



2019 Plaza Repair and Improvement Survey Summary and Recommendations

On April the 10th 2019, the Vancouver Skateboard Coalition (VSBC) conducted an in-person survey regarding plans for repairs and improvements of the Plaza. The survey asked participants questions on how the Plaza should be improved and to suggest and prioritize what, if any, new features should be added.

The VSBC received 65 survey responses from skateboarders that are heavy users of the Plaza. More than 50% of those surveyed indicated that they skate the plaza 4 days or more per week.

Before specific recommendations are finalized, VSBC would like to request a **detailed review meeting** in order to have the opportunity to comment and help guide the design and specifications of the work that will be done at the Plaza.

The VSBC board has reviewed the survey responses in detail and has found the following observations:

Open space: The plaza has been designed to be an open space featuring structures typically found in downtown cores of modern cities. We recommend that the downtown skateboard plaza remains true to this concept.

Quality of materials and workmanship: While we recommend the addition of a few new obstacles, the focus of the repair and improvement project should be on the quality of the materials and the workmanship used in the project. In other words, quality over quantity.

Excellence of ledges: By far the highest number of respondents were in favour of improving the granite ledges (with 2/3 of respondents placing the highest priority on ledges). We recommend that replacement and/or flipping of granite ledges be the highest priority for the project. Upon the completion of the project, the ledges should have longer continuous sections and have fewer and seamless gaps.

Addition of transitions: The second priority outlined, is the addition of transitions to the existing North West seating area and the hooked ledge. These areas are underutilized and are often used for purposes other than skateboarding. The details of how the transitions should be shaped, the materials that could be used, etc. should be discussed during the detailed review meeting. We recommend that the seating area on the south of the plaza remain as-is, because people often use this area to enjoy the southern exposure to the sun.

Replacement of flat bar: The third priority is the replacement of the existing flat bar. Specifically, the flat bar should remain in the same location, should have a concrete apron added around it, be longer and not have rounded ends.

Improvement of ground: We would like to see that the ground surface is improved. Our recommendations is to not use a large amount of funds on ground improvement, rather we would like to see that cost-effective methods are used even if the result is not as effective. We hope that we can discuss the trade-offs in the detailed review meeting.

Safety related repairs: Last, but not least, all safety related repairs should be made in order to make sure that the plaza is safe for all riders.

Beyond this, we do not recommend introducing any new features or additional work.

The VSBC would like to acknowledge the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Park Board's continued support of the skateboard community. We look forward to working on this and many more skateboard related projects.

--- Board of Directors, Vancouver Skateboard Coalition