



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUMMARY REPORT Consultation #1

JANUARY 5, 2021 | bunt & associates



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We respectfully acknowledge that this project is being undertaken on the traditional territory of the Kwakiutl people, Gilakas'la



INTRODUCTION

The District of Port Hardy retained Bunt & Associates Engineering Ltd. to undertake the development of an Active Transportation Plan. The study and outcomes from this plan will enable the District to move forward with an Active Transportation Implementation Plan suitable for the short, mid, and long-term needs of the community.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

1. Evaluate the functionality of the District of Port Hardy's existing network of designated trails and walking and cycling routes in town and the surrounding environs that connect the community including between Fort Rupert (Storey's Beach/Beaver Harbour) and the town centre.
2. Identify gaps with current trail, sidewalk and pathway infrastructure with a focus on providing solutions to enhance overall connectivity and which encourages adherence to safe travel routes.
3. Identify a connected network of "Bikeway" streets which foster safe and shared routes for bicycles and vehicle traffic, as well as highlighting potential priority locations for adding crosswalks, and pedestrian/bike signals.
4. Provide safe and effective traffic calming solutions.
5. In consultation with the community, develop a priority list of projects with estimated costs for implementation in the short-term, medium-term, and long-term.



ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The Port Hardy Active Transportation Plan is being developed within a three phase process with engagement activities taking place throughout the life-cycle of the project. Consultation #1 coincides with the technical program of the first phase. Consultation #2 takes place during the second phase, and follow-through with Stakeholders takes place at the completion of phase three. The public participation input feeds into and informs the recommendations and the presentation of the Draft Active Transportation Plan.



WHO

Was Invited to Participate?

- Port Hardy Residents
- Business Owners
- Community Sports, Youth, and Seniors Organizations
- Local Indigenous Community
- Education and Daycare Centres
- Places of Worship
- Regional and Local Government

HOW

People Were Engaged?

- Survey available on-line and in print
- Community Walk & Wheel Tour
- Community Bike Tour



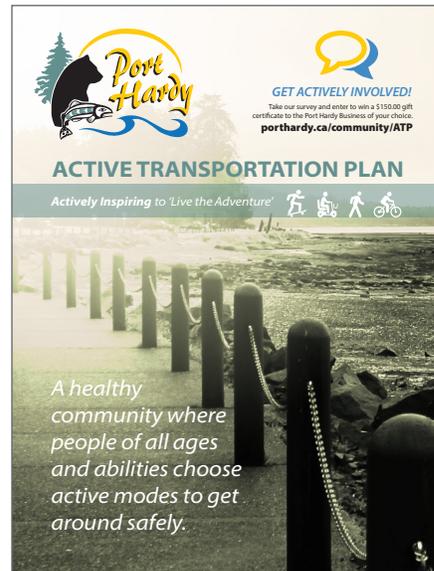
PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication methods were used to raise awareness about the project and solicit input.



PROJECT WEB PAGE

A project web page was set up on porthardy.ca that included links to RSVP to the Walk and Bike Tours and Survey #1.



PROJECT POSTERS

Project posters were set up at locations throughout Town.



INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Emailed to over 100 Stakeholder groups/contacts, posted to the project web page, Facebook, and Instagram.



SOCIAL MEDIA

The District posted information and reminders to Facebook and Instagram from launch of the engagement efforts through to closing of Survey #1.



WHAT WE HEARD

The first round of consultation included Town Walk & Wheel and Bike Tours on November 13th, 2020. Additionally, a public survey was open November 13th to December 4th, 2020. Engagement efforts were taken to both educate and solicit input on the perceptions and experiences about active transportation in Port Hardy. The results provide important insight about the aspirations of the community.

SURVEY #1



73 TOTAL RESPONSES RECEIVED | 100% COMPLETION RATE



88% WOULD LIKE TO USE ACTIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION MORE OFTEN

SURVEY ANALYSIS

The following pages present ranked data in a way that highlights the highest level of consensus among the responses (50% and higher). This enables the technical team to view at a glance the areas and topics that received the greatest degree of commonality in response and also where there may be opportunities for improvement or advancement. The open text base responses were also analyzed in terms of shared thought. The following five themes emerged from the responses received in the survey.

1. INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRAFFIC CONDITIONS: 49 Comments

Safety concerns, suggestions for adding sidewalks, crosswalks, separated pedestrian and bike facilities

2. NETWORK CONNECTIONS/PROXIMITY/WAYFINDING: 35 Comments

Connecting existing trails and paths with key destinations. Desire for improved wayfinding

3. WEATHER & MAINTENANCE: 27 Comments

Safety concerns, improved maintenance of existing trails and paths

4. ACCESSIBILITY: 23 Comments

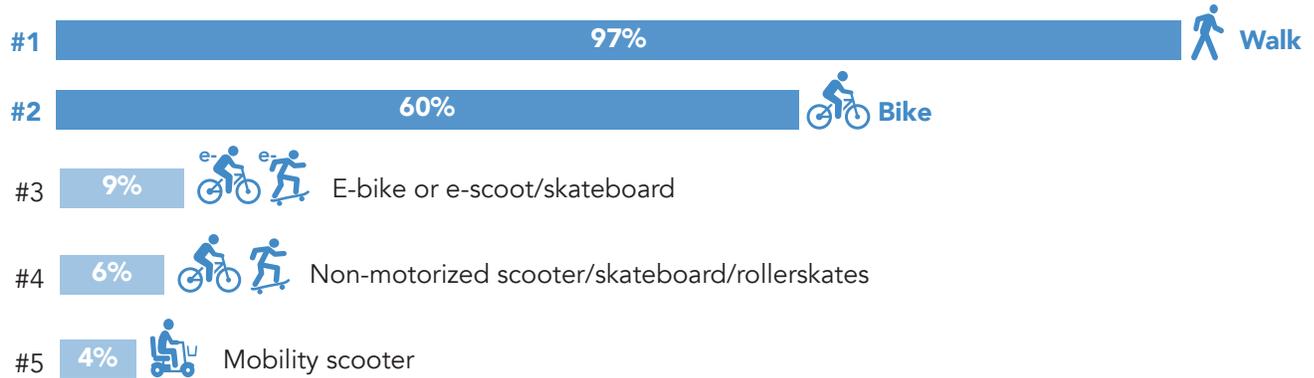
Need for accessible design features including at crossings, stroller and scooter friendly

5. SOCIETAL CONDITIONS: 13 Comments

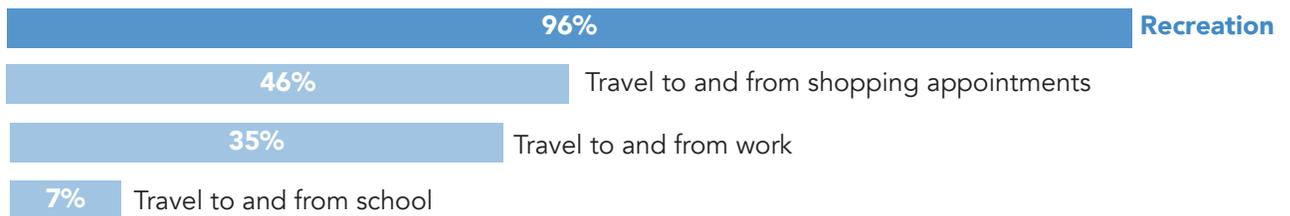
Safety concerns, particularly in the evening hours



Forms of Active Transportation currently used and by rank of frequency:

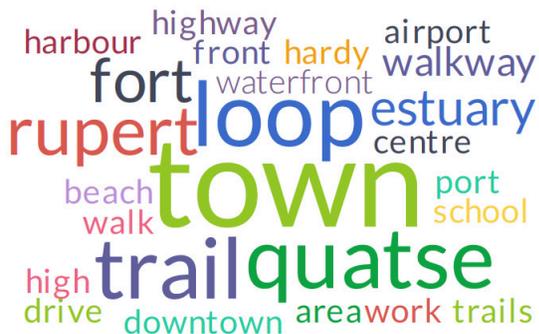


Purpose for choosing Active Transportation travel around Town:



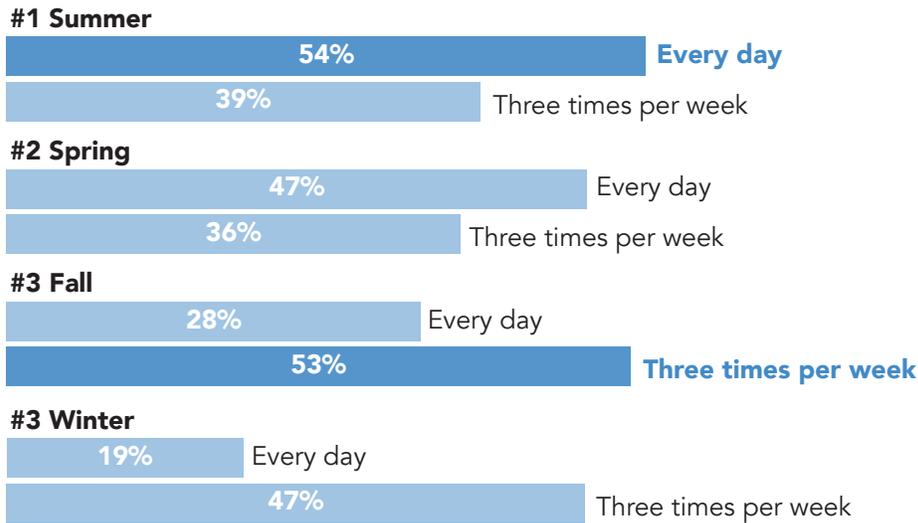
Where respondents go by Active Transportation:

It was clear that respondents visit multiple places in and around Port Hardy for a variety of reasons. The word graph below illustrates (by size) the frequency of the word used in the responses. **Town, Quatse, Trail, Loop, Rupert, Fort, Estuary** were cited most often.





Frequency of Active Transportation use related to seasons:



Motivation towards increasing Active Transportation use:



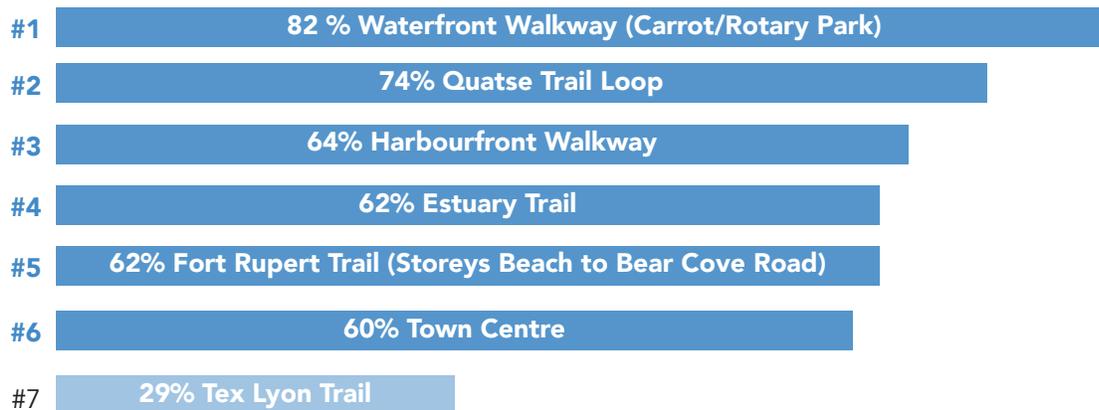
OPEN TEXT RESPONSES

A total of 17 text based responses were received, which described both the motivational factors for choosing active modes and also the challenges behind not choosing active transportation. **58% of respondents cited improvements needed/desired for Infrastructure and Traffic Conditions, while 50% referred to improved Network Connections/Proximity/Wayfinding** as motivation to choose active modes.

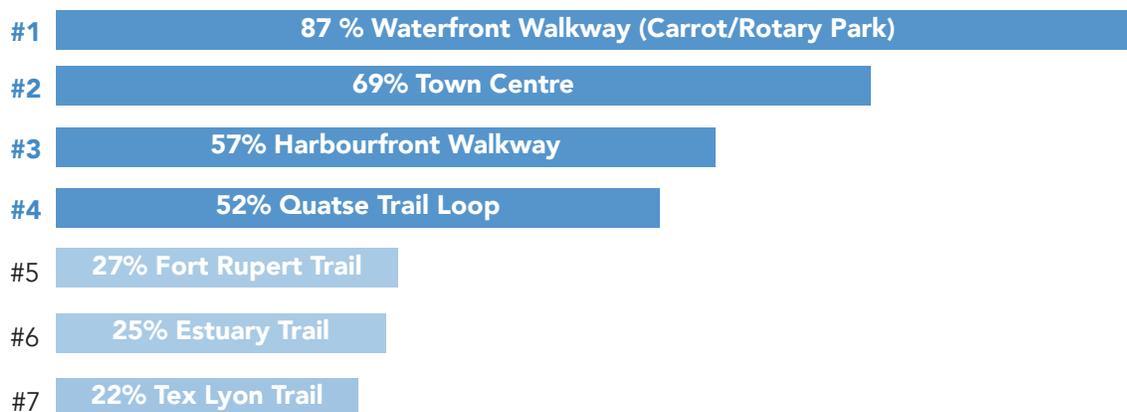


Value		Percent	Responses
Network Connections/Proximity/Wayfinding		50.0%	6
Infrastructure and Traffic Conditions		58.3%	7
Weather & Maintenance		25.0%	3
Accessibility		8.3%	1

Favourite Active Transportation trails:

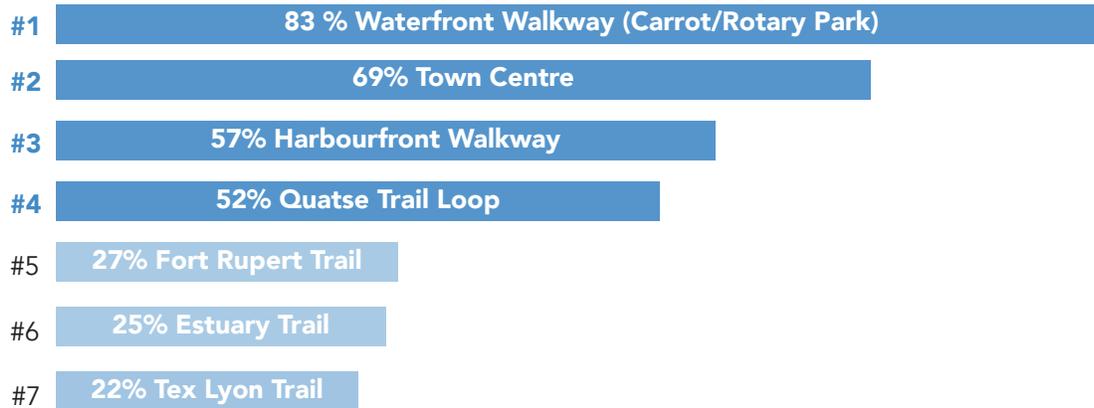


Busiest Active Transportation trails:





Locations/trails for improvement:



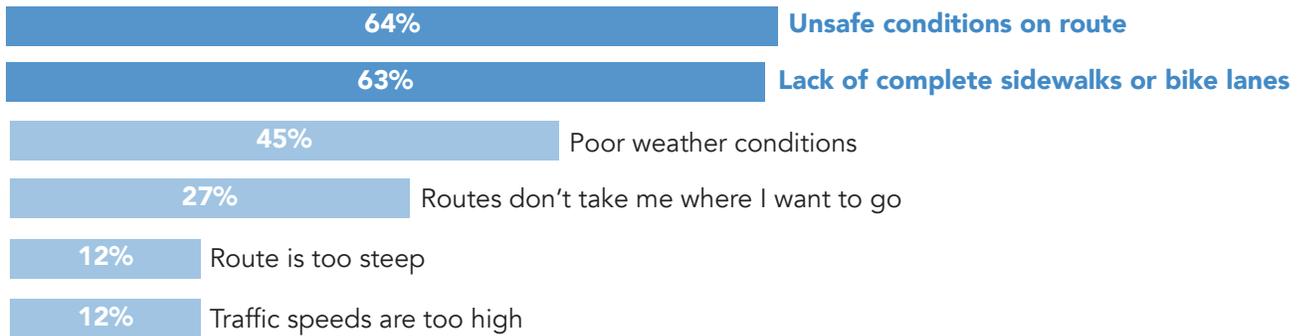
OPEN TEXT RESPONSES

A total of 49 text based responses were received, describing a mix of concerns and suggestions specific to the various trails and locations.

Value	Percent	Responses
Network Connections/Proximity/Wayfinding	19.4%	7
Infrastructure/Traffic Conditions	25.0%	9
Societal Conditions	27.8%	10
Weather & Maintenance	30.6%	11
Accessibility	33.3%	12



Reasons for not choosing Active Transportation for travel around Town:



OPEN TEXT RESPONSES

A total of 26 text based responses were received, which described the reasons for not choosing active transportation to get around Town. **59% of respondents cited unsafe infrastructure and/or traffic conditions** as a key reason for not choosing active transportation.

Value	Percent	Responses
Network Connections/Proximity/Wayfinding	18.2%	4
Infrastructure/Traffic Conditions	59.1%	13
Societal Conditions	4.5%	1
Weather & Maintenance	13.6%	3
Accessibility	22.7%	5



Suggestions on how to improve and/or inspire Active Transportation in and around Port Hardy:

OPEN TEXT RESPONSES

A total of 55 text based responses were received. In line with the findings of other text based feedback, a large portion of the feedback **(54%) was about suggestions to improve infrastructure to increase safety between pedestrians and vehicles. Close behind in the number of comments (49%) was about the desire for safe connections and improvements to wayfinding.**

Value		Percent	Responses
Network Connections/Proximity/Wayfinding		48.6%	18
Infrastructure/Traffic Conditions		54.1%	20
Societal Conditions		5.4%	2
Weather & Maintenance		27.0%	10
Accessibility		13.5%	5

BIKE/WALK & WHEEL TOURS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020 | 15 PARTICIPANTS



MAYOR & COUNCIL MEMBERS / CITY STAFF / COMMUNITY / MEDIA



TOUR SUMMARY

The tours began at the District Hall/Rec Centre. Led by Bunt & Associates' Project Lead, Tyler Thomson, participants walked/biked a route through Town. The group went down Rupert Street to check out the potential to enhance an existing pedestrian connection down to Park Drive then headed west on Seaview Drive to the Huddleston Trails. Time was spent exploring the Huddleston Trails where Tyler spoke on the importance of way-finding signage and lighting to improve safety for people using the trails. The group talked about the potential location for a multi-use path along the north side of Douglas Street that could link to the Waterfront Walkway and become a perimeter active transportation network for recreation and commuting purposes linking to key destinations. Further discussions included:

- Potential for bringing the intersection of Douglas-Hwy 19/Granville Street to a more human scale
- Potential for primary and secondary connections for cyclists for recreational and commuting purposes
- Safety concerns at Douglas/Market due to angled parking
- Idea of providing traffic calming through corner bulges to improve sightlines and reduce the crossing distance for pedestrians
- Improving crossing conditions for pedestrians and bikes to Waterfront Park
- Potential for a multi-use path in the wide boulevard on Douglas Street
- Innovation of e-bikes in relation to commuting from out of Town

The tours provided valuable insight for both participants and Bunt & Associates with great ideas shared.



NEXT STEPS

PHASE 2: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- **Priority Areas:** Identify specific locations for active transportation infrastructure including sidewalks, crosswalks, and cycling facilities based on the identified network gaps and engagement activities.
- **GIS Mapping:** Prepare ArcGIS maps of the existing network, gaps and proposed improvements.
- **Improvements & Strategies:** Develop criteria that will lead to priority list of projects and/or options and which are linked to the Community's vision.
- **Cost Estimates:** Estimates for recommended strategies.

CONSULTATION ROUND 2

The Port Hardy Community will have the opportunity to complete an interactive survey that is designed to present a selection of priority projects, whereby respondents can rank the recommended options based on both desire and fiscal responsibility.

- **Funding Strategy:** Identify best practices for funding active transportation in small communities.
- **Draft Active Transportation Plan:** Prepare summary of the project, the methods, findings, and recommendations.

PHASE 3: FINAL PLAN & PRESENTATION

Bunt & Associates will prepare the Final Active Transportation Plan together with a PowerPoint Presentation showcasing the highlights of the Plan.

STAY ACTIVELY INVOLVED!

porthardy.ca/community/ATP