Q2 – Please provide comments of the following key design features of this project:**

**a) Multi-use 3 metre riverbank pathway (Esplanade Riel to Taché Docks)**

- Nine respondents felt that 3 metre is a minimum width for cyclists and pedestrians with some noting a need for a wider pathway with an additional 0.5 – 1.0 metre width.
- Three respondents indicated a desire for a clear separation between uses of pedestrians and cycling – designated and signed – possibly with a barrier or with painted lanes.
- Connections leading to the pathway and away from the pathway are very important with approximately six respondents noting specific conditions for connections .
- A bicycle friendly connection to Ave. de la Cathedrale –with a half signal or HAWK signal and not just the pedestrian corridor was noted.
- Connectivity to the pathway from the Esplanade and existing sidewalk is important to not interrupt the natural flow of cyclists.

- Three respondents noted that the riverbank pathway must be above flood levels and not at the height of The Forks Riverwalk.
- Some concern about the lighting level on the pathway for safety and security.
- Participants generally noted that riverbank stabilization is critical.

**b) Widened 4 metre pedestrian and cycling promenade (Taché Docks to Despins)**

- There was strong support for this improvement over the existing narrow sidewalk.
- There were fewer comments about the 4m promenade width as compared to the 3m riverbank pathway, however there still remains some concern about pedestrians and cyclist sharing use and being able to safely accommodate all users. Three respondents noted a desire for demarcated bike/walk lanes.
- One participant commented that the promenade should be celebrated with a higher standard of fixtures such as using Paris style French bollards rather than guard rail for improving aesthetics and more than the typical 'cobra' style lighting.
- Many supportive comments such as the promenade feature being the most exciting aspect of project and most needed for improving cycling safety.
- Other thoughts suggested including a bike maintenance station with airpump and tools and bump outs for seating and viewing nodes.

**c) The Belvedere, commonly known as the lookout (100 metre long elevated walkway)**

- Supportive comments included: Wonderful, Excited, Excellent, Fantastic, Great idea, Looking forward to it, Bravo!
- Some concern about drinking, sleeping on bench and potential vandalism.
- Several comments noted that lighting essential for security.
- While some comments question the cost of the belvedere, others applaud it as a tourist attraction and good public space investment
- Future maintenance – is there money?
- Accessibility advocates noted the need to ensure the indicator paving strip for path of travel is highly visible with a good contrast.
- The pavers are difficult for people in wheelchairs – more effort is required to wheel on pavers and they can make for uncomfortable vibration.

**Q3 – Please share with us any additional comments or concerns you have about the project.**

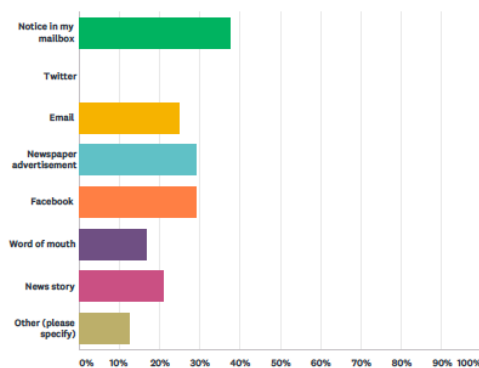
- There were concerns about traffic loading on Masson Street and speed on sidestreets during construction.
- Public awareness and understanding of the road closures and construction schedule is important.
- Five respondents expressed concern about City funds for this project and public art, citing greater needs for road infrastructure and public transit.
- Lighting should be plentiful and monitored for maintenance.
- Winter snow removal on the belvedere is important.
- A respondent noted there is a lot of vehicle splashing (rain and slush) onto pedestrians on the sidewalks along Taché Avenue – particularly the east side.
- A desire to have a lighted/signalized pedestrian crossing at Taché Avenue and Despins Street.
- Two respondents noted the project does not go far enough, citing a need for widening of Taché Avenue to manage the traffic volumes and emergency vehicles.

- Desire for a better standard than the Cobra light – as a premiere walkway.
- Road closure concerns on Taché Avenue – especially at 500 Taché where many ambulances arrive at the block.
- Concern about lack of attention to the east sidewalk on Taché Avenue – general deterioration, inadequate width, and desire to add a higher curb to prevent vehicle splashing.
- Sixteen respondents see this is a very much needed project for improving cycling safety
- Desire to see a permanent cycling lane on Taché Avenue - Provencher Boulevard to Marion Street.
- Improve Taché dock for more use such as the water taxi.
- Link the Taché docks to the riverbank pathway as a destination.
- Link the pathway between Despins Street and the Norwood Bridge and Thomas Berry Street.
- Provide a curb cut at the end of the pathway leading from the trail to the access road between the St. Boniface Hospital and the Research Centre.
- Two respondents commented for improving the pathway behind the St. Boniface Hospital.
- There is interest to enhance the connection to the winter river trail – keep it active and programmed throughout the winter months.
- Could the promenade be converted to a skating path in winter?
- Vegetation – reconsider use of invasive Carragana and Virginia creeper.
- Think about planting trees and vegetation above the river flood level.
- Excellent addition for seniors and the hospital community.

#### Q4 – How did you hear about this public meeting?

Note: Respondents could select more than one method of notification.

- There were several successful meeting notification methods
- 37.5% of respondents heard about the meeting through the home delivery notice with the next most popular through the local newspaper advertisements and through social media (Facebook).



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES
Notice in my mailbox		37.50% 9
Twitter		0.00% 0
Email		25.00% 6
Newspaper advertisement		29.17% 7
Facebook		29.17% 7
Word of mouth		16.67% 4
News story		20.83% 5
Other (please specify)		12.50% 3
Total Respondents: 24		
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Work	11/9/2017 10:20 AM
2	Radio Canada	11/9/2017 10:07 AM
3	Matt Allard's email	10/19/2017 2:46 PM

## 7.0 Feedback Consideration and Response

The following are examples of key input from the stakeholder meetings and the public information session, and the corresponding design and planning response.

Feedback	Consideration or Response
Ensure sufficient riverbank pathway width to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists.	3.0 metre width is the City's minimum standard for off-street pathways that are physically separated from motor vehicles and provide sufficient width and supporting infrastructure to be used for cycling and walking.
Consider potential for flooding of Riverbank Pathway.	The lowest point on the upper bank pathway is set to an elevation of approximately 229.1 m. This level has a statistical flood return period of 1 in 50 years to 1 in 100 years. In comparison, the Assiniboine River Walkway is set approximately 5 m (15 feet) lower in elevation.
Ensure sufficient lighting levels for safety and security on Riverbank Pathway and Belvedere.	Belvedere light levels exceed industry standards set by the Illumination Engineering Society (IES) for similar walkways. Riverbank pathway lighting is being supplemented to achieve City's desired illumination level.
Accessibility should be considered in design of the pathway.	Tactile pavers will be specified in the sidewalk design. A contrasting indicator paving strip will be included on the Promenade and Belvedere.
Provision for connectivity of Promenade to neighbourhood streets and pathways for cyclists and pedestrians.	Although connectivity improvements are not part of the current project, the Promenade widened sidewalk and upper bank pathway will improve north-south connectivity within the project area.
Notification of road closures, construction re-routing, and provision for emergency vehicles will be made.	Advance notification of road closures and construction schedule will be communicated with area residences and businesses that will be impacted, as well as posted to the City's project website. The contractor is required to maintain emergency vehicle access during the road closure/construction.

Feedback	Consideration or Response
The Taché Avenue east sidewalk condition is poor and in need of upgrades.	The east sidewalk is not included in the scope of this project.
Preference for character lighting for ambience and aesthetics.	Under-rail lighting on the belvedere and promenade will provide a warm, glare-free glow on the walking surface of the belvedere and widened promenade between Rue de la Cathedrale and Despins Street. Along the riverbank pathway, discussions are underway about providing additional character lighting in a future phase of the project.

## 8.0 Next Steps

The Taché Promenade project has now progressed through detailed design to project tender and construction.

Council approved funding for this project on September 27, 2017. A construction contract has been awarded to Maple Leaf Construction Ltd. to complete the proposed works. Riverbank stabilization work began in early December 2017 and is expected to be complete by mid-March 2018.

During riverbank stabilization, the southbound lane of Taché Avenue and the west sidewalk will be closed between approximately Provencher Boulevard and Despina Street.

Additional road closures are planned during the remaining installation, and construction of the belvedere pedestrian structure (tree top lookout). The sidewalk widening and belvedere construction is expected to begin in June 2018.

Construction updates will be communicated to area residents and businesses as the project progresses.

Project completion is anticipated in October 2018.