

Regional Trails Widening and Lighting Project



Regional Parks



Capital Regional District | September 2021

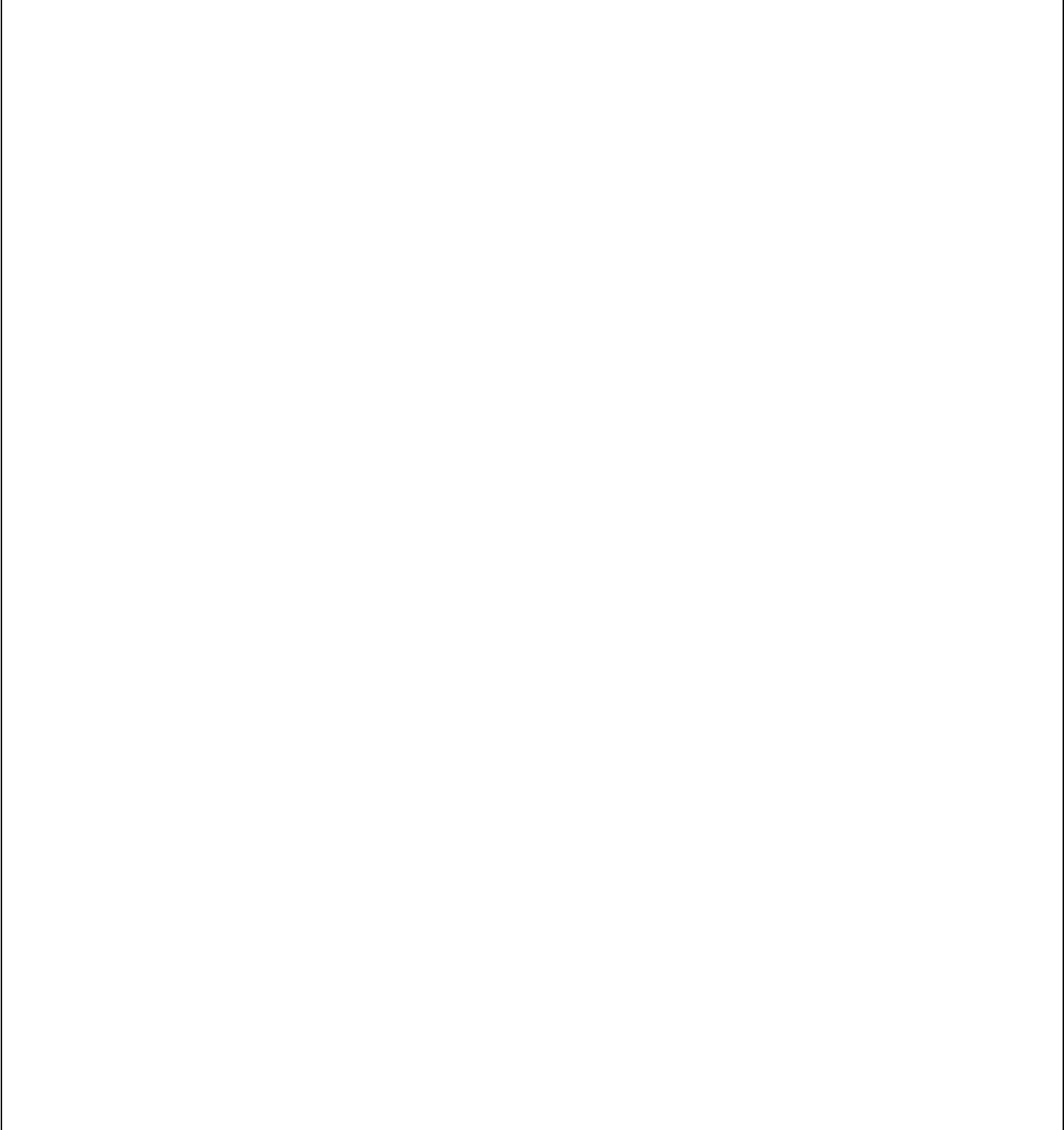


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1.0 Introduction

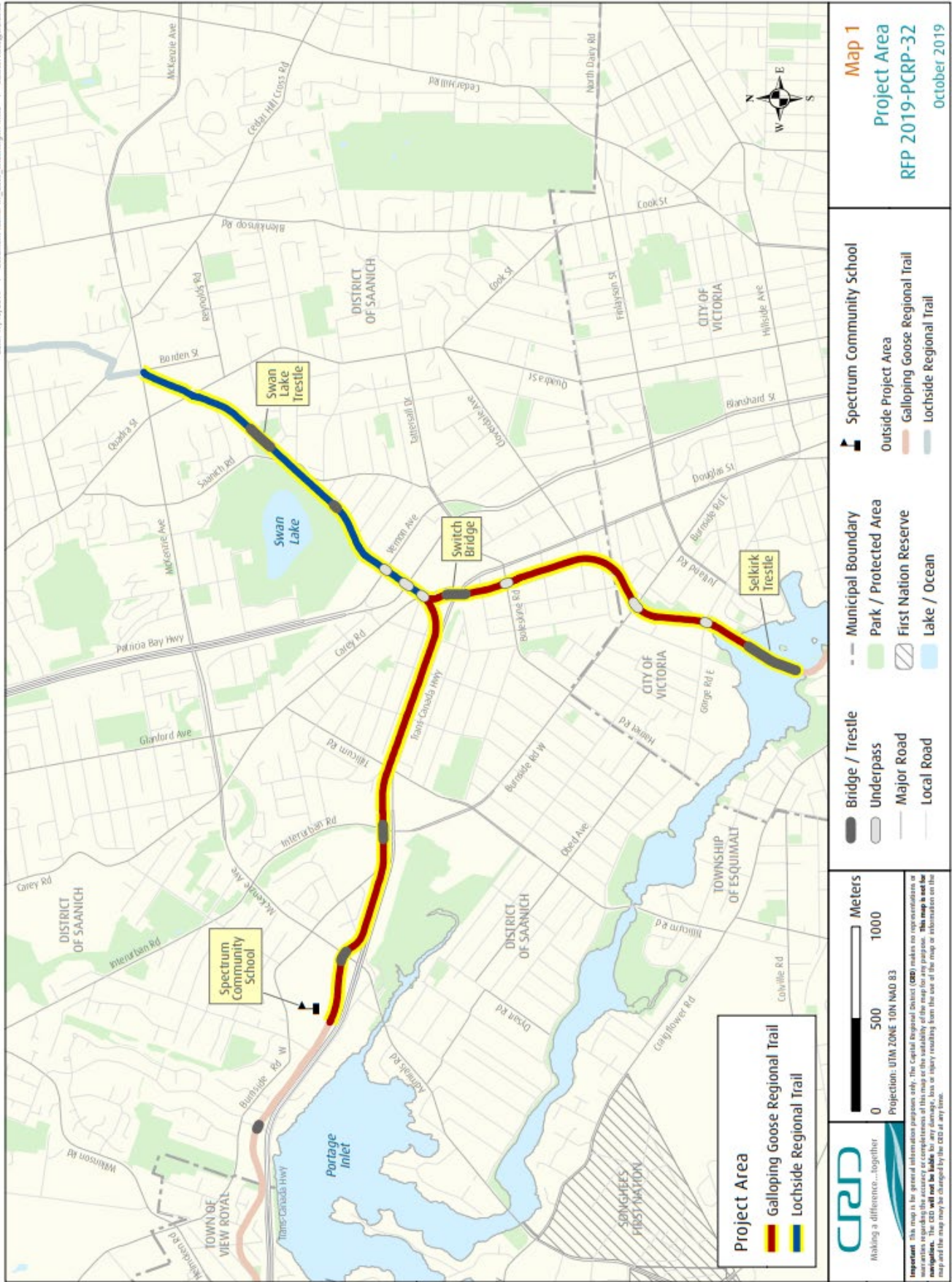
The Galloping Goose and Lochside regional trails have steadily increased in popularity since being constructed in the late 1980s (Galloping Goose) and early 2000s (Lochside) and now average over 3 million visits per year. The increase in user volumes, types of users and safety concerns in urban trail sections have been identified as challenges for years.

The 2016 Regional Trails Management Plan (RTMP) identifies assessing the feasibility of separating or widening the Galloping Goose between the Selkirk Trestle and Grange Road at McKenzie Avenue/Highway 1, as well as to assess widening the Lochside between the Switch Bridge and McKenzie Avenue. The RTMP also identifies the need to study the possibility of adding lighting along regional trails.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) retained consultant services in 2019 to conduct the Regional Trails Widening Study. The Study considered options to widen and separate trail users and potentially light the 6.6 km portions of the Galloping Goose and the Lochside regional trails identified in the RTMP (Map 1).

Urban Systems and PBX Engineering were retained to conduct the study and submitted a report with recommendations and conceptual design drawings in 2020. The report was received by the Regional Parks Committee and the CRD Board in February 2021. Staff were directed to conduct expedited public engagement on the 6.5 m separated use pathway design with lighting and implementation priorities as recommended, including consideration of low-intensity lighting in the trail segment adjacent to Swan Lake, aiming for balance between wildlife and public safety considerations.

Map 1: Project Area



2.0 Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to summarize the expedited engagement process conducted in spring 2021 and to highlight responses and key themes received by the general public related to supporting/opposing the proposed Regional Trails Widening and Lighting Project.

3.0 Engagement Period

The expedited engagement process was launched from May 25 to June 13, 2021 and included the following opportunities to participate:

- Two virtual open houses held on June 4 and June 7, 2021;
- An online survey available on the project website from May 25 to June 13, 2021;
- Meetings with staff from government and agencies; and
- Invitations to First Nations to provide input.

A project webpage and communication materials were published and circulated in May and June 2021. This report includes a summary of the expedited engagement activities completed and responses received until the end of June 2021.

4.0 Focus of Engagement

The CRD is committed to involving First Nations, stakeholders and the public in the development of regional trails. The aim of this expedited engagement process is to inform First Nations, stakeholder groups and the public about the Regional Trails Widening Study and to determine the level of support for the proposed 6.5 m separated use pathway design with lighting and implementation priorities from interested and affected individuals.

Other goals of the engagement process included information sharing, dialogue and discussion, building ongoing relationships and developing regional trail facilities that reflect organizational needs and public interests.

5.0 Who Was Engaged

5.1 First Nations

First Nations with traditional territory within the project area were invited to provide input on the proposed project. Letters and emails were sent to Songhees Nation, Esquimalt Nation, Pauquachin Nation and to the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council in May and June 2021.

5.2 Government & Agencies

Meetings with staff from agencies and government departments with direct or related jurisdiction over the regional trails were held between May and June 2021, which included: the City of Victoria, District of Saanich, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure and the Saanich and Victoria Police departments. A meeting was also held with staff from Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary who expressed interest in the project as being adjacent to the Lochside Regional Trail.

These government and agencies were notified by email about the project and requested to provide input related to their jurisdictional role and interest in the project. Information sharing about potential project synergies, mutual interests and cost-sharing was encouraged.

5.3 Interest Groups

Interest groups with general interest or expertise in the project were notified by email about the engagement process and opportunities for input through the online survey and virtual open houses.

Thirty-seven interest groups were identified from a larger contact list used by Regional Parks for engagement processes. These interest groups included: the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition, South Island Mountain Bike Society, Victoria Pathfinders Walking Club, Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society, Garden City Horseman's Club, Capital Region Equestrians, Victoria Disability Resource Centre, Eccentrics, Wheelhouse Society, Victoria Wheelers, Xtreme Eccentrics, Victoria Club Tread, Wednesday Wanderers, Run Victoria, UVic Student Society, UVic Campus Planning and Sustainability, Vancouver Island University Student Union, Camosun College Student Society, Tripleshot Cycling Club, Victoria Club Tread, SHIFT collaborative, GoByBike Week, Saanich Community Association Network, Greater Victoria Placemaking Network, Boys and Girls Club of Victoria, Tourism Victoria, Walk On Victoria, Better Transit Alliance, Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary, Habitat Acquisition Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, Dirty Girlz Bike Club, Marigold School Parent Advisory Committee, Spectrum School Parent Advisory Committee, School District 61 and St. Joseph's Victoria School.

Adjacent owners and occupants of the trail corridor were not directly notified as part of this process but were targeted through the broader notification to community interest groups described above. Also, individuals and stakeholders with tenure agreements within the trail corridor were not directly notified as such agreements are between the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure as the property owner and not the CRD.

5.4 General Public

The general public in the region were notified of the project and opportunities on how to provide input through the CRD website, social media, advertising campaigns, video, email notification, and posters on the trails.

6.0 Engagement Methods

A number of tools and approaches were used to engage First Nations, the public, interest groups and agencies in the project. The following sections describe in more detail the engagement methods used to inform the public about the project; to gather information, views and opinions; and to discuss stakeholder interests.

6.1 Website

A project webpage was established on the CRD website in March 2021 and is updated for the duration of the project (www.crd.bc.ca/TrailsProject). The webpage includes an overview of the project; materials summarizing the proposed separated use pathway design with lighting and rationale; information about the engagement process; and frequently asked questions with answers. There were 2,902 visits to the project webpage during the engagement period from May 25 to June 13, 2021.

6.2 Online Survey

An online survey was made available through a link on the project webpage from May 25 to June 13, 2021. The survey included 13 questions with both quantitative and qualitative responses. A map of the project area and links to the Regional Trails Widening Study accompanied the survey to provide additional context about the proposed project. Options were made available for completing the survey by phone or in writing. Survey methodology is included in Appendix A. In total, 1,784 online surveys were filled out by participants. Results of the online survey are summarized below and included in Appendix B. In addition, 10 email submissions were received and the results are also included in Appendix B.

6.3 Virtual Open Houses

Two virtual open houses were held using the CRD's Zoom webinar platform to provide information about the project and to respond to questions and comments from participants (Appendix C). The virtual open houses were held on June 4 from 7-8 pm and on June 7 from 12-1 pm. The CRD project manager and the lead consultant for the Regional Trails Widening Study delivered a twenty minute presentation and responded to questions and comments. There were 44 participants in total. Recordings of the virtual open houses are posted on the project webpage. Participants were able to remain anonymous to ensure their privacy.

6.4 Video

A short video was produced to highlight the project rationale and details of the separated use pathway design with lighting. A link to the video was available on the project website and hosted on CRD's YouTube account at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CRDVictoria/videos>.

6.5 Advertising

A media release was issued by the CRD on May 25, 2021 outlining the project and engagement process and encouraging the public to complete the online survey. Multiple news outlets received the media release and published articles during that week.

A print ad was published in the Black Press newspapers on May 26, 2021. An online ad was published in the Times Colonist on May 28, 2021. The ads directed readers to the project webpage to complete the online survey (Appendix D).

Posters were placed at various key points along the project area notifying trail users about the project and engagement process, and directing them to the webpage and online survey (Appendix E).

6.6 Social Media

Social media posts were made on the CRD's Facebook and Twitter accounts during May and June 2021, directing people to the project webpage and online survey. These posts went out to 7,126 followers on Twitter and 3,899 followers on Facebook.

Facebook ads were boosted throughout the survey process, with a link to the project webpage to complete the online survey. The targeted demographic for these ads were people living in the region aged 18-65+. Table 1 outlines the level of engagement with the Facebook ads.

Dates	Reach	Post Engagements*	Link Clicks
June 8-12, 2021	15,021	909	616

Table 1: Facebook Ads

*Post engagements refer to someone liking, sharing, commenting on or otherwise engaging with the post.

7.0 Responses

The following is a summary of the responses received through the initial engagement process.

7.1 First Nations

Comments were received from W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council, Esquimalt Nation and Songhees Nation. Feedback indicated an interest in the archaeological implications of the project; in having cultural monitors present during land altering activities; in understanding any potential environmental impacts of the project; in any economic development opportunities; and concern for infringements on Douglas Treaty Rights.

7.2 Government & Agencies

Comments were received from staff at the District of Saanich, City of Victoria, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure, Victoria and Saanich Police departments and Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary. Feedback received from municipal and provincial government departments indicated strong support for the project and a commitment to pursue partnerships and/or align initiatives to achieve efficiencies and positive outcomes. Both Victoria and Saanich Police departments offered insight into safety along the trails and expertise in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design should the project advance to detailed designs. As an adjacent property owner and conservation organization, Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary stated concern for potential environmental impacts from the proposed trail widening and lighting, suggesting the CRD focus on improving trail etiquette, and expressed interest in future partnerships to minimize impacts, remove invasive species and restore the area should the project move forward.

7.3 Interest Groups & General Public

Responses to the online survey were submitted by members of the public who may or may not represent special interest groups in the region. Similarly, the identity of participants in the virtual open houses was not disclosed.

A total of 1,784 online surveys were completed between May 25 and June 13, 2021 (Appendix B). The majority of respondents were residents of Saanich and Victoria and between 35-44 years old. Survey responses indicate strong support for the separated use pathway design and for the priority sequence for implementation. Strong support was also indicated for lighting the trails and for low-intensity lights adjacent to Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary between Darwin Avenue and Quadra Street. Of the 239 respondents who oppose low-intensity lights adjacent to Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary, the majority indicated a preference for no lighting in that section. Responses to the open-ended survey question asking for comments about the project relate to trail lighting, trail etiquette, widening, ecological values, wildlife and habitat, design suggestions, separation and cost. In addition to the qualitative survey responses, email submissions and virtual open house questions/comments largely related to trail lighting, ecological values, wildlife and habitat, and trail etiquette (Appendix C).

8.0 Limitations

Feedback about the Regional Trails Widening and Lighting Project was gathered through an expedited engagement process, which limited the extent and depth of engagement. Nevertheless, the data collected through the expedited engagement process can be strengthened through the insights obtained in the 2013 and 2019 Regional Trails surveys, both of which lead to this project.

Participants may have provided input related to other issues related to the regional trails (i.e., trail etiquette, motorized vehicles), yet those comments cannot be directly considered as part of the Regional Trail Widening and Lighting Project.

Significant limitations to in-person engagement were experienced due to COVID-19 public safety measures. Because of the quick turnaround of this project, there was no opportunity to develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan outlining protocols for in-person engagement. Hence, typical community events such as in-person open houses were not feasible.

Technological tools were heavily relied on during this engagement process due to COVID-19 public safety measures. Lack of access to, and knowledge of, technology can be a limitation to those wishing to participate.

Finally, the project timeline and allocated resources constrain the project to an extent. The timeline for engagement was limited to 20 days between May and June 2021. Project financial expenditures were kept minimal by primarily focusing expenses on advertising, support from the consultant and printing materials.

9.0 Conclusion

Staff were directed by the CRD Board in February 2021 to conduct an expedited public engagement on the 6.5 m separated use pathway design with lighting and implementation priorities, including consideration of low-intensity lighting in the trail segment adjacent to Swan Lake. Public engagement was conducted on the Regional Trails Widening and Lighting Project between May 25 and June 13, 2021. First Nations, government and agencies were also invited to provide input. A number of tools and approaches were used to provide information about the project, to gather views and opinions, and to discuss stakeholder interests which included: a project webpage, video, posters, advertisements, social media, an online survey and virtual open houses.

A total of 1,784 online surveys were completed, 10 email submissions received, 44 participants attended the virtual open houses, and approximately 18,000 people viewed the project webpage or social media posts. Survey responses indicate strong support for the separated use pathway design and for the priority sequence for implementation. Strong support was also indicated for lighting the trails and for low-intensity lights adjacent to Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary between Darwin Avenue and Quadra Street. Three First Nations provided comment about potential environmental and archaeological impacts. Staff from Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary expressed concern for environmental impacts of widening and lighting. Staff representing government agencies expressed support for the project and willingness to align initiatives or partner, where possible.

Appendix A: Online Survey Methodology

A survey, with 13 questions focused on support and opposition toward the Regional Trails Widening and Lighting Project, was available on the CRD website from May 25 to June 13, 2021. The questionnaire was designed to take 5-8 minutes to complete.

Close-ended questions were measured through a five-point rating scale ranging from strongly support to strongly oppose or by offering pre-determined categories. Close-ended questions were used to reduce the response burden for participants. An open-ended question was included at the end of the survey to allow respondents to offer additional comments and clarify their responses, if they wished. Questions about participants' demographic characteristics (i.e., age, residency) were also added to the questionnaire.

Analysis

The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences version 25.0 (IBM 2017) was used to analyze descriptive statistics, which are reported as a percentage for all quantitative questions of the survey. To analyze the qualitative comments provided by participants in a replicable and systematic manner, content analysis was performed. Specifically, all qualitative data were categorized using codes, which allowed identifying code themes and response patterns. Both dimensions of a content analysis, quantitative (focused on counting and measuring) and qualitative (focused on interpreting and understanding) were used to offer insights on respondents' opinions about the Regional Trails Widening and Lighting Project. Content analysis was also used to analyze the emails received by CRD staff from the public and the questions posed by participants during the open houses.

Rationale

It is important to acknowledge that the aim of the survey was to offer an easy-to-access venue for the public to voice their opinions about the Regional Trails Widening and Lighting Project. The information obtained through this participation tool is not intended to be representative of the whole population of the island or the capital region. Hence, the data reported in this document will not be generalized to the broader population.

The survey was used to ensure that respondents' support/opposition toward the Regional Trails Widening and Lighting Project are documented and considered. The information retrieved through this participatory tool complement the insights provided by the other engagement approaches reported in this document. The data in the following appendices should therefore be interpreted in conjunction with the overall engagement process outcomes.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Privacy Impact Assessment

All responses in the survey were voluntary, thus participants had the freedom to skip any question they did not wish to answer. All information was collected in compliance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of*

Privacy Act. A Privacy Impact Assessment (CRD PIA #21-016) was developed for this project to ensure research involving humans was conducted in compliance with ethics and local legislation.

Appendix B: Online Survey Responses

A total of 1,784 online surveys were filled out by participants to the survey between May25 and June13, 2021 (Figure 1). Below is a summary of the online survey responses.

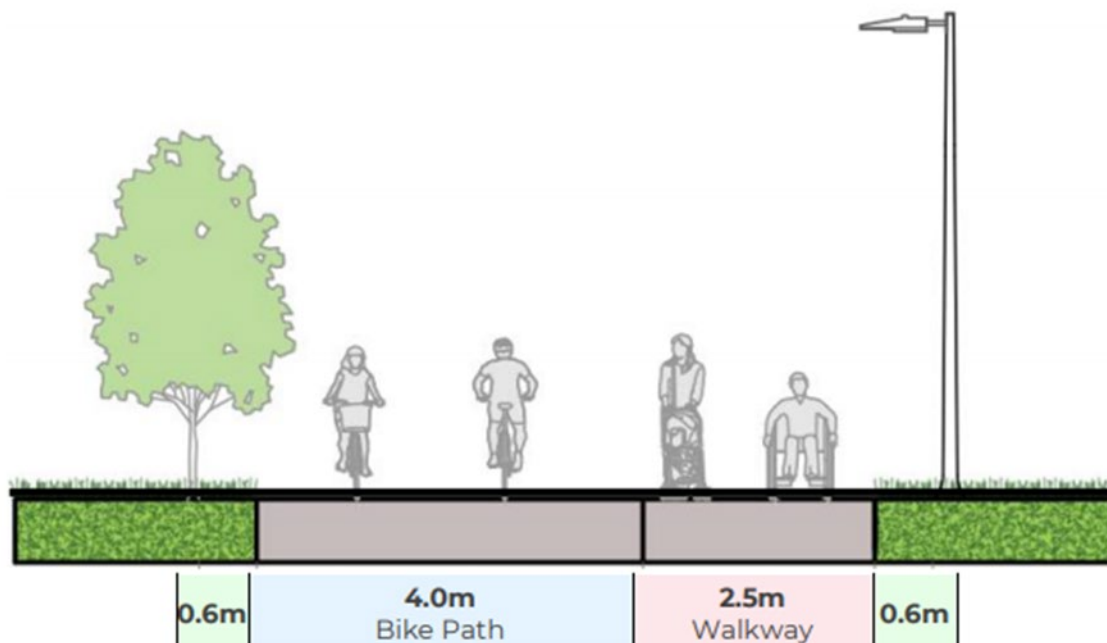


Figure 1: Regional Trails Widening and Lighting Surveys filled by participants during the engagement period.

Section 1: Widening Design

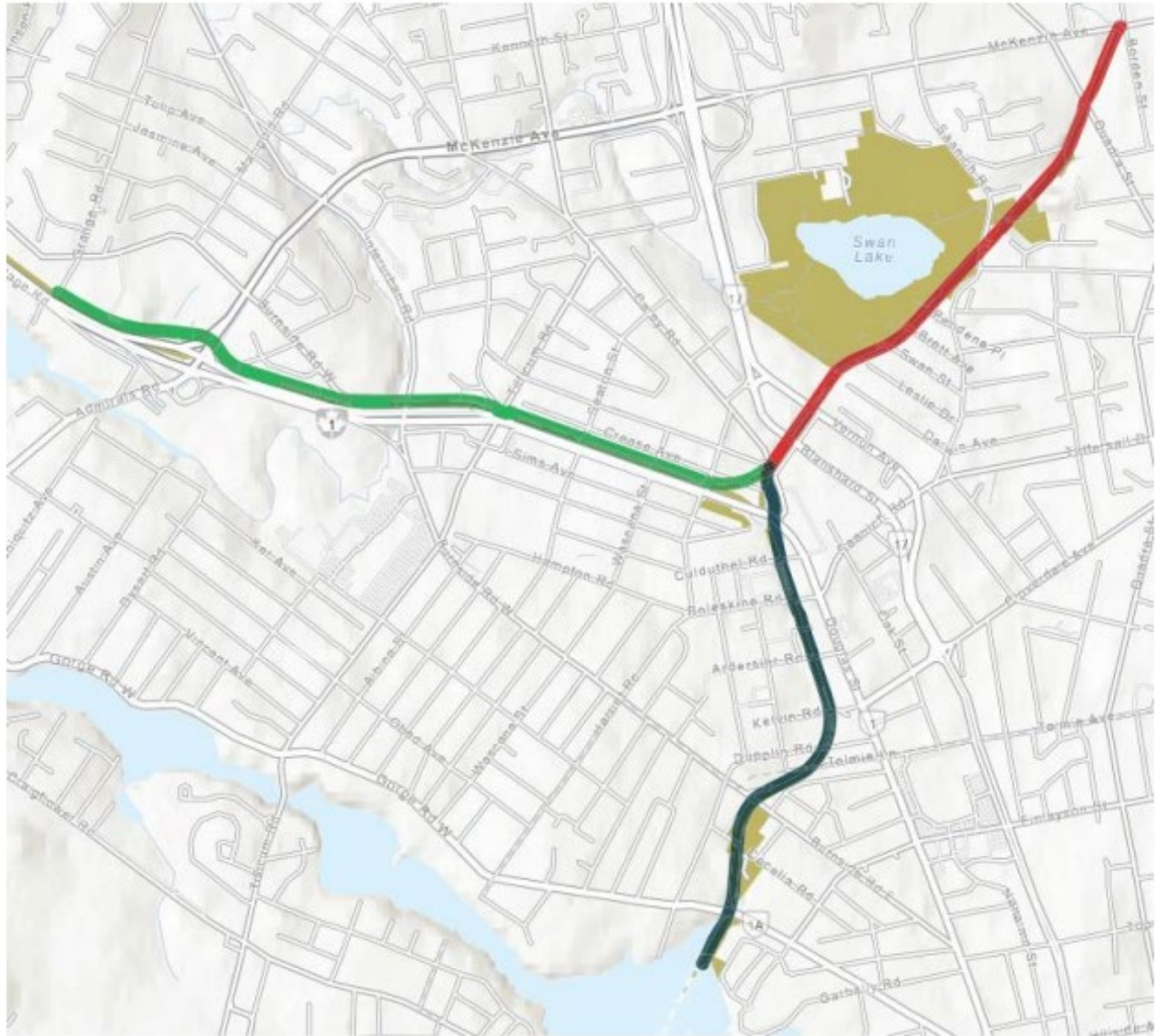
A conceptual design was recommended for widening and lighting three sections of the Galloping Goose and Lochside regional trails. To accommodate increased trail use, the design would widen the paved surface to 6.5 m and create a cycling path (4.5 m wide, dual direction) and an adjacent pedestrian path (2 m wide, dual direction), separated by a painted line.

Separated Use Pathway



Support and opposition toward the possibility of widening the trails was explored for:

- the Galloping Goose Regional Trail between the Selkirk and Switch Bridge (2.0 km);
- the Lochside Regional Trail between the Switch Bridge and McKenzie Avenue (2.0 km); and
- the Galloping Goose Regional Trail between the Switch Bridge and Grange Road (2.6 km).



Trail Sections

- **Section A.** Galloping Goose, Selkirk Trestle to Switch Bridge
- **Section B.** Galloping Goose, Switch Bridge to Grange Rd
- **Section C.** Lochside Trail, Switch Bridge to McKenzie Ave

QUESTION 1-3: DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE RECOMMENDED WIDENING DESIGN PROPOSED FOR THE GALLOPING GOOSE REGIONAL TRAIL BETWEEN THE SELKRIK AND SWITCH BRIDGE (2.0KM), THE LOCHSIDE REGIONAL TRAIL BETWEEN THE SWITCH BRIDGE AND MCKENZIE AVENUE (2.0KM), AND THE GALLOPING GOOSE REGIONAL TRAIL BETWEEN THE SWITCH BRIDGE AND GRANGE ROAD (2.6KM)?

There were 1,784 responses. The majority of respondents supported the widening designed proposed for the three sections of the regional trails.

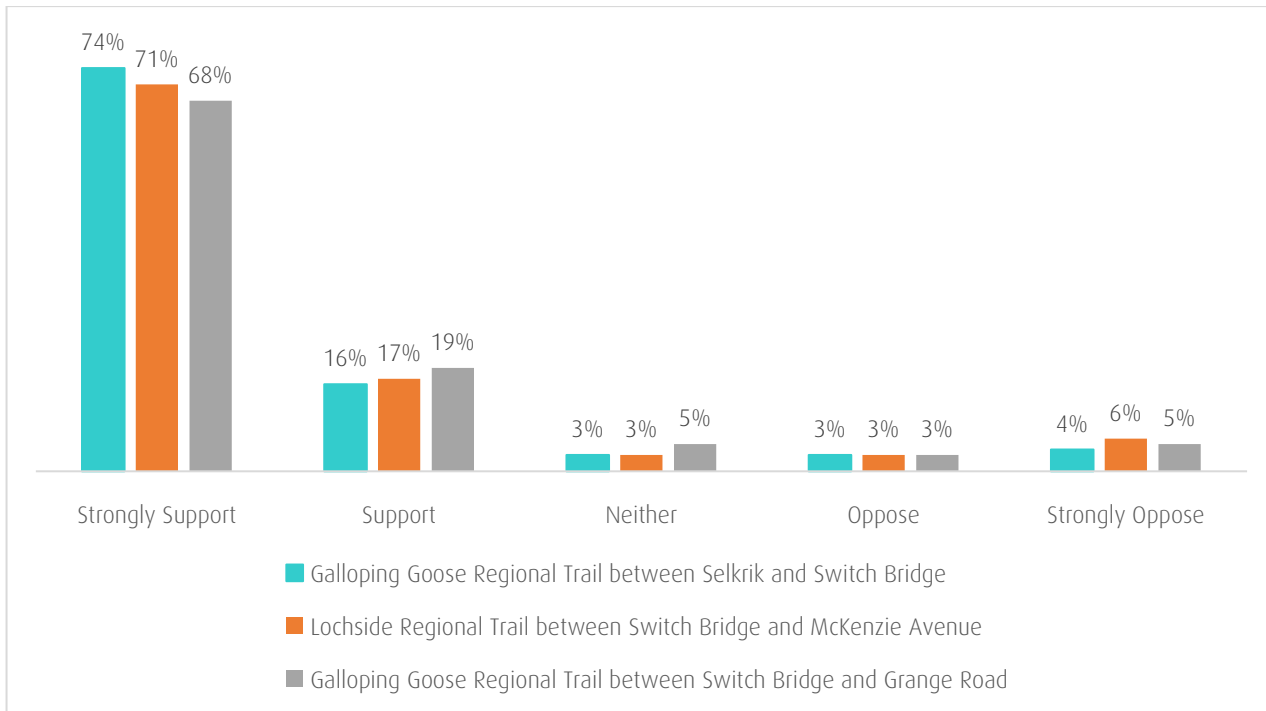
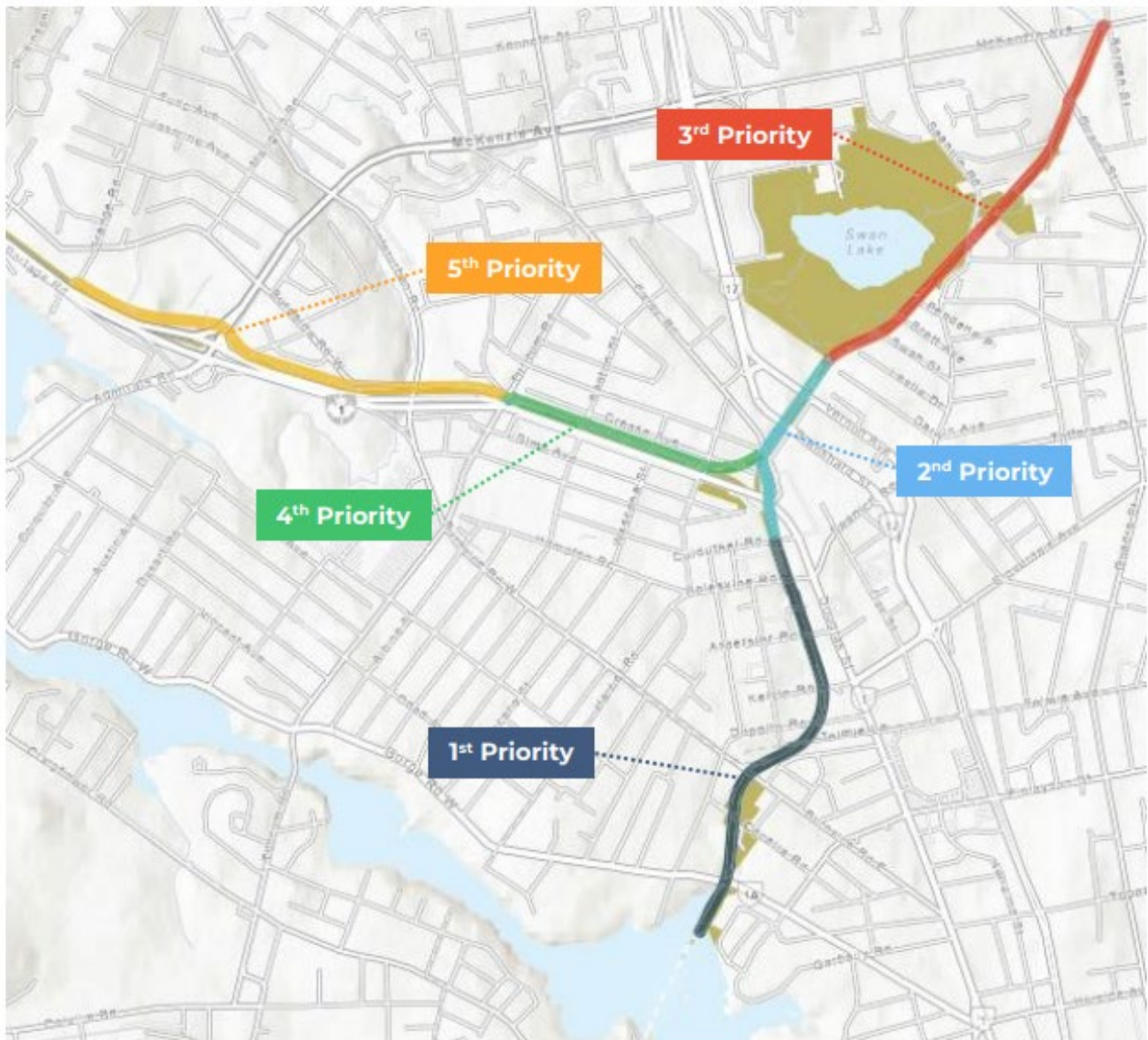


Figure 2: Support/opposition expressed by participants to the survey in regard to the widening design proposed for the three sections of the regional trails.

Section 2: Phases

Support/opposition toward the recommended phased sequence to implement the project was explored. The sequence proposed was:

1. Galloping Goose between Selkirk Trestle and Culduthel Road – 1,600 m
2. Galloping Goose between Culduthel Road and trail junction (including Switch Bridge), and Lochside Trail between trail junction and Darwin Avenue – 700 m
3. Lochside Trail, Darwin Avenue to McKenzie Avenue – 1,600 m
4. Galloping Goose between Lochside Trail junction and Tillicum Road – 950 m
5. Galloping Goose between Tillicum Road and Grange Road – 1,600 m



QUESTION 4: DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE RECOMMENDED PHASED SEQUENCE?

There were 1,784 responses. The majority of respondents supported the recommended phased sequence proposed for the three sections of the regional trails.

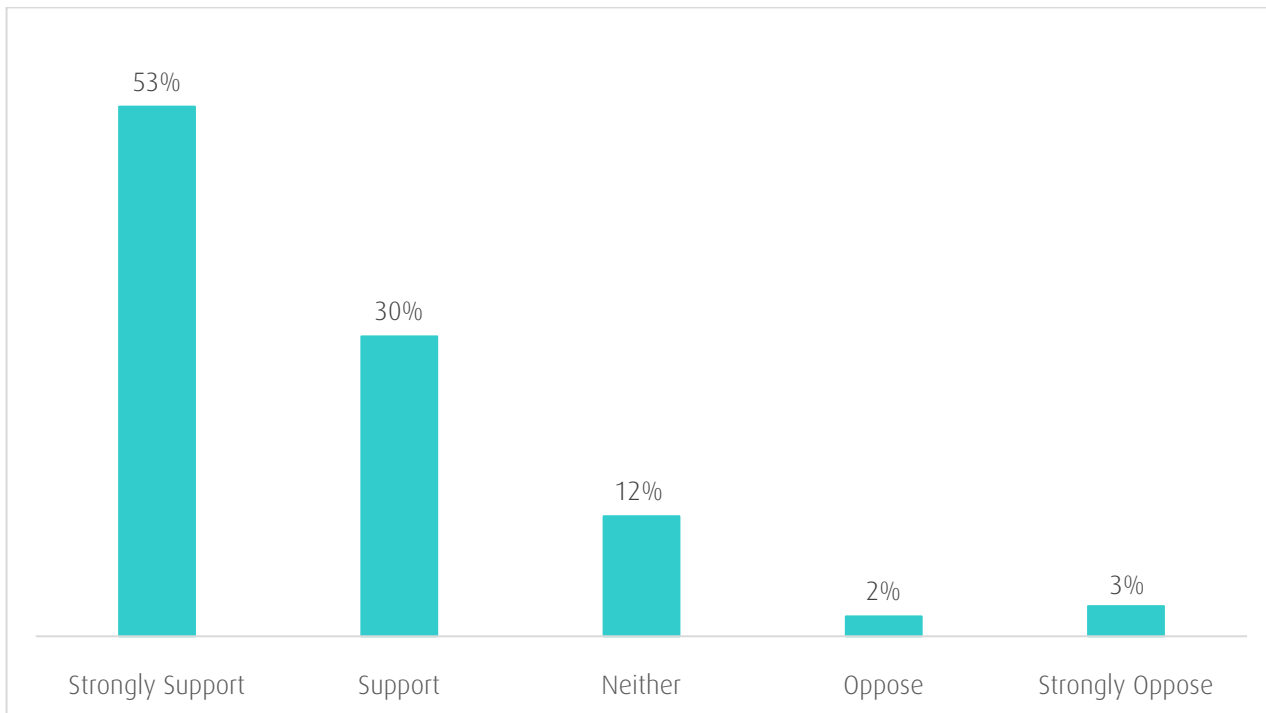
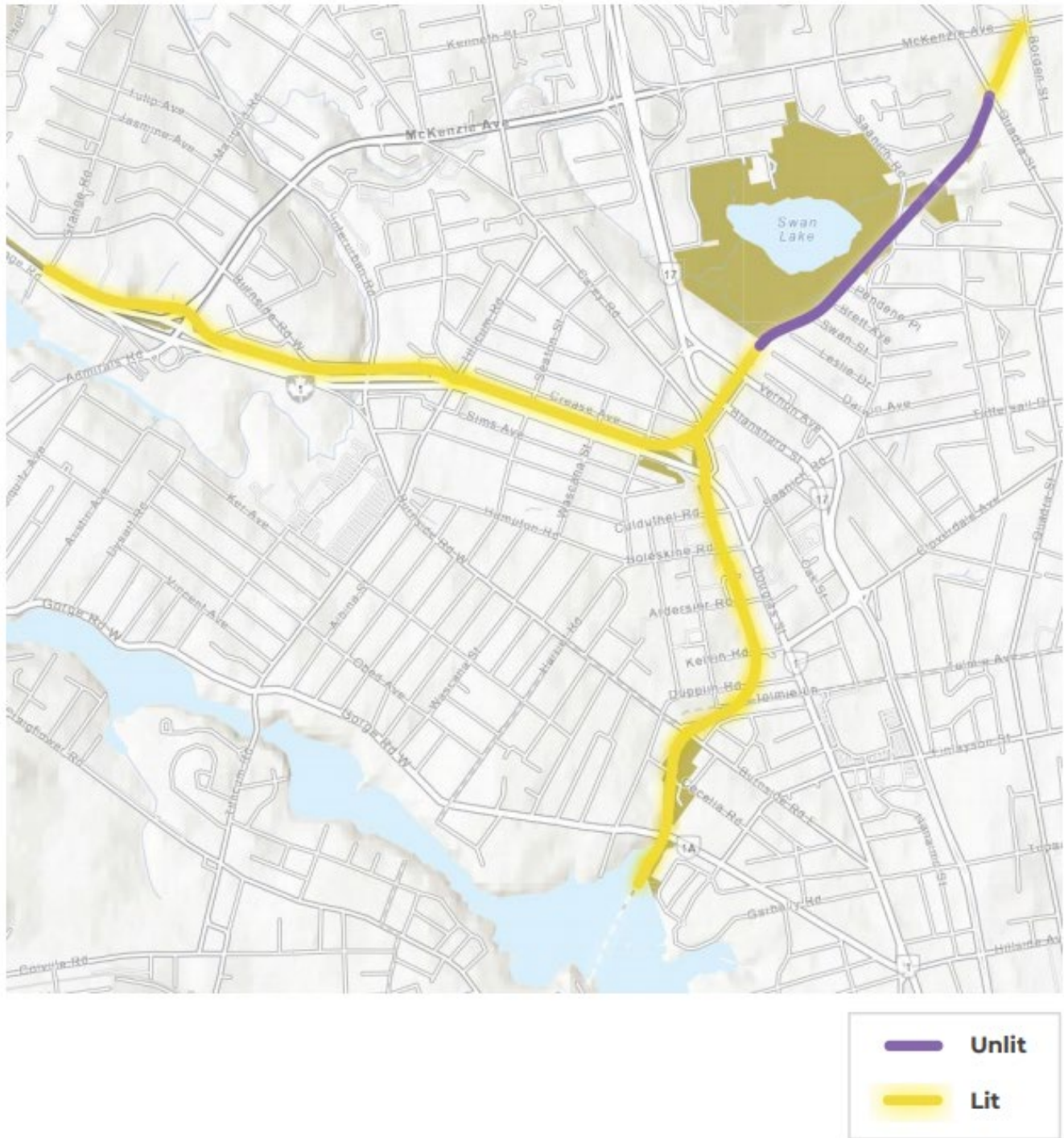


Figure 3: Support/opposition expressed by participants to the survey in regard to the recommended phased sequence proposed for the three sections of the regional trails.

Section 3: Lighting

Lighting is recommended for most of the 6.6 km of the Galloping Goose and Lochside regional trails sections described in the study. Low-intensity lighting is recommended adjacent to Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary that aims for balance between wildlife and public safety considerations in this area. Support/opposition for lighting the three sections of the regional trails was explored through the following questions.



QUESTION 4-6: DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE LIGHTING THE GALLOPING GOOSE REGIONAL TRAIL BETWEEN THE SELKRIK TRESTLE AND SWITCH BRIDGE (2.0KM), THE GALLOPING GOOSE REGIONAL TRAIL BETWEEN THE SWITCH BRIDGE AND GRANGE ROAD (2.6KM) and THE LOCHSIDE REGIONAL TRAIL BETWEEN THE SWITCH BRIDGE AND DARWIN AVENUE AND BETWEEN QUADRA STREET AND MCKENZIE AVENUE (700M)?

There were 1,784 responses. The majority of respondents supported the lighting of the three sections of the regional trails.

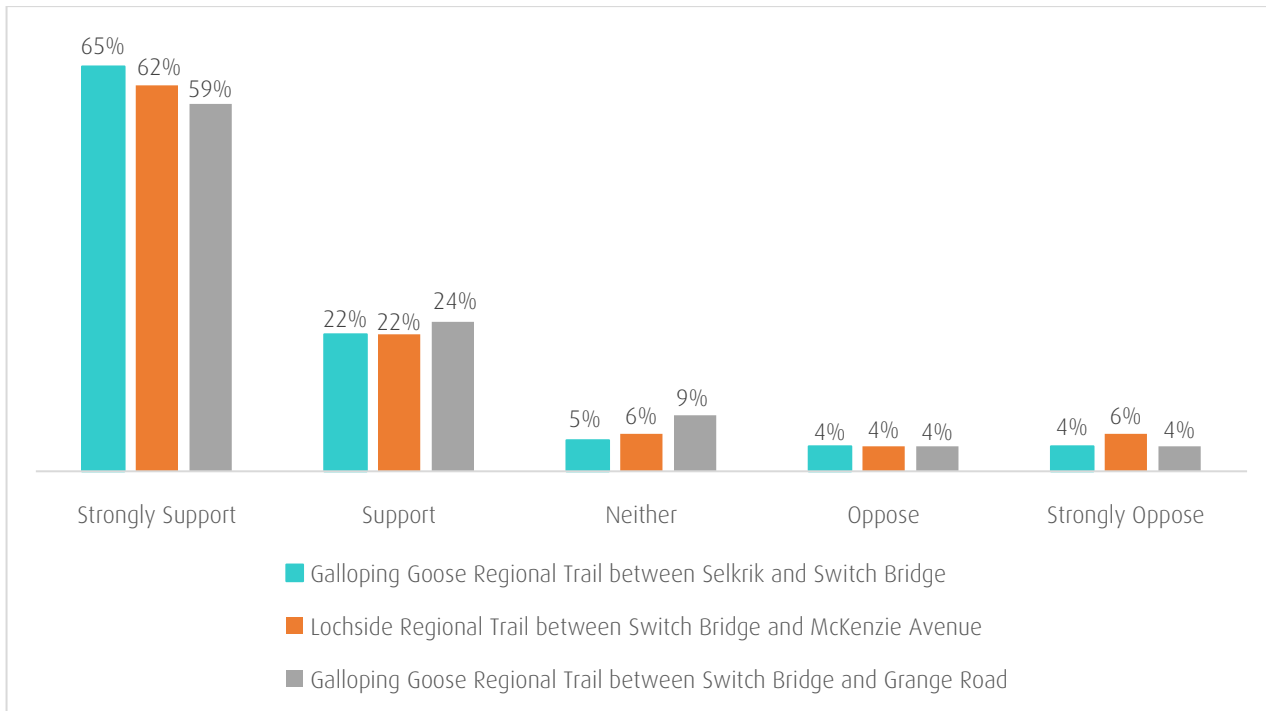


Figure 4: Support/opposition expressed by participants to the survey in regard to lighting the three sections of the regional trails.

QUESTION 7: DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE LOW-INTENSITY LIGHTING ON THE LOCHSIDE REGIONAL TRAIL ADJACENT TO SWAN LAKE NATURE SANCTUARY BETWEEN DARWIN AVENUE AND QUADRA STREET (1.3KM)?

There were 1,784 responses. The majority of respondents supported the lighting of the Lochside Regional Trail adjacent to Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary between Darwin Avenue and Quadra Street with low-intensity lighting.

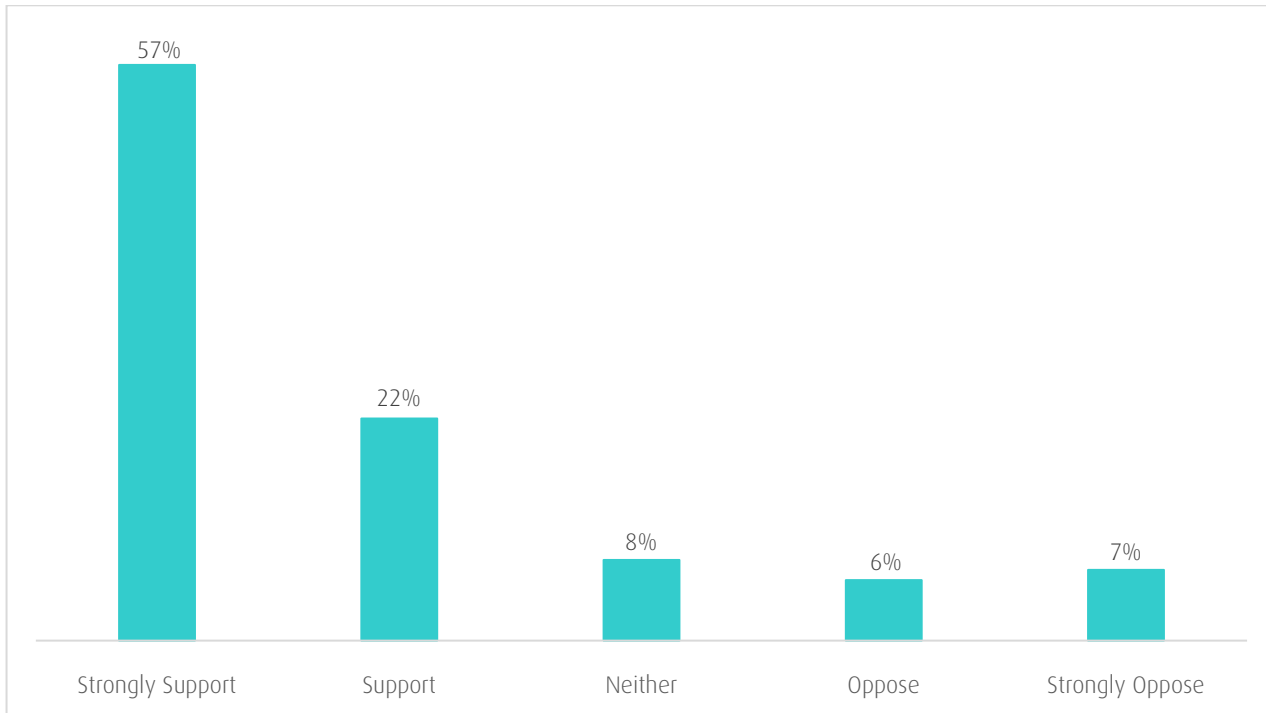


Figure 5: Support/opposition expressed by participants to the survey in regard to lighting of the Lochside Regional Trail adjacent to Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary between Darwin Avenue and Quadra Street with low-intensity lighting.

QUESTION 8: IF NOT, WHAT WOULD YOU SUPPORT FOR THE SWAN LAKE SECTION?

There were 239 responses. The majority of respondents suggested no lights for the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary section.

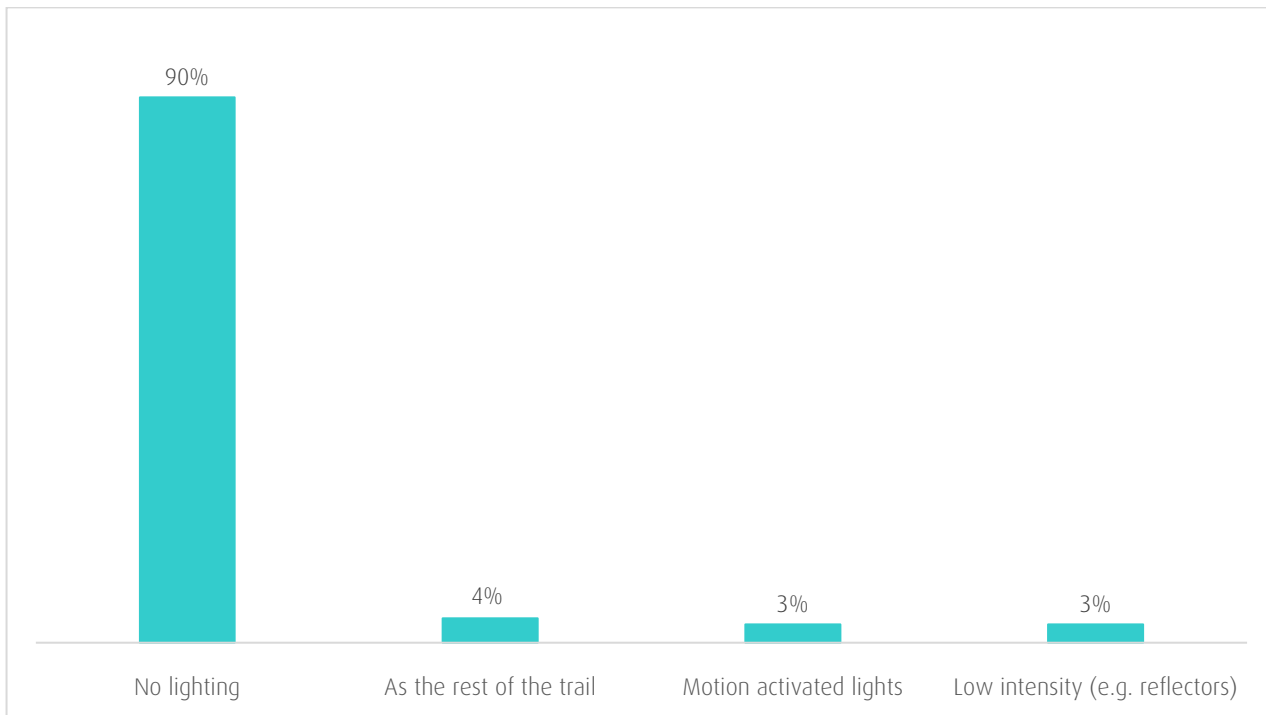


Figure 6: Suggestions of alternative illumination options by participants against the lighting of the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary section.

Section 4: Other Comments

A total of 904 qualitative comments were provided by respondents to the open-ended question asking: **DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT THE TRAIL WIDENING AND LIGHTING PROJECT?** Each comment entailed multiple themes. The qualitative responses were coded to identify emerging themes and quantified to evaluate such themes relevance.

The most mentioned themes were:

- Lighting (n= 323; 36%): participants mentioned support for lighting in general (n=139), and/or suggested minimal lighting (n=94), no lighting at all (n=44) or full lighting (n=46) for all the trail sections proposed in the project. Often preference for minimal lighting and no lighting were discussed in association with concern for light pollution and impacts to the natural environment and species along the trail sections intersected by the project. Lighting in general and full lighting were often associated with improving personal security on the trails, especially at night, as well as, extending the time the trails could be used, especially during winter months.
- Etiquette (n=246; 27%): participants referred to the need for improved trail etiquette (n=100), mentioned issues around different speeds on the trails (n=86) and e-bikes (n=30), and the need for more enforcement along the regional trails (n=30).
- Widening (n=144; 16%): participants expressed general support for widening the trails (n=121), with fewer suggesting even wider paths (n=4) or no separation at all (n=19).
- Ecological value, wildlife and habitat (n=99; 11%): participants commented on the impacts the proposed project could have on the environment and species along the trail, especially in relation to widening and lighting the trails. Participants were concerned about losing trees and the natural habitat along the trails, as well as disturbing wildlife, especially along the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary area.
- Design suggestions (n=63; 7%): several participants offered insights on how to improve the proposed design or expressed a preference for the other options suggested in the report. Many comments focused on how to reduce light pollution with alternative lighting designs.
- Separation (n=62; 7%): participants expressed a preference for separation, including having a physical barrier between cyclists and pedestrians (n=35).
- Opposition (n=45; 5%): some participants used this section to reiterate their opposition toward the project.
- Cost (n=42; 5%): participants mentioned the high costs of the project as a reason of concern, specifying the project was too costly and finances should be used for more important projects.

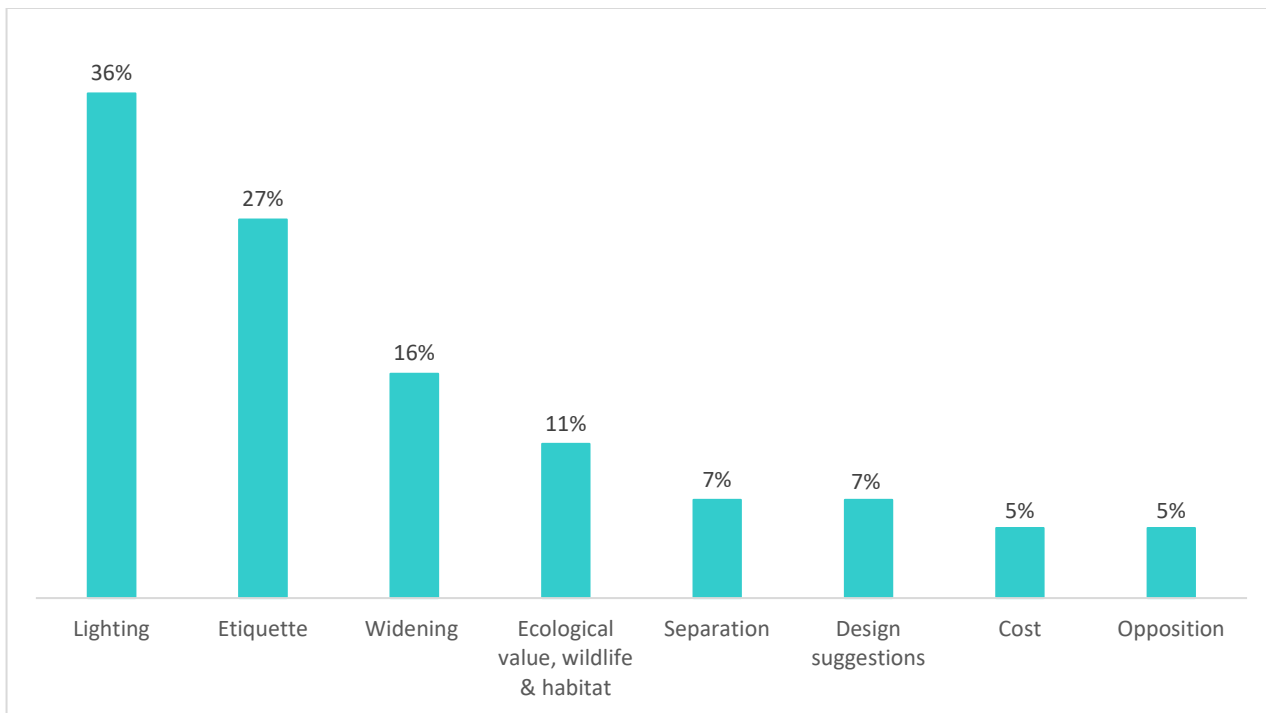


Figure 7: Qualitative comments offered by respondents to the survey.

This open-ended question was also used by respondents to reiterate support for the project and provide thanks for the opportunity to participate in the survey (n=285, 32%), and to offer other comments (n= 259; 28%). Participants used this section to offer suggestions about other locations where trail widening, lighting and separation should be considered (n=88), in regard to facilities along the trails (n=61), discuss topics not related to the trails (n=52), stress the CRD move faster on the proposed project (n=33), and to suggest how to enhance the trail network beyond the three regional trails (n=22).

Section 5: Demographics

QUESTION 9: WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

There were 1,784 responses. Most respondents lived in Saanich and Victoria, the municipalities most affected by the project.

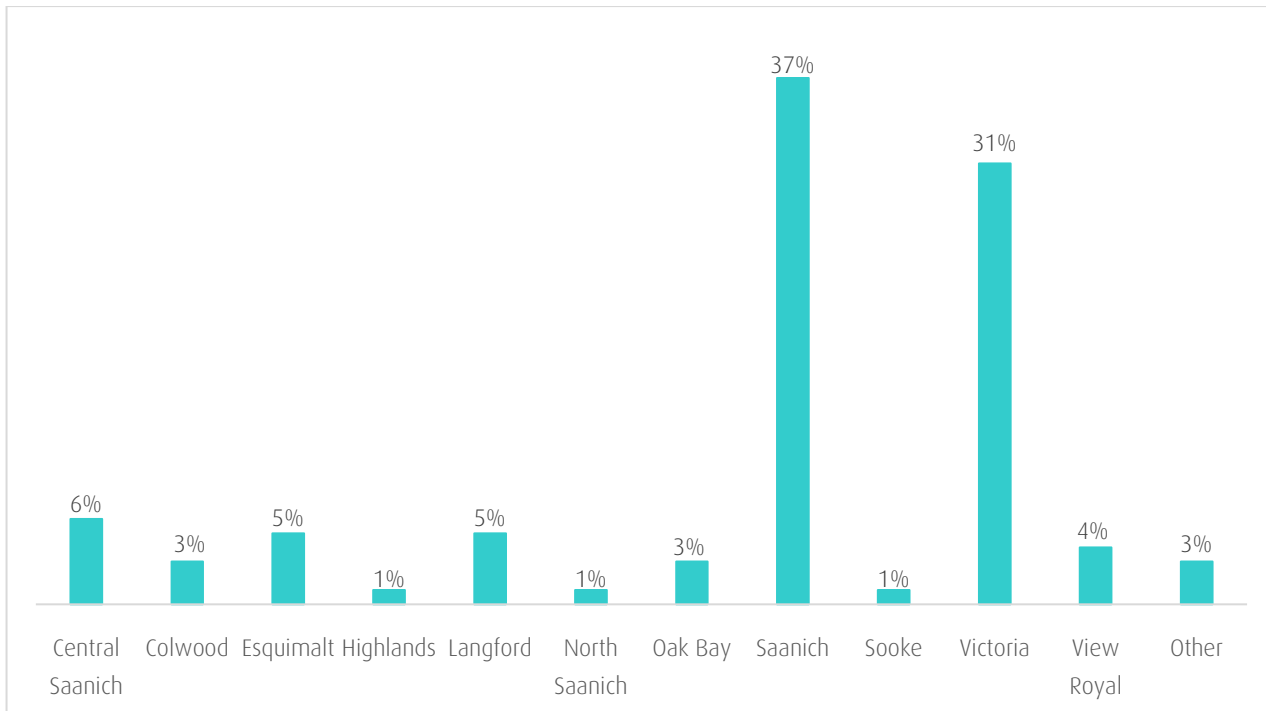


Figure 8: Breakdown of where visitors live.

QUESTION 10: IN WHICH AGE CATEGORY DO YOU FALL?

There were 1,784 responses. Respondents to the survey were distributed similarly between the age categories 25-65+, with a slight majority of respondents aged 35-44 years old.

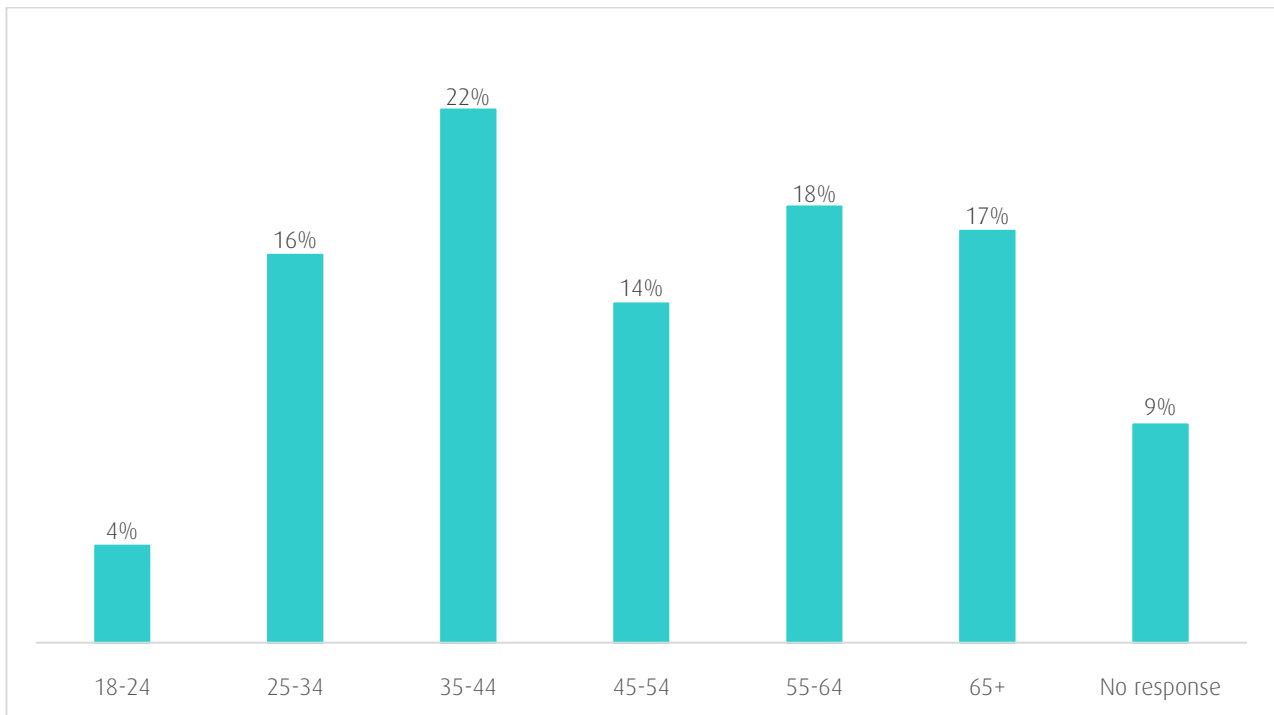


Figure 9: Age distribution of respondents.

QUESTION 11: HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS SURVEY?

There were 1,940 responses. Respondents to the survey heard about the survey mostly through the CRD Facebook page, newspaper and word of mouth.

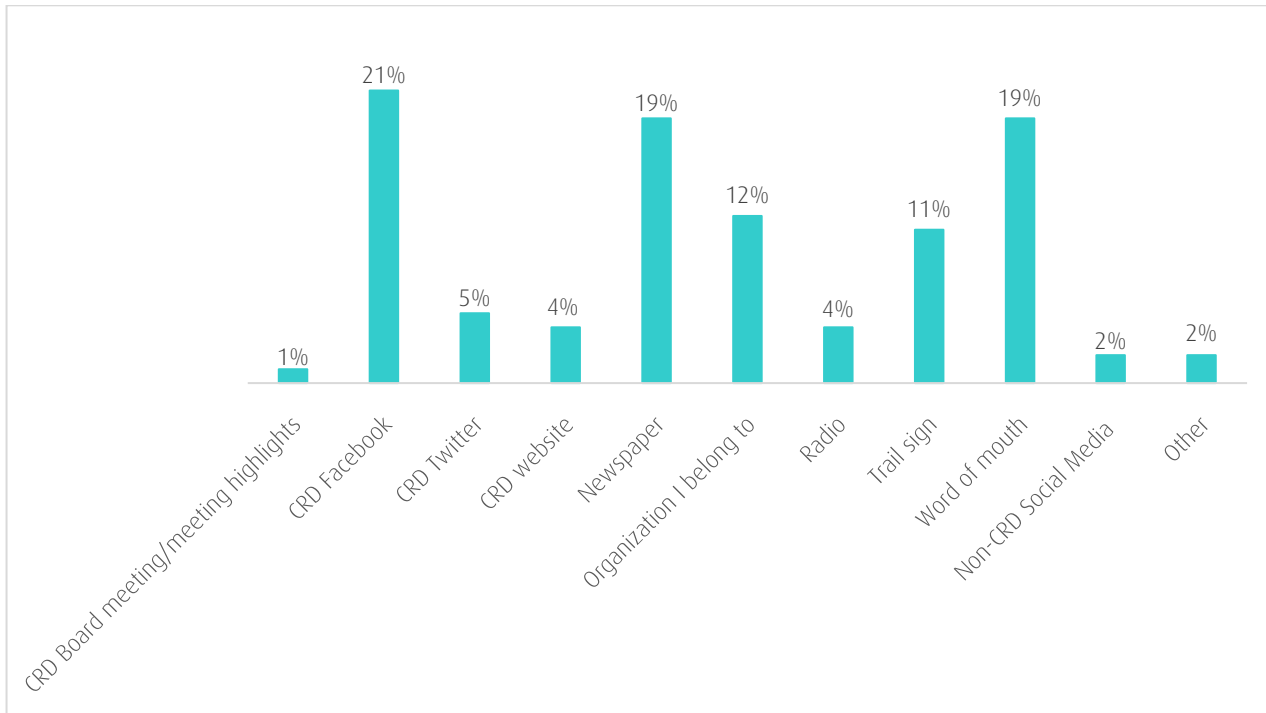


Figure 10: Information sources used by respondents.

Section 6: Emails

Regional Parks received additional comments through email from 10 members of the public. Each submission entailed multiple themes. The qualitative emails were coded to identify emerging themes and quantified to evaluate such themes relevance. The qualitative comments in the emails paralleled the topic emerged in the qualitative comments of the survey. Specifically, participants expressed their concern about lighting (n=4) and the impact the project will have on the ecological values, wildlife and habitats along the trails (n=4). Etiquette was another common theme mentioned by participants (n= 5), especially in relation to speed, e-bikes and bylaw enforcement. Suggestions were offered on improving other areas along the three regional trails (n=2) and about other ways to design the project (n=1). General comments about widening and separating the trails were also offered (n=2). Two emails offered background information and data and another three suggestions on how to improve the survey.

Appendix C: Virtual Open House Comments

A total of 44 participants attended the virtual open houses on June 4 and 7, 2021. Questions and comments posed by the attendants mainly focused on lighting, environmental values, wildlife and habitats protection, and trail etiquette. These themes align with those received through the online survey.

Below is a list of questions posed by participants at the virtual open houses:

- What are you doing to preserve urban forest along the routes you are widening?
- Did projections include the completion of the E&N rail trail?
- Could a barrier be installed afterwards if cyclists are using the pedestrian lane?
- Will the Selkirk Trestle be lit as well, as it is dangerous in the dark between bike riders and walkers?
- Priority 1 (switch bridge to Selkirk) is convergence of two trails into one: Galloping Goose and Lochside. There is another convergence ("Hells Gate"). This is Galloping Goose and E&N from Langford to View Royal. When will this be widened for pedestrians?
- How will you discourage pedestrians from walking in the section of the trail dedicated to cyclists?
- Light spillover is really light trespass and causes increased sky glow. Light at night is linked to adverse health effects. Have the factors been considered?
- Will the big trail maps be updated to include all recent trail developments (E&N Millstream) and these widening sections?
- Could consideration be given to using option 1 for some areas of the trail, where loss of shrub cover and trees would be significant with the wider option 2? Particularly Swan Lake and Swan Trestle to Quadra.
- I didn't notice mopeds in your presentation. They are increasing in numbers and going very fast. What will be done about their increased numbers with regards to safety for walkers?
- Has the effect of dark adaption and changes to visual ability due to slow visual adaption to light changes been considered, particular at cycling speeds?
- South of the Selkirk Trestle, I often see walkers in the bike lanes as there are no obvious signs telling users where to walk. Will there be some way of showing users where they should be?
- Can you try to design segments with generous right of way to accommodate further expansion or elements of option 3 separation? Average volumes projected for 2040 are not much higher than numbers recorded on high use days in summer months, and capacity should accommodate maximum expected trip volumes more so than average numbers of trips.
- What design lighting levels are being considered? Dimming and motion sensor activated lighting would be best, particularly if a late night and low traffic volume curfew was used.
- As work is being conducted, will measures be taken to address trail offshoots that people have created (unmarked side paths) as shortcuts in order to deter collisions? Lighting would definitely decrease this possibility as a first step.

- Has an analysis been considered to ascertain the number of irregular non-compliant motorized scooters etc. that are a growing danger to legitimate trail users?
- Has it been considered that lighting will likely result in an increase in cycling speeds with increased danger of collisions and injury?
- I think it's 'tourists' who move between bike lanes and walking lanes as they take in the view and take photos. Will there be any signage?
- It seems unsafe to leave the Swan Lake section of the trail unlit. Why is that not included in the lighting plan? Is there a way to mitigate impacts that would allow for lighting?
- Will you install warning signage when the 3 lanes come back down to 2 (loss of pedestrian section)? I expect conflicts in these areas.
- When you design and complete the last section of the E&N Rail Trail to West Hills, would you please widen and construct the separated pedestrian lane as well?
- As a long time lighting professional and dark sky advocate for the Royal Astronomical society, would it be possible to have a direct discussion on the more complex technical lighting technical issues with your lighting experts?
- Are there plans to increase the proposed areas of interest? The stretch of the Galloping Goose past Grange Road is currently unlit due to the huge wall constructed as part of the MacKenzie interchange project.
- What kind of time line would that you be looking at for that (referring to the project implementation)?
- Are you planning any buffer planting along the boundary of Swan Lake?
- Have behavioural considerations been considered? For example, prioritizing bikes at high commuting times, so that the overall trail width could remain the same and preserve the most green space by the Nature Sanctuary (a place that represents some of critical last contiguous space for rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals in the region)?
- Will we have further opportunities to have input when implementation studies are being done to look at environment, geological and archeological studies are being done as you mentioned?
- While you have touched on it briefly, and based on my extensive experience over many years biking, perhaps the biggest issue we face is around appropriate behaviour and expectations for trail users, as not following simple rules lead to conflict and concerns. If trail users were considerate and polite, followed the same etiquette, some of the design features being presented would not be necessary. Could not some of the money being proposed to be spent here be better used on informing and educating people about how to use the trail?
- Is there a possibility of involving a defined local group of concerned citizens when the time comes for looking at the segment between the Swan Lake Bridge to Quadra? There are a lot of people in the area who are strongly opposed to any vegetation change and are anxious to prevent it.
- Can you address what the plans might be for the Swan Lake trestle should the plan be to widen the trail?
- Is anything being considered to improve ease and safety of road crossings along the trail?

Additionally, the following comments were made by participants:

- Selkirk trestle lighting would need to consider impact on the migratory salmon that use the gorge waterway.
- A safety measure that could be implemented immediately on all the trails would be to have pedestrians walking on the left so that they can see approaching traffic as current etiquette proposals do not work.
- I have been biking the trails for years and can say steadfastly that the incentives that are being handed out work on a very temporary basis. I see many users who attend Go by Bike events, who are delivered safety info and then within a few weeks are the same people who dismiss the measures. Perhaps some educational sessions sharing experiences resulting from the lack of safety skills.
- There are a lot of concerns about how you plan to widen the section of Lochside between the Switch Bridge and Quadra, especially between the creek bridge and Quadra where there are either trees close to the trail or steep hillside on the other side.
- While I agree with most of the plan, I do not like that the section around Swan Lake will be widened. This is a wonderful natural area, and the one size fits all is NOT appropriate for Option 2 here. This area could also be used as “park area” for users, as well as for the park itself. Modification of user behaviour could be taught in this area. I have lots more I want to say about this, and other issues - what is the best way for my voice to be heard on this? I have ridden my bike for 50 years, and am on my bike every day, including lots of use on all areas of the trail sections is question. And yes I have completed the survey, but I don't feel that my detailed comments can be presented adequately. How can I submit detailed comments?
- Thank you for this Zoom meeting to review and discuss these opportunities to improve the bike and pedestrian trails. My concern is outside of the areas being redesigned but want to voice my concern regarding the redevelopment project at 4590 Lochside (at Royal Oak, Lochside and Lochside Elementary School), which will increase vehicular traffic on the Lochside Trail. I want CRD and Saanich Municipality to seriously consider the safety of this particular intersection of the trail.
- Trail widening between Quadra and Saanich Rd will have significant impact on wildlife values in the riparian zone of the Blenkinsop Creek. The trail is constricted between rocky outcrops and steep banks down to the stream. Significant disruption and loss of habitat will occur only to have a choke point at the trestle. Why widen this section where the habitat loss is most critical for so little gain with the trestle constriction.

Appendix D: Advertisement

Capital Regional District 

Public Feedback Opportunity

Regional Trails Widening and Lighting Project

The Capital Regional District is seeking your input on a 6.5 m separated use pathway design with lighting. **Take the survey by June 14.**

Virtual open houses will be held on:
June 4, 7–8 pm
June 7, 12–1 pm
Advance registration required.

See website for details:
www.crd.bc.ca/TrailsProject

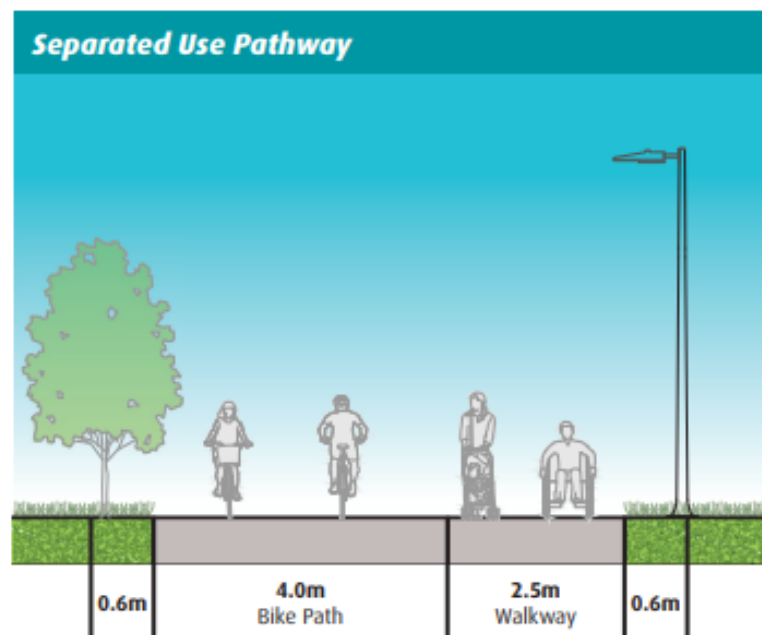


Appendix E: Posters

CRD - Regional Trails

Widening and Lighting Project

The CRD is considering a Separated Use Pathway design with lighting for sections of the Galloping Goose and Lochside regional trails.



Objectives for separated use pathway:

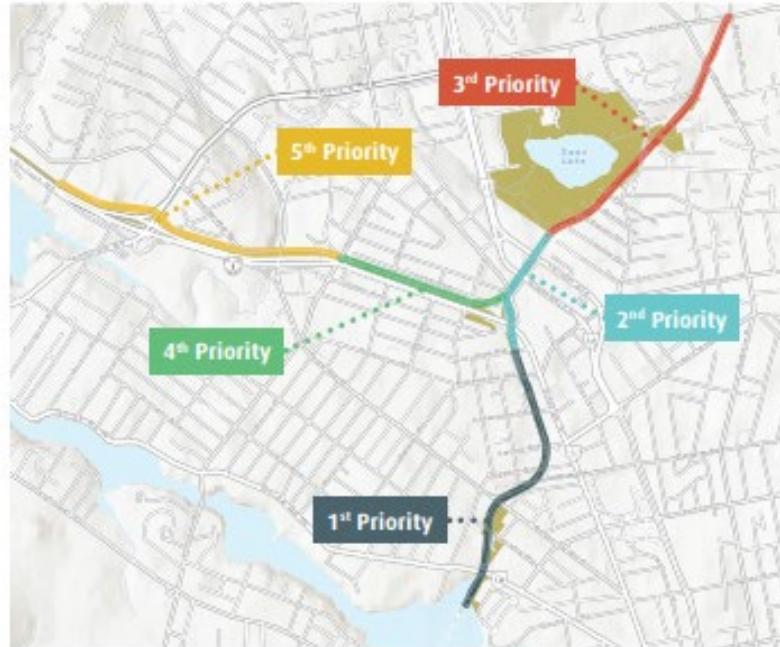
- ✓ create safer, more comfortable trail conditions for all users
- ✓ accommodate a predicted increase in trail use over the next 20 years
- ✓ help the region meet its targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promote healthy lifestyles



CRD - Regional Trails

Widening and Lighting Project

Changes would be made over time, with the busiest sections of trail being given priority.



Objectives for trail lighting:

- ✓ improve safety and visibility at key locations such as trail junctions and underpasses (the following could be priority locations for new lighting along the trails):
 - underpasses
 - bridges and trestles
 - trail junctions and street crossings
 - areas of safety concern
- ✓ use efficient LED technology that requires minimal maintenance
- ✓ minimize potential impacts on wildlife near natural areas, such as Swan Lake, by using low-intensity lights or reflectors



Provide your input!

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is seeking feedback on a proposed design to widen and light sections of the Galloping Goose and Lochside regional trails.



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE

OF REGIONAL TRAILS !

Visit the CRD's website:



www.crd.bc.ca/TrailsProject

Scan to provide your feedback:



CRD