



Thunderbird Park Transportation Study

**February 2013
Public Consultation Summary**

May 30, 2013

campus + community planning

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1. Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of what we heard during the February 22 – March 6th 2013, public consultation on the Thunderbird Park Transportation Study. Background information on the Study, information on the consultation process, public and stakeholder engagement and notification, as well as detailed results of public consultation are presented in the sections that follow.

Campus + Community Planning (C+CP) provided notification of this public consultation opportunity to **over 145,000** contacts through advertising and outreach activities. **36** campus stakeholder groups also received notification of the public consultation process. As a result of our outreach activities, we had:

- A total of **11** people attend the Public Open House on February 28th 2013 (See Section 5.1 for a more detailed description of open house locations and times)
- **65** unique page views of the Thunderbird Park Transportation Study pages on the C+CP website

A total of **30** questionnaires were taken during the public consultation period.

1.1 Summary of Consultation Feedback

General support for enhanced pedestrian and cycling access to and across the athletic fields in Thunderbird Park (20%) was expressed by participants.

When it comes to parking, participants expressed support for the implementation of stricter parking restrictions to protect adjacent neighbourhoods from spill-over parking (17%), support for more short-term parking options (10%), and support for an increase in the overall parking capacity within the Study area (7%). Participants also recommended providing closer parking to sports facilities in Thunderbird Park (10%), with some participants expressing concern regarding the loss of parking at the existing Wright Parking lot near the current Sports Medicine facility (7%).

Participants were generally pleased with the proposed improvements to the sidewalks along East Mall and on the west side of Wesbrook Mall (7%). Participants were also satisfied with the proposal to introduce more pick-up and drop-off spaces within the Study area (7%).

Lastly, some concern was expressed regarding the noise impact of the proposed facilities in Thunderbird Park on existing Hampton Place residents who live along Wesbrook Mall and/or 16 Avenue (7%).

2. Background

In preparation for a proposed new National Soccer Development Centre (NSDC), UBC conducted a transportation study for the Thunderbird Park area of campus to determine the transportation needs and parking requirements for the area with the addition of the new Centre.

2.1 Proposed Facilities for Thunderbird Park

Beginning in Summer 2013 and over the coming years, Thunderbird Park will become the home of a new training facility, which will form the centre piece of the proposed National Soccer Development Centre (NSDC) –a new athletic facility to be shared by the Vancouver Whitecaps FC, the University and the community.

The proposed new facilities for Thunderbird Park include:

- A new Fieldhouse and Plaza, to be located on the site of the current Sports Medicine Centre.
- One new artificial turf field and one improved artificial turf field.
- Three refurbished and improved grass fields.
- Improved field access and casual play space for the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA).

In addition to these proposed facilities, existing facilities which will remain in Thunderbird Park include the field hockey pitch, Warren turf field and the artificial turf baseball field.

Once complete, the NSDC will serve UBC's varsity and UBC REC students, the Whitecaps FC men's, women's and Residency teams, local youth teams and other sport partners. More than 50% of the field time will be dedicated to community programs and use.

The proposed facilities are being pursued as a partnership between UBC, the Government of British Columbia, and the Vancouver Whitecaps FC.

3. Public Consultation Process

Public consultation is integral to ensuring that the new proposed facilities in Thunderbird Park will have a positive impact on the campus for the community and field users and that no significant issues related to transportation planning are overlooked in the planning process for these proposed facilities.

The public was offered both online and in-person opportunities to provide comments on the proposed recommendations from the Thunderbird Park Transportation Study, as well as any additional traffic and transportation considerations that could be taken into account in planning for the proposed facilities in Thunderbird Park. The feedback from this public consultation process will help refine study recommendations and ensure that there are no significant issues related to transportation planning that need to be addressed as part of the planning process for the proposed facilities in Thunderbird Park.

3.1 Consultation Timeline

Opportunities for public input on the Thunderbird Park Transportation Study included:

- February 22th, 2013 to March 6th, 2013 - Online consultation
- February 28th, 2013 - Public Open House

A Development Permit process for the NSDC and the proposed athletic facilities will take place in the future (timing not yet available) and will be widely advertised.

4. Public Notification and Stakeholder Engagement

4.1 Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement included sending stakeholders an email with information about the consultation. Stakeholders were encouraged to distribute consultation information broadly to their networks. Key stakeholders for this process include campus residents, students, faculty, staff, field users, UBC Athletics and Recreation (including varsity teams), UBC Parking Services and emergency service providers.

Notification was provided to **36 campus stakeholder groups** (see Appendix III for the full stakeholder notification list).

4.2 Notification

C+CP provided notification of the February 22 – March 6 public consultation period to over **145,000** contacts through advertising, email, in-person meetings and stakeholder outreach.

Notification was provided through the following print advertisements and online channels:

- The Ubyyssey on February 14 and 25 (circ 12,000 x 2)
- The Campus Resident on February 18th (circ 10,650)
- The Vancouver Courier on February 15 and 27 (circ 45,403 x 2)
- C+CP e-newsletter on February 21 (circ 2,039)
- UNA e-newsletter on February 14 and 21 (circ 2,100 x 2)
- The C+CP online event calendar (59 unique page views)
- Campus digital signage from February 25 - 28 (12,000 impressions)
- Thunderbird Park Transportation Study pages on C+CP website (65 unique page views)
- Posts to C+CP Twitter and UTown@UBC Twitter accounts throughout the public consultation period (over 1150 followers)
- Emails to campus stakeholders between February 13 and 26 (36 stakeholder groups).

5. Public Consultation

Public consultation included online consultation from February 22nd – March 6th, and one Public Open House was held on February 28th. During this phase:

- **30** questionnaires were taken
- **11** participants attended the public open house

5.1 Public Open House

A Public Open House was held on February 28th from 4:00-7:00pm at Thunderbird Arena.

Transportation Planning staff from UBC were on hand to answer questions about the Thunderbird Park Transportation Study for the duration of the Public Open House.

A series of 14 display boards (see Appendix I) were distributed around the room with information on the background and guiding principles for the transportation study; summary of the proposed facilities for the Thunderbird Park area; description of the study area, study method, findings and recommendations and; identification of next steps in the planning process for the proposed new facilities in Thunderbird Park.

Attendees were invited to fill out a feedback form (see Appendix II) and provide their input on the Thunderbird Park Transportation Study to help identify any additional traffic and transportation considerations that they thought may need to be taken into account in planning for the new proposed facilities in Thunderbird Park.

5.2 Online Consultation

As part of the online consultation, the C+CP website provided the same information as was available at the Public Open House on February 28th. The web content was posted to the C+CP website (planning.ubc.ca) on February 22nd, and the link to the online questionnaire was also posted to the Public Consultation page on February 22nd. The online questionnaire included links to the relevant supporting information on the Campus + Community Planning website. The online questionnaire included the same set of questions as those asked at the public open house.

The public was invited to take the questionnaire and provide input until March 6th.

6. Detailed Questionnaire Feedback

Below is the detailed feedback received from the 2 questions in the questionnaire. Note that only comments with occurrences over 5% are represented in the tables below. All data presented below is calculated out of a total of 30 responses received.

Question 1. Do you have any comments regarding the proposed recommendations from the Thunderbird Park Transportation Study?

Comments	No of references	Percentage
Support for enhanced pedestrian and cycling access to and across the fields	6	20%
Support for implementation of stricter parking restrictions to protect adjacent neighbourhoods from spill-over parking	5	17%
Support for more short-term parking options	3	10%
Support for providing closer parking to sports facilities in Thunderbird Park (closer than recommended by the study)	3	10%
Support for more Drop-off/Pick-up spaces	2	7%
Concern regarding loss of parking at Wright Parking lot	2	7%
Support for increased overall parking capacity within the Study area (more than recommended by the study)	2	7%
Support for improving sidewalks along East Mall and along west side of Wesbrook Mall	2	7%
Concern regarding noise impact on existing Hampton Place residents who live along Wesbrook Mall and/or 16 Ave.	2	7%

Question 2. Are there any additional traffic and transportation considerations that you think need to be taken into account when planning for the proposed facilities in Thunderbird Park?

Comments	No of references	Percentage
Support for more Drop-off/Pick-up spaces	5	17%
Support for implementing stricter parking restrictions to protect adjacent neighbourhoods from spill-over parking	3	10%
Support for parking facility closer to the fields/athletic facilities	2	7%
Support for increased overall parking capacity within the Study area (more	2	7%

than recommended by the study)		
Support for providing more transit stops and shuttle connections to new fieldhouse (E.g. shuttle bus from UBLvd. and loop.)	2	7%
Concern regarding noise impacts and mitigation caused by increased traffic volume along W 16 th	2	7%

7. Participant Demographics

The following represents information gathered only in the consultation questionnaires. Participant demographics are calculated over 30, the total number of questionnaire respondents. Please note that for each of the questions respondents could check all categories that applied.

How are you associated with UBC?	Count	Percentage
UBC Resident	14	47%
Thunderbird Park Athletic Field User/Visitor, please specify which	11	37%
Staff	8	27%
Student	4	13%
Alumni	4	13%
Faculty	3	10%
No direct association	1	3%
Other, please specify	1	3%
Professor Emeritus	0	0%
No response	0	0%

From the 11 'Thunderbird Park Athletic Field User/Visitor', of the total number of participants:

- 10% (3) did not specify how they were associated with Thunderbird Park
- 7% (2) were soccer field users/players

Where do you live?	Count	Percentage
UBC, please specify which student residence or campus neighbourhood	18	60%
City of Vancouver	10	33%
Other, please specify	1	3%
UEL Resident	0	0%
No response	0	0%

From the 15 'Other Campus Neighbourhood' responses, of the total number of participants:

- 23% (7) were from Hawthorn Place
- 23% (7) were from Hampton Place

Which of the following brings you to Thunderbird Park?	Count	Percentage
Informal Recreational Use or Attending Special Events	16	53%
Adult Recreation (e.g.: Urban Rec)	11	37%

Other, please specify	8	27%
High Performance/Varsity Athlete	6	20%
Youth Recreation	5	17%
UBC Recreation (student)	2	7%

From the 8 'Other' responses, of the total number of participants:

- 13% (4) walk by/through Thunderbird Park to other parts of campus
- 7% (2) work at Thunderbird Park

How often do you frequent Thunderbird Park?	Count	Percentage
More than once a week	14	47%
Once a week	6	20%
Once or twice every six months	4	13%
Once or twice a month	3	10%
Once a year	1	3%
Never	0	0%

8. Next Steps

Study recommendations resulting from the Thunderbird Park Transportation Study will be explored to further refine and ensure that there are no significant issues related to transportation planning that need to be addressed as part of the planning process for the proposed new facilities in Thunderbird Park.

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix I: Public Open House Display Boards (Attachment)

9.2 Appendix II: Questionnaire (Attachment)

9.3 Appendix III: Stakeholder Notification List

	Stakeholder Notification List
1	Acadia Park and University Apartments Residence Life Manager
2	Alma Mater Society (AMS)
3	BC Ambulance
4	BC Rugby Union
5	CiTR
6	Field Hockey Canada
7	FPIInnovations (which includes Forintek, Forest Engineer Research Institute of Canada and Paprican)
8	Graduate Student Society (GSS)
9	RCMP UBC Detachment
10	Student Housing and Hospitality Services (SHHS)
11	The Ubyyssey
12	Thunderbird, Fairview and Fraser Hall Residence Life Manager
13	TRIUMF Guesthouse
14	UBC Building Operations
15	UBC Fraternities
16	UBC Osborne Centre
17	UBC Parking
18	UBC Public Affairs

19	UBC REC
20	UBC School of Kinesiology
21	UBC Security
22	UBC Sororities
23	UBC Sports Camps
24	UHill Elementary PAC
25	UHill Secondary PAC
26	UNA Trans Sub-Committee
27	University Endowment Lands (UEL)
28	University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) Staff
29	Urban Rec
30	Vancouver Fire and Rescue
31	Vancouver United Football Club
32	Vancouver Women's Field Hockey League
33	Varsity coaches of field sports
34	Village Gate Homes
35	Wesbrook Village
36	West Point Grey Academy