



Taché Promenade PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

February 2018

Background

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.

Engagement

Consultation with stakeholders and the general public was sought in the detailed design phase occurring from May to October 2017. The following public engagement goals were identified for the Taché Promenade project:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Provide context for the Taché Promenade project in relation to the larger vision for The Forks/St. Boniface loop.
6. Inform stakeholders of project objectives – i.e. stability improvements and erosion protection, promenade widening, treetop boardwalk and the incorporation of public art.
7. Inform stakeholders of opportunities and means by which they can provide feedback to the detailed design (in-person and online).
8. 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 Forks/St. Boniface loop. The Working Group includes land owners, funders, institutions and organizations adjacent to the proposed loop.

- Project email sent to 46 stakeholders and organizations on October 5, 2017.
- 1,700 printed bilingual project bulletins/information session invitations delivered to area homes and apartments.
- 22 posters placed at nearby businesses, and institutions (library, university, church, hospital, and museum).
- La Liberté Newspaper Advertisement on October 11, 2017.
- The Lance Newspaper Advertisement on October 11, 2017.
- 44 completed surveys (27 in person and 17 online).
- City of Winnipeg Public Engagement Newsletter on to 5,300 recipients.
- Facebook post with 18,402 followers.
- Twitter post with 82,700 followers.

Public Information Session Summary

A public information session was held on October 17, 2017 at the Notre Dame Community Centre. Ten presentation boards in both English and French provided detailed information on the riverbank pathway, promenade and belvedere design, the riverbank stabilization process, site restoration and revegetation, public art feature, and the construction timeline and next steps.

To learn more about the Taché Promenade project, please visit: winnipeg.ca/TachePromenade



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Approximately sixty (60) people attended the public information session. 27 surveys were completed in-person at the event. An additional 17 online feedback surveys were completed on the project website from October 3 to 31, 2017 for a total of 44 completed surveys

What We Heard

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 are specified in the sidewalk design. A contrasting indicator paving strip will be included on the Promenade and Belvedere.

Feedback	Consideration or Response
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.
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 Rue Despins. Along the riverbank pathway, discussion are underway about providing additional character lighting in a future phase of the project.

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Next Steps

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 Despins 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.

Appendices

- Appendix A Project Bulletin and Invitation
- Appendix B Poster and Advertisements
- Appendix C Public Information Session Presentation Boards
- Appendix D Survey and Responses

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