

Welcome!

About the Durham Meadoway

The Durham Meadoway is a proposed pedestrian and cycling route and linear park that will connect people to destinations across more than 27 kilometres of Durham Region.

In addition to providing a significant east-west recreational facility and active transportation spine, the Durham Meadoway has the potential to transform the hydro corridor into a multi-faceted destination that includes ecological enhancements, public art and community amenities.

For More Information



Survey
Coming
Soon!

Project Website
YourVoiceDurham.ca/Durham-Meadoway



Quick Facts

27 km as the crow flies

100,000 people
in the Greater Study Area

35,000 people
10 minute walk

23 neighbourhoods

30 roads
in the Corridor Study Area

13 creeks

Please Tell Us What You Think

We want to hear your ideas!

- Where can the multi-use path be located?
- What can it connect to?
- What would you like to see along the path?
- What are your ideas for the Durham Meadoway?

You can provide your feedback on these interactive displays, talk to a member of the project team, or fill out the upcoming online survey.

Durham Meadoway

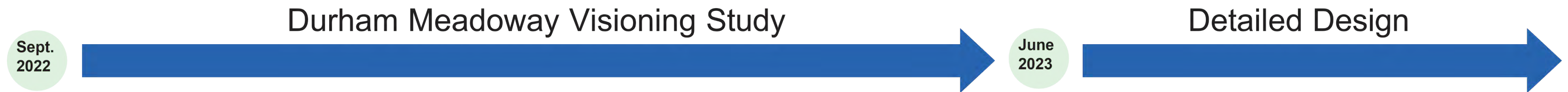
Public Open House #1
January 17 and 19, 2023

SvN

ARUP



Timeline



Schedule - Key Dates



Next Steps

Technical Studies

- Environmental study
- Engineering studies for creek and road crossings
- Costing
- Design development and landscape working drawings
- Branding, wayfinding and signage

Implementation

- Construction of multi-use path
- Construction of amenities, gateways, and features

Case Studies

Arbutus Greenway, Vancouver - 9km

Multi-use path that encourages active and sustainable modes of transportation while connecting parks, creeks, and rivers throughout the city.



The 606 (former Bloomingdale Trail), Chicago - 4.3km

Elevated trails for bikers and runners, art installations, and landscape designs create an urban oasis.



Please Tell Us What You Think

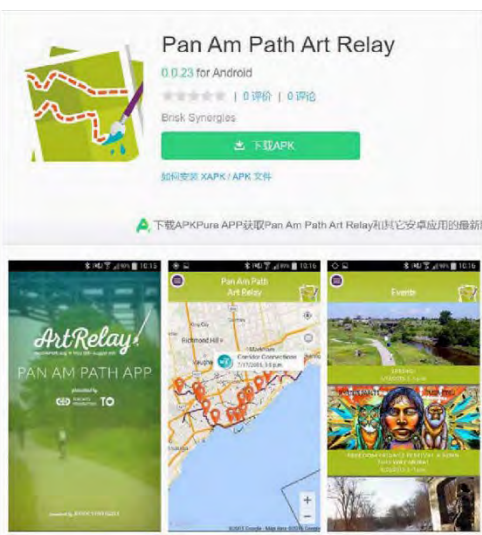
Which examples work well for the Durham Meadowway? Place a dot on the images that you like. What other examples can you think of? Write them on a sticky note and post them here.

write your ideas and post them in this space.

Case Studies

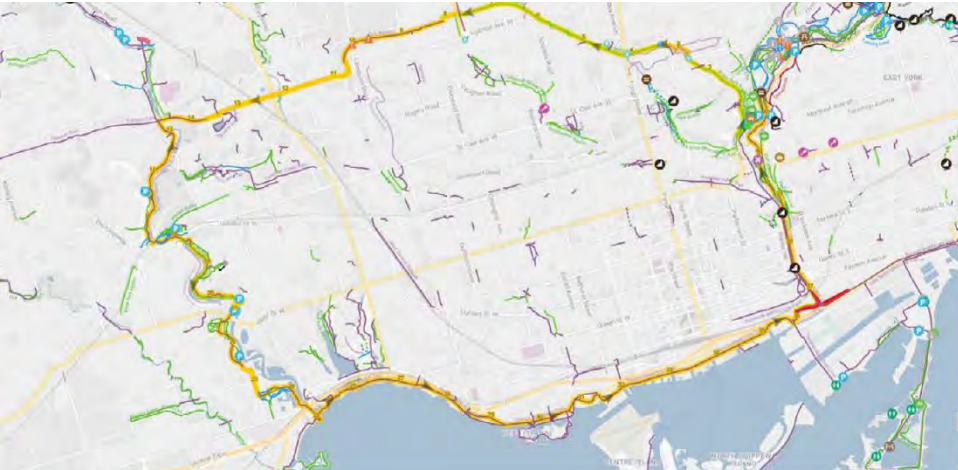
Toronto Pan Am Path - 80km

Connects trails in the Greater Toronto Area as part of the legacy of the 2015 Pan American Games.



The Beltline - Humber Loop - 42km

Historic railway trail for walkers, joggers, and cyclists that connects Toronto neighbourhoods.

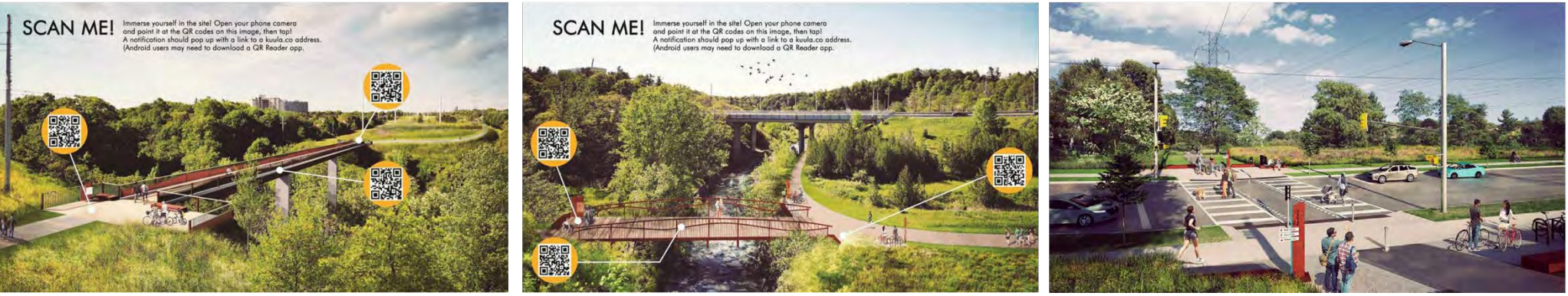


Case Studies

The Green Line Toronto - 5km

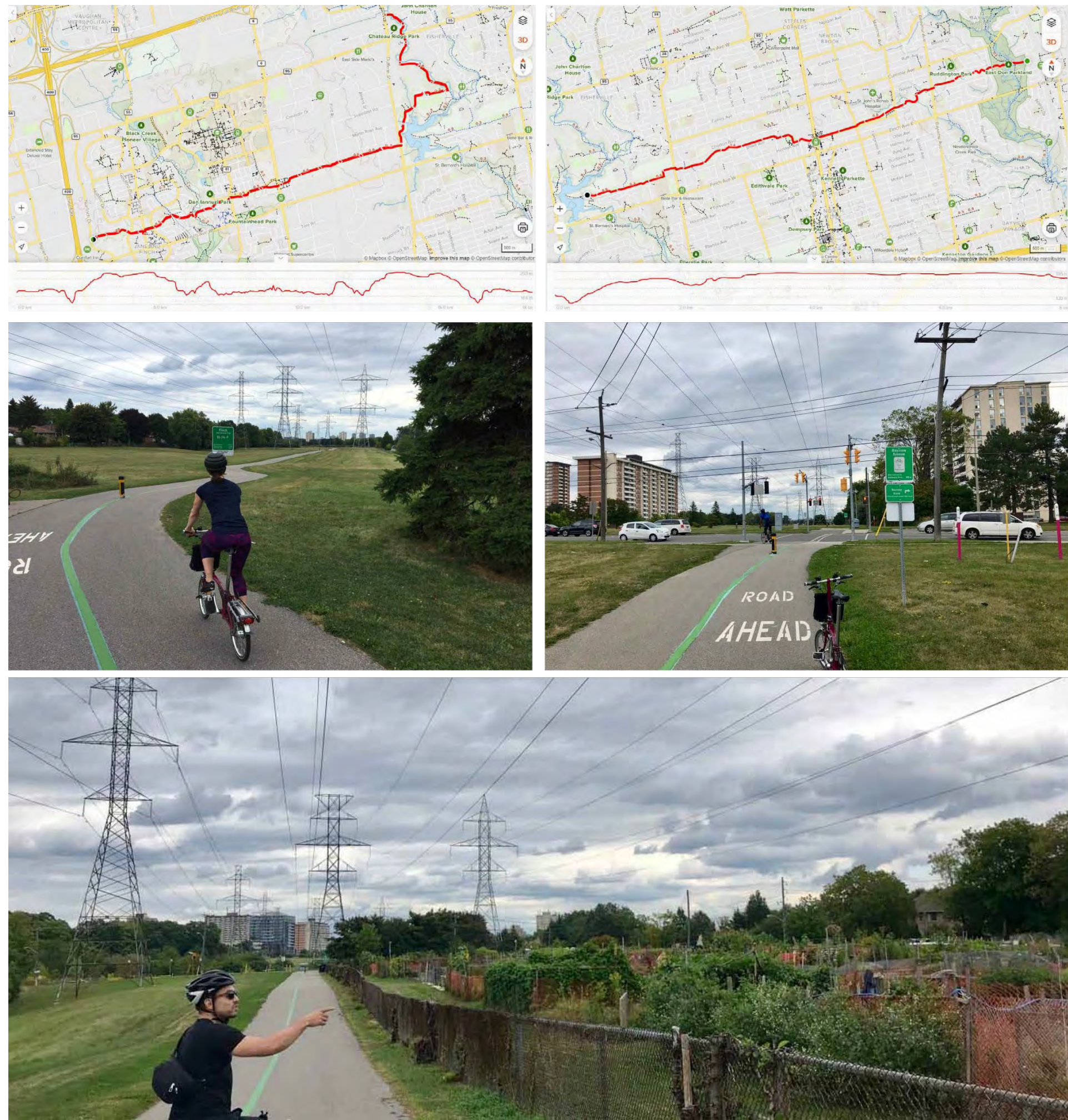


The Meadowway Toronto - 16 km



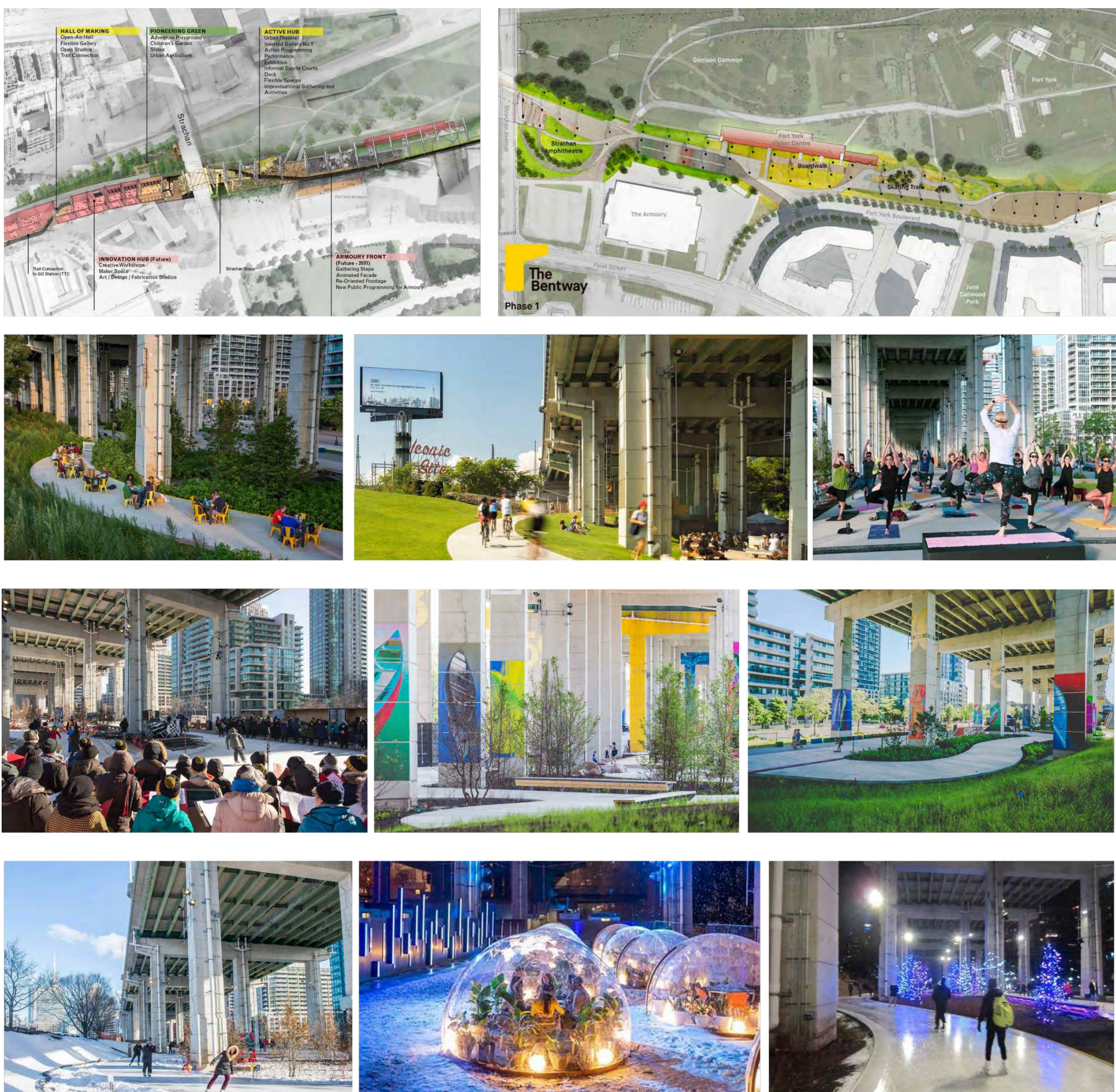
Case Studies

Finch Hydro Corridor Trail - 22km



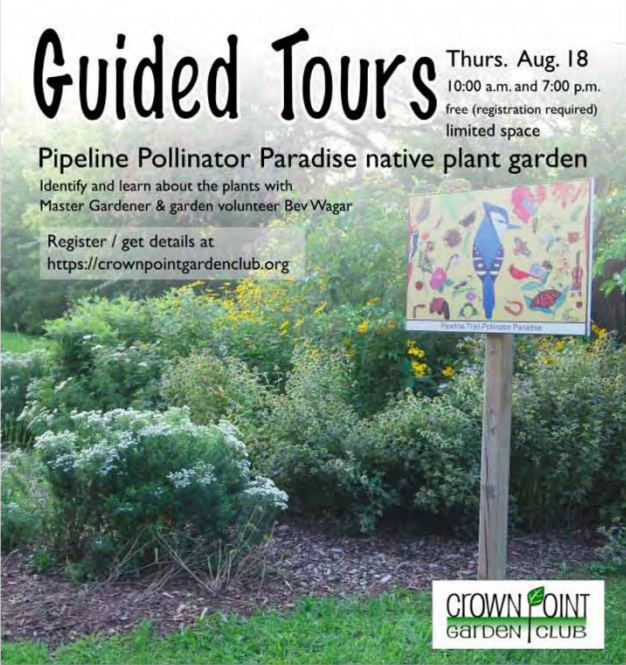
The Bentway Toronto

Creatively uses existing infrastructure that would typically be seen as a constraint to create a distinctive sense of place that is fun and whimsical.



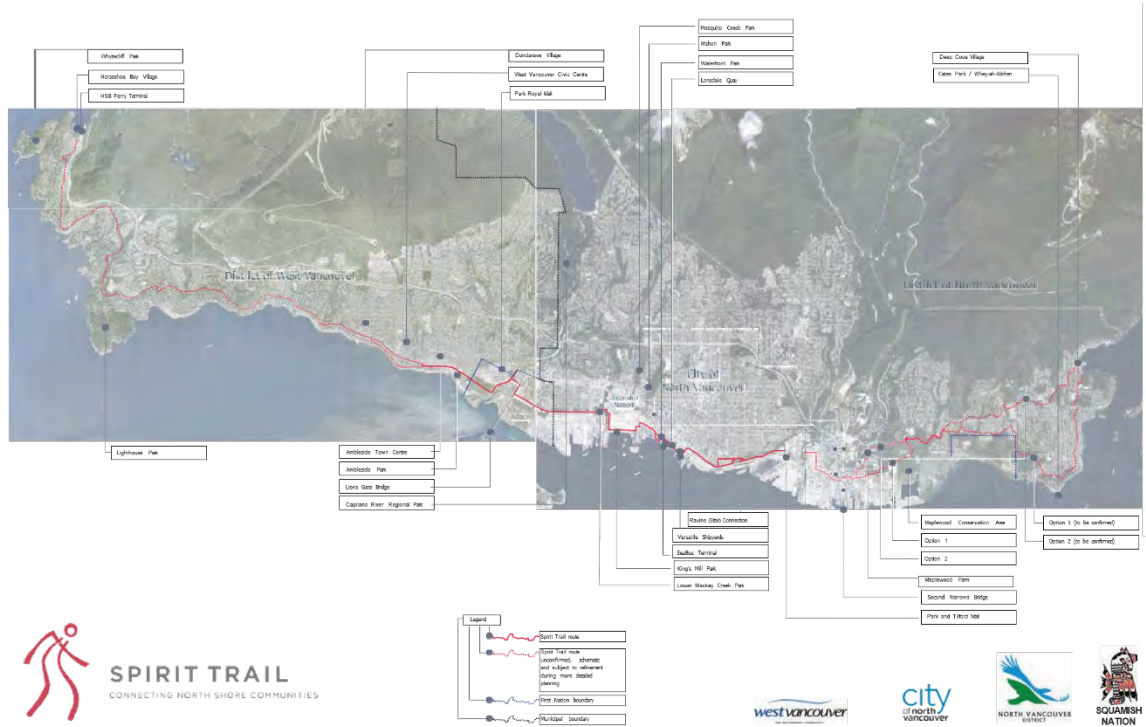
Case Studies

The Pipeline Trail, Hamilton - 6km



Spirit Trail, Vancouver - 11km

Waterfront-oriented trail provides pedestrians, cyclists, inline skaters and people with wheeled mobility aids safe access across the North Shore while using creative wayfinding to guide users.



Durham Meadoway

Public Open House #1
January 17 and 19, 2023

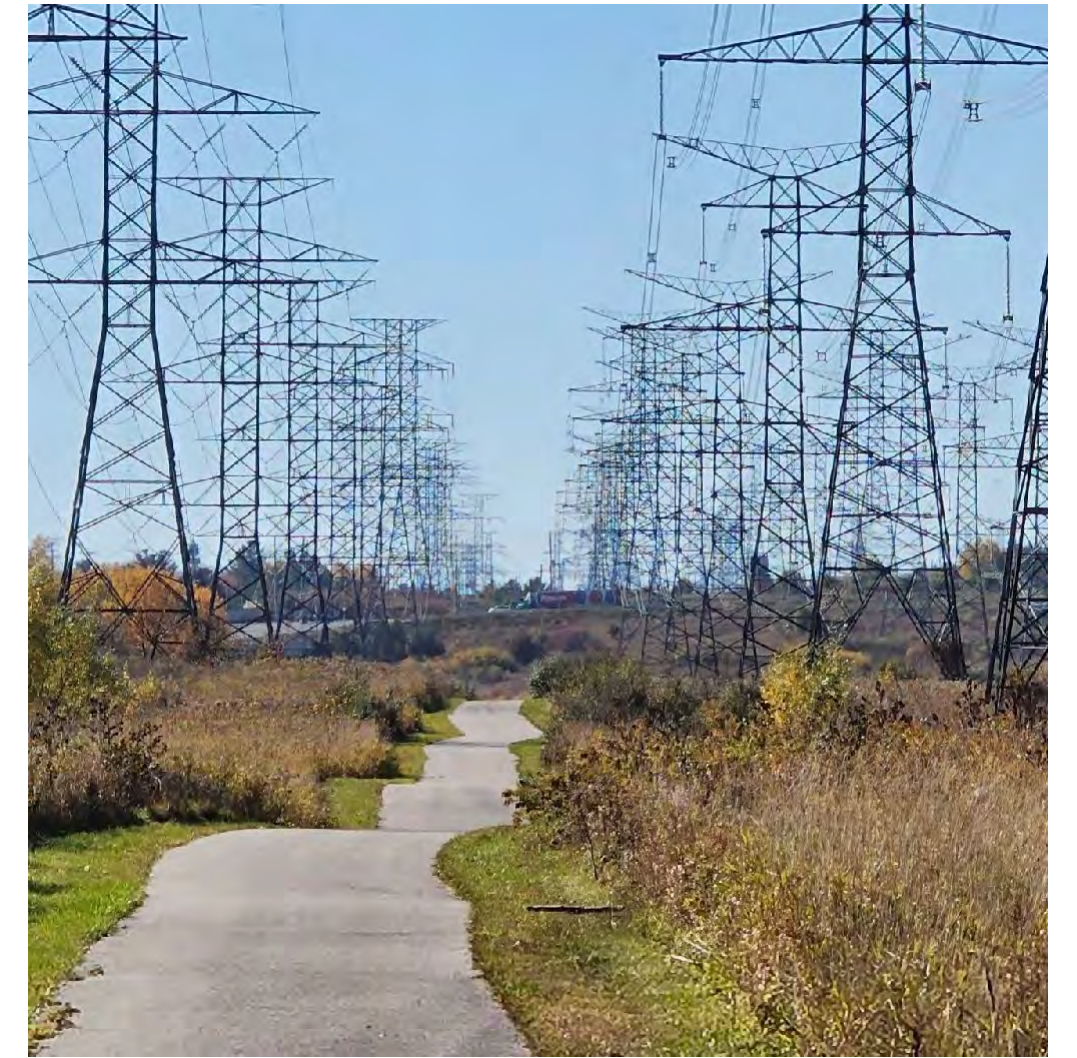
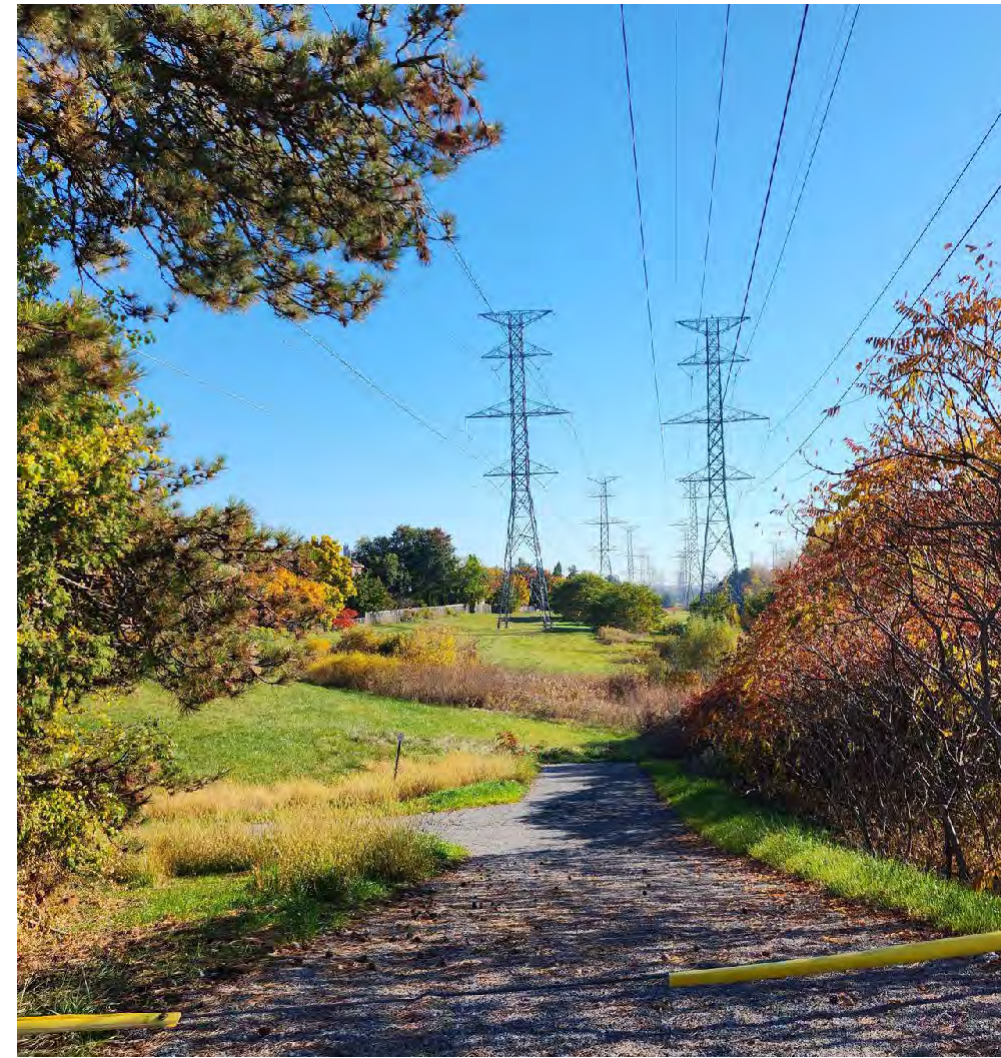
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Vision Statement

To create a quality, regional-scale greenspace and complete active transportation corridor that will stitch together rapidly growing neighbourhoods in Pickering, Ajax, Whitby and Oshawa.



Please Tell Us What You Think

Do you like the vision statement?

What words or phrases do you think should be captured in the vision statement?

Please write your ideas on the sticky notes and post them here!

write your
ideas and
post them in
this space.

Principles



Natural Environment

protect sensitive habitat

enhance biodiversity

support educational opportunities and stewardship



Healthy, Active Lifestyles

create active and passive recreational opportunities



Community

accommodate gathering and socialization areas

minimize negative neighbourhood impacts



Connectivity and Accessibility

create a continuous, safe, and easy to navigate trail

connect to adjacent communities

minimize use conflicts

allows for emergency and maintenance access



Identity

showcase cultural and environmental heritage

create a distinct identity through public art, wayfinding and gateways



Please Tell Us What You Think

Do you like the principles?

What words or phrases do you think should be captured in the principles? Please write your ideas on the sticky notes and post them here!

write your ideas and post them in this space.

Setting the Primary Route

The Durham Meadoway Visioning Study has divided the study area into 10 study segments, which are organized from west to east as follows:

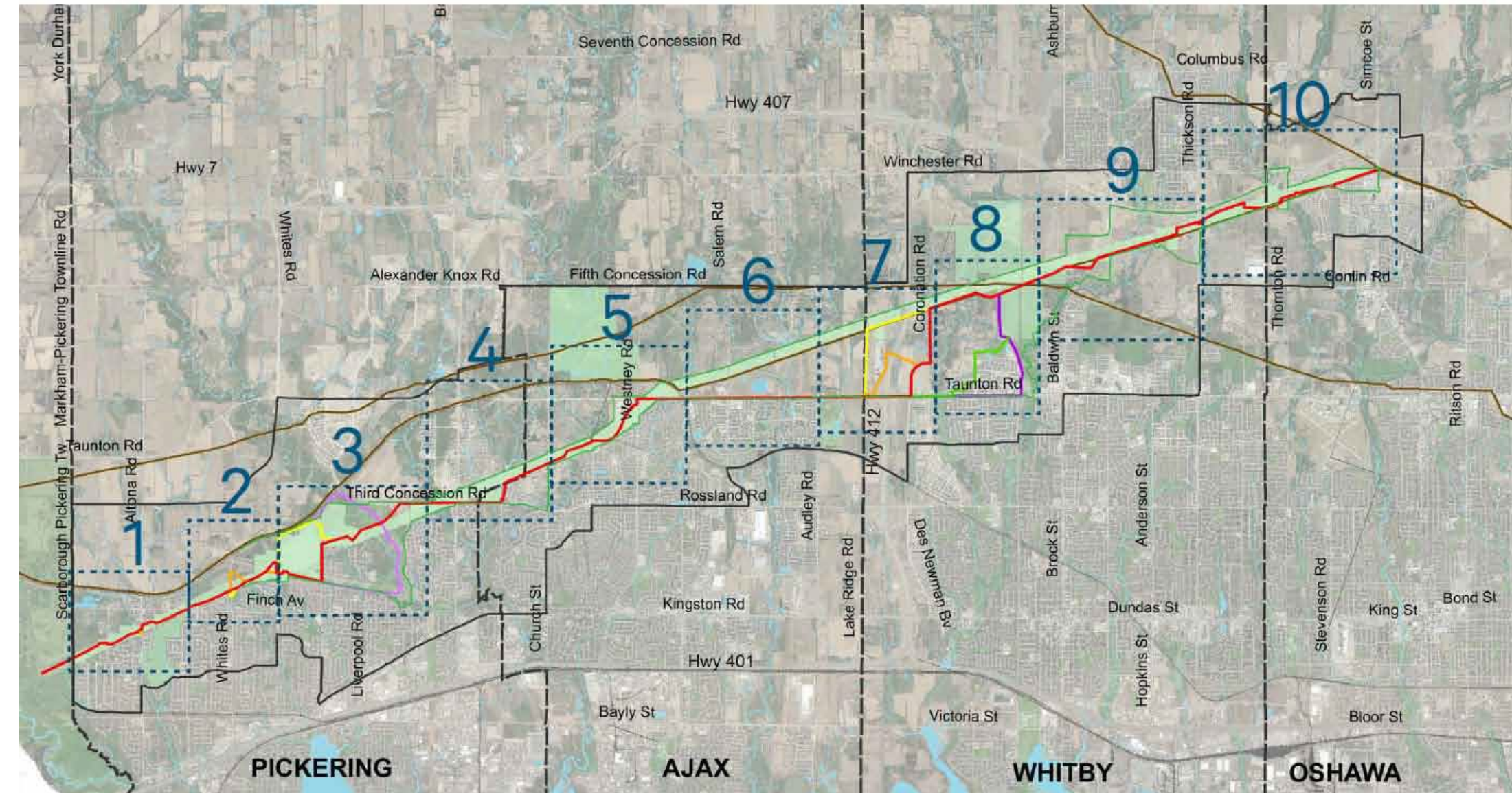
- Segment 1: Rouge National Urban Park to Rosebank Road
- Segment 2: Rosebank Road to Dixie Road
- Segment 3: Dixie Road to Brock Road
- Segment 4: Brock Road to Church Street
- Segment 5: Church Street to Harwood Avenue
- Segment 6: Harwood Avenue to Audley Road
- Segment 7: Audley Road to Coronation Road
- Segment 8: Coronation Road to Cochrane Street
- Segment 9: Cochrane Street to Thickson Road
- Segment 10: Thickson Road to Simcoe Street

Each study segment contains up to five options for the Durham Meadoway route. Route options have been identified where the multi-use path may need to be located outside of the hydro corridor to avoid private leases or to ensure that users can cross busy roads safely.

The **Primary Route** will be the route that provides the best continuous end-to-end connection that will ideally be implementable within the short-term (5-10 years).

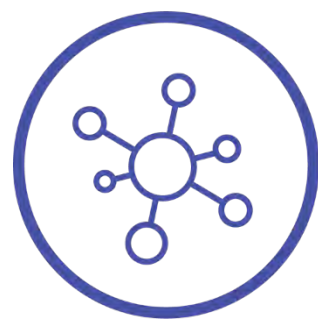
Your input will assist the project team in evaluating the different route options to set the Primary Route.

Study Segment Map



Placemaking

Nodes & Gateways



NODES



PROGRAMMING



PLAY



LIGHTING



WAYFINDING



Willingdon Linear Park - Burnaby BC



Please Tell Us What You Think
Which placemaking examples work well for the Durham Meadoway? Select the images you like best and write their code on the corresponding coloured stickers. Then, place the stickers on the areas of the map where you think they should go.



Craigie Compass - Perth, Australia



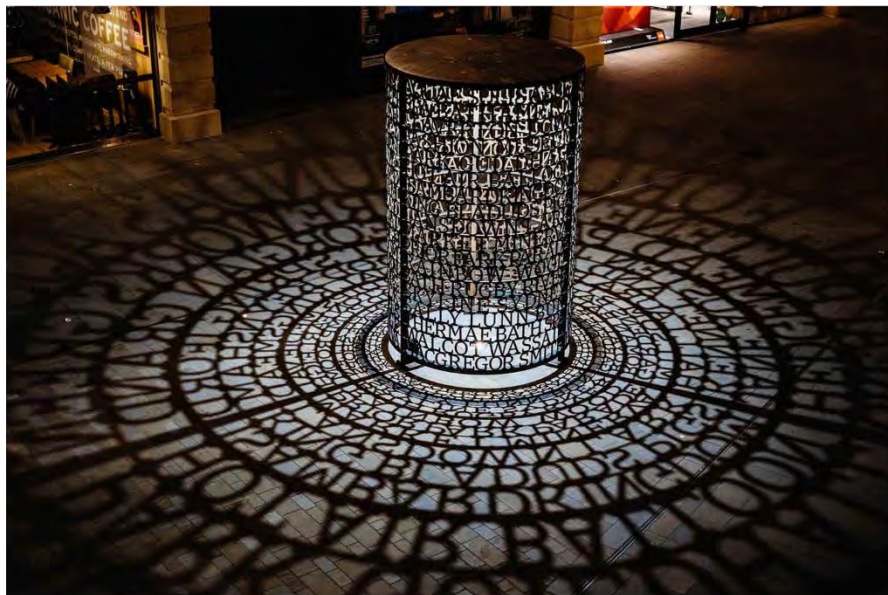
Hydro Corridor - Montreal, Quebec



Pomegranate Place - Hefei, China

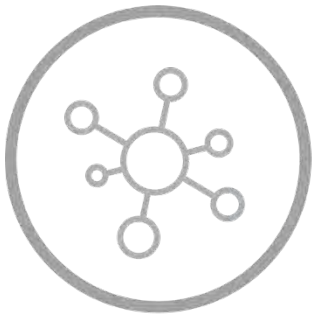


South Gate - Bath, UK



Placemaking

Programming & Activation



NODES



PROGRAMMING



PLAY



LIGHTING



WAYFINDING



B1

Temporary Outdoor Furniture



Metcalfe Park - Sydney, Australia



B2

Interactive Outdoor Furniture



B3

Outdoor Lookouts



Toggenburg mit Kind

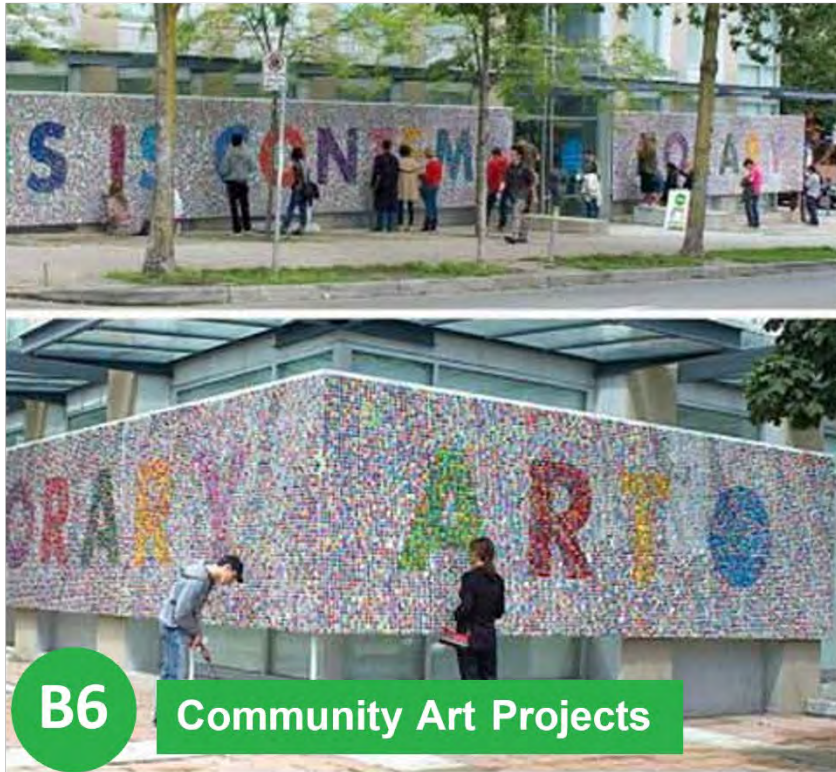
B4

Picture-taking Installations



B5

Sloped Pathways



B6

Community Art Projects

Look-Out / Memorable Moments / Landscape Artifacts



B7

Temporary Landscape Art Installations



Temporary Landscape Interventions / Temporary Art Installations

Durham Meadoway

Public Open House #1
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SvN

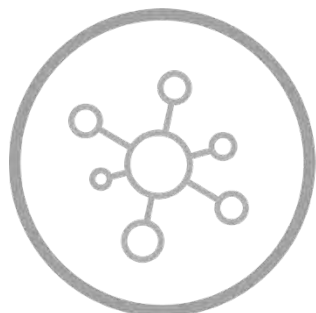
ARUP

FL



Placemaking

Play & Experience



NODES



PROGRAMMING



PLAY



LIGHTING



WAYFINDING



C1

Acoustic Interactive Installations



Sensory Interactive



C2

Interactive Seating for Children



C3

Temporary Maze



C4

Winter Play Features



C5

Creative Playgrounds



Natural Playground / Creative Play

Durham Meadowway

Public Open House #1
January 17 and 19, 2023

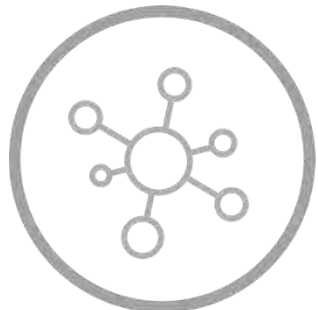
SvN

ARUP



Placemaking

Lighting



NODES



PROGRAMMING



PLAY



LIGHTING



WAYFINDING

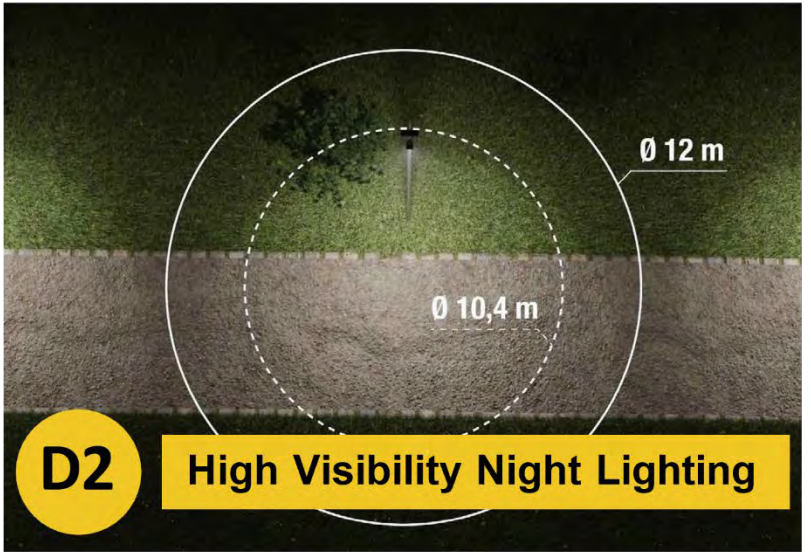


D1

Interactive Landscape Light Fixtures

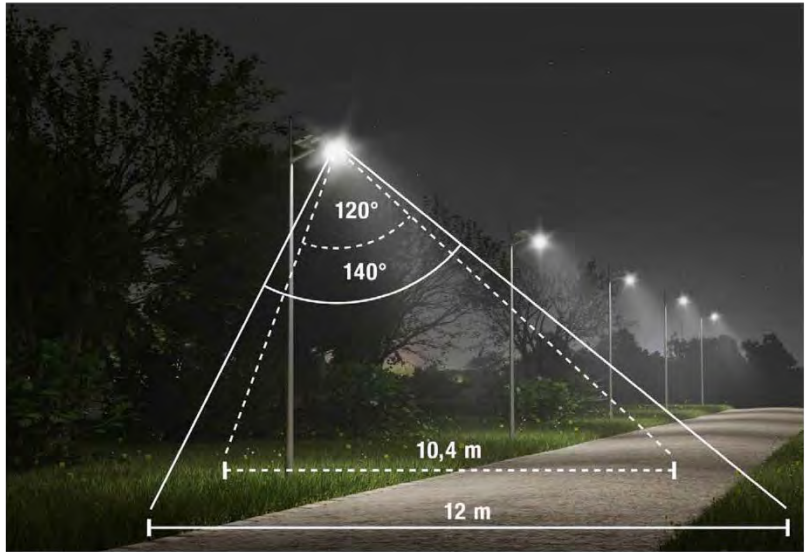


Artful Light Installation & Planting



D2

High Visibility Night Lighting



LED - PhotoVoltaic Lighting



D3

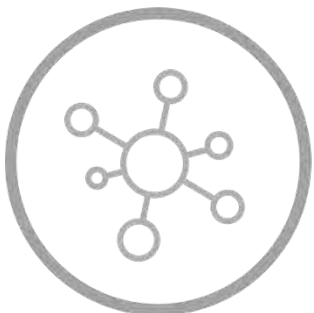
Colourful Night Tunnel Lighting



Potential Underpass Lighting

Placemaking

Wayfinding



NODES



PROGRAMMING



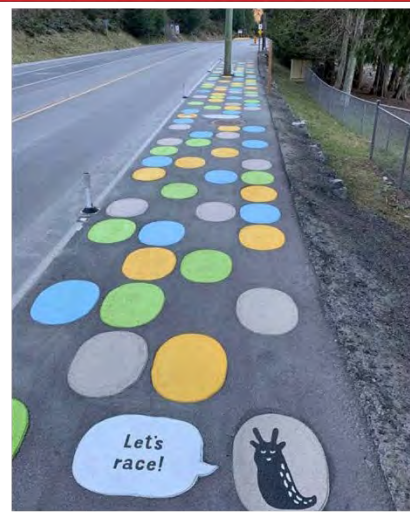
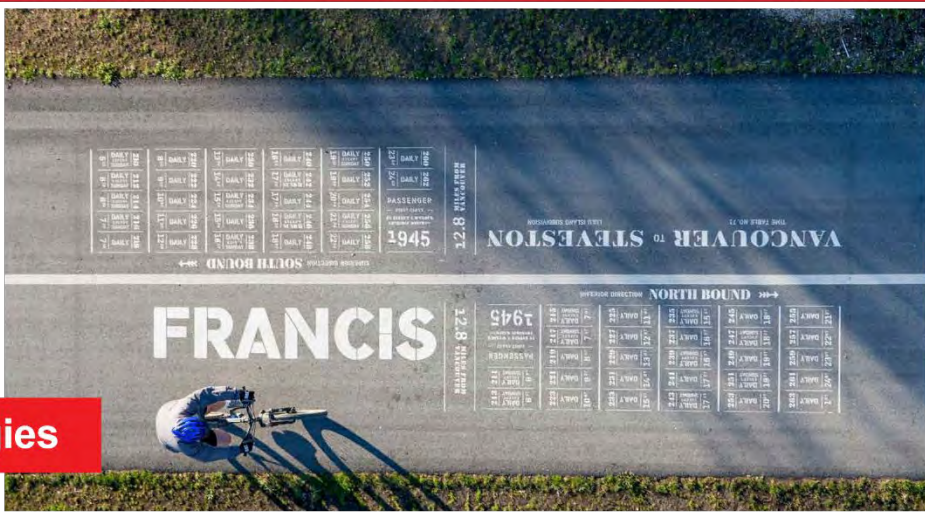
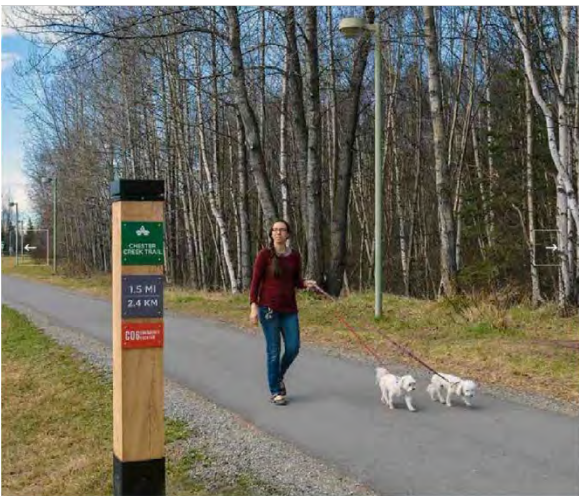
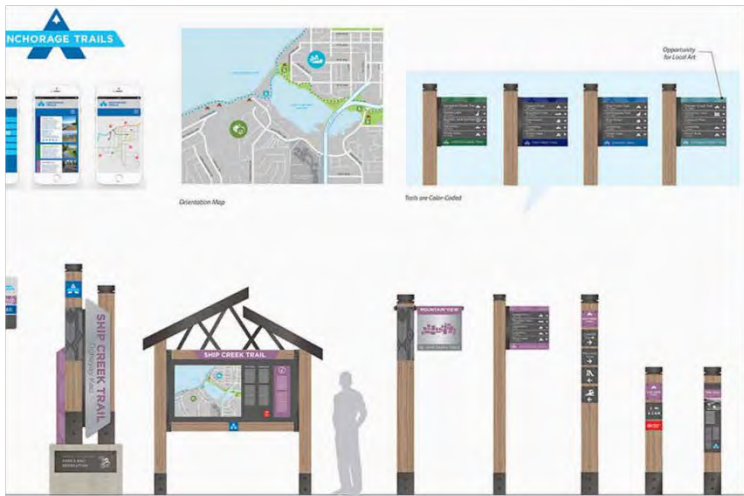
PLAY



LIGHTING



WAYFINDING



E7

Interactive Wayfinding Strategies

Durham Meadoway

Public Open House #1
January 17 and 19, 2023

SvN

ARUP

FL





Durham Meadowway Visioning Study

**Phase 1 Community Engagement Summary
March 2023**



Planning and Economic Development
Department
Transportation Planning

Project Introduction

What is the Durham Meadowway?

The Durham Meadowway is a proposed pedestrian and cycling route and linear park that will connect people to destinations across more than 27 kilometres of Durham Region. In addition to providing a significant east-west recreational facility and active transportation spine, the Durham Meadowway also has the potential to become a multi-faceted space for people that includes ecological enhancements, public art and community amenities.



What is the purpose of the Visioning Study?

The Durham Meadowway Visioning Study will provide a robust vision and framework that will guide the future detailed planning and implementation of the corridor. The study will identify the route for the multi-use path and create a concept plan for the types of experiences, amenities, gateways, public art and other elements that community stakeholders would like to see programmed or evolve over time. The Visioning Study will be the first of several initiatives that will be needed to take the Durham Meadowway from concept to construction.

The Durham Meadowway Visioning Study will culminate with a final report that will be presented and made publicly available toward the end of 2023.

Timeline



Community Engagement

Overview

Phase 1 of the Durham Meadoway Visioning Study took place between October 2022 and March 2023. Goals of Phase 1 included:

- Finalizing a vision and guiding principles for the Durham Meadoway.
- Identifying and evaluating route options to select a preferred route as well as an interim route that will provide more immediate connectivity.
- Obtaining input from stakeholders that will inform the development of the amenities and programming concept plan that will be developed in Phase 2.

Community engagement activities in Phase 1:



2 open houses



1 Online survey



3 Municipal and Agency Stakeholder Working Group meetings



7 council and committee presentations

Method

The summaries of qualitative data collected through the engagement activities presented in this report were developed using a summative content analysis approach. A summative content analysis involves counting and comparisons, usually of keywords or content, followed by the interpretation of the underlying context.

How will this information be used?

	Open houses	Online survey	Agency and municipal stakeholder working group	Council and committee presentations
Inform vision and guiding principles	✓	✓	✓	✓
Inform amenities and programming concept plan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Inform route option selection and evaluation	✓		✓	✓

Engagement activities

All community stakeholders

Dec 2022 Your Voice Durham page launch
Jan 2023 Communications campaign (direct mail and social media)
Jan 2023 Open House #1 (two locations)
Feb 2023 Online Survey #1
Mar 2023 Online Survey #2
Apr 2023 Open House #2 (one location)

Municipal and agency stakeholder working group

Nov 2022 – Jun 2023 Input on draft materials
Nov 2022 Project kick-off meeting
Dec 2022 Vision and guiding principles discussion
Dec 2022 Route option discussion
Jan 2023 Municipal and Agency Stakeholder open house
Apr 2023 Preferred route, amenities and programming discussion

Council and committees

Nov 2022 – Jun 2023 Area municipal council and committee presentations
Nov 2022 Regional Council Information Report
Mar 2023 Regional Council Information Report
Oct 2023 Final report to Regional Planning and Economic Development Committee

Legend



Ongoing



Upcoming



Completed

Indigenous engagement

The following Indigenous communities and groups were contacted during Phase 1 of the Durham Meadoway Visioning Study: Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Alderville First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, Georgina Island First Nation, Beausoleil First Nation, Chippewas of Rama First Nation, Oshawa and Durham Metris Council, Bawaajigewin Aboriginal Community Circle, Suswaaning Endaajig / First Peoples Indigenous Centre (Durham College) and First Peoples House of Learning (Trent University).



Municipal and Agency Stakeholder Working Group

3 Municipal and agency stakeholder working group meetings

1. Project kick-off meeting – November 4, 2022.
2. Vision, guiding principles, amenities and destinations discussion – December 8, 2022
3. Route options discussion – December 9, 2022

Additional engagement activities

- A questionnaire was circulated in November to collect initial input on the vision, guiding principles and evaluation criteria.
- The December meeting materials, which included route options, were subsequently circulated to stakeholders for input.
- Municipal and agency stakeholders were invited to attend an in-person meeting prior to the public open house on January 19 to review the materials and meet the consultant team.

Participating organizations

- Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
- City of Oshawa - Transportation Engineering, Parks Planning and Development
- City of Pickering - Capital Projects and Infrastructure, Landscape and Parks Development, Cultural Services
- City of Toronto - Beare Hill Park
- Durham Active Transportation Committee
- Durham OneNet
- Hydro One Networks Inc. - Real Estate Services
- Infrastructure Ontario
- Parks Canada
- Region of Durham – Tourism, Rapid Transit Office, Durham Region Transit Policy and Planning, Corporate Initiatives, Traffic Engineering, Sustainability and Climate Change
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Town of Ajax – Transportation Planning, Landscape Architecture, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change, Community and Cultural Development
- Town of Whitby – Creative Communities, Landscape Architecture, Sustainability and Climate Change, Parks Development, Transportation Services

Stakeholder input – key themes



Vision statement

Municipal and agency stakeholders were asked to reflect on the vision statement and identify ways in which it could be improved. Major themes that emerged in the feedback included:

- Replace words that feel too jargony with more accessible alternatives – e.g., replace “active transportation corridor” with “multi-use trail” or “multi-use path”.
- Include words such as “thriving”, “vibrant”, “unique”, “visionary” and “dynamic” – words that are inspiring, warm and which speak more compellingly to Durham’s values and the project benefits.
- Think bigger – incorporate language that more fully captures the potential to connect people to places (not just communities), both across the Region and to downtown Toronto.
- Add texture – include the word “diverse” to help speak to the unique attributes of the different sections of the corridor – not just communities, but also cultures, landscapes, ecosystems, etc.
- Make nature more prominent by replacing the word “greenspace” with language that is more descriptive and consider ways to integrate sustainability and climate change in the narrative.



Guiding principles

Municipal and agency stakeholders were also asked to reflect on the guiding principles and how they could be improved. Major themes that emerged from the input received on the guiding principles are summarized in the table below.

Principle	Suggestions
Natural Environment	• Be more specific • Add “including meadow restoration and pollinator habitat”
Healthy, Active Lifestyles	• Remove “healthy” – Active lifestyles are healthy lifestyles • Make the language more interesting • Add “diverse and inclusive” to recreational opportunities • Add “include a variety of trail amenities”
Community	• Make the language more interesting • Add “design for community programming for all user groups” and “opportunities for community gardening and urban agriculture”.
Connectivity and Accessibility	• Add the words “accessible” and “AODA-compliant” • Emphasize the role of wayfinding • In “Connect to adjacent communities”, change communities to destinations
Identity	• Incorporate “placemaking principles” into “create a distinct identity..” • Make the language more interesting



Evaluation criteria

Municipal and agency stakeholders were asked to review and provide comments on the evaluation criteria that will be used to evaluate the route options. The following themes emerged from the input:

- Financial feasibility should be part of the evaluation.
- Connectivity to destinations should be prioritized in the evaluation. Connectivity should consider utilitarian destinations such as schools and grocery stores, not just recreational destinations.
- Route the multi-use path where good ecological restoration / enhancement opportunities exist, especially in places where other criteria are equal.
- Align the route with existing or planned routes to minimize natural area disturbance and capital and maintenance costs.



Route options

Municipal and agency stakeholders provided a variety of input on the route options, including. Main themes included:

- Considerations that may impact the proposed route options or their evaluation.
- Route option preferences.
- Alternative route options that could be considered.
- Facilities, destinations and amenities that could be connected to the Durham Meadoway.



User experience

Municipal and agency stakeholders provided a variety of input on aspects of the Durham Meadoway that will contribute to the experience of users, including amenities, programming and focal points. Themes that emerged from these comments included:

- Leverage existing facilities where possible.
- Consider shade and seasonality in the design.
- Consider parking and washrooms.
- Include local and Indigenous artists.
- Utilize the topography and engineered landscapes to create focal points and foster a sense of place.

How will this information be used?



Inform the vision, guiding principles and route option evaluation criteria.



Support the development of an amenities and programming concept plan



Inform the selection of the primary and interim routes

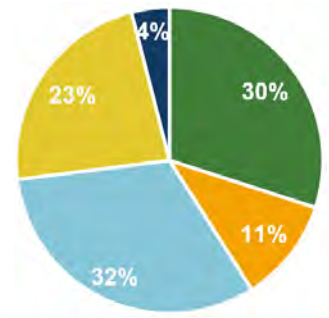
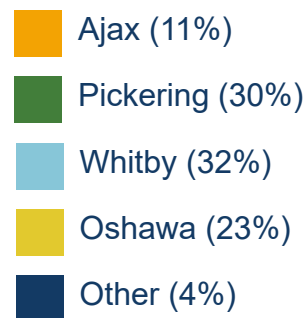


Open Houses

130 participants

- 2 in-person open houses
 - Whitby (January 17, 6 to 8 p.m.)
 - Pickering (January 19, 6 to 8 p.m.)
- Presentation materials were the same for both open houses. Information presented included:
 - Study background and purpose.
 - Project timeline.
 - Route options.
 - Case studies from other communities.
 - Examples of amenities and programming.
 - Potential focal points.
 - Hydro corridor technical considerations.
- Participants provided input on the route options, vision, guiding principles, amenities and programming.

Where do participants live?



How were the open houses promoted?



Direct mail

53,000 households within and adjacent to the study area received information about the open houses by mail.



Social media

1,835 engagements with 9 posts on the Region's Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.



Stakeholders

Additional social media by municipalities, Durham Region Cycling Coalition, and other individuals and community groups.



Other

Regional newsletter article in addition to a news story published by Metroland Media (durhamregion.com) online and in print.

Participant Input - Key Themes

Note: Participants provided a range of feedback. For example, some participants encouraged the use of lighting and others would rather minimize lighting to avoid impacts on wildlife and nearby homes.



Natural environment

- Create a route that maximizes views of nature and the ability for people to experience nature while using the multi-use path.
- Design facilities that blend into the natural environment and potentially enhance it.
- Consider strategies for reducing impact on the natural environment.



Things to do and see

- Consider how the multi-use path can be used at different times of day as well as different seasons.
- Ensure the Durham Meadoway is accessible and create opportunities for engagement for all ages.
- Incorporate spaces for activities such as community gardens, outdoor fitness, disc golf, etc.



Identity

- Create a trail that has a “sense of place” and is distinctly representative of the communities that border it.
- Create a destination.



Safety

- Design the multi-use path to separate uses and reduce potential for conflict between pedestrians and cyclists.
- Some participants were concerned about safety and vandalism.



Signage (wayfinding and education)

- Signage should be easy to read and resistant to vandalism.
- People want to discover their neighbourhood! Signs should provide direction and distance to notable landmarks, facilities and roads.
- Explore opportunities to implement interactive signage.
- Provide educational signage to allow children and adults to learn about nature, culture and history.



Comfort and accessibility

- Consider people with mobility issues.
- Design a space that is comfortable through the year and easy to maintain.
- Provide moments of rest.



Good neighbours

- Consider how to reduce the impact on surrounding property owners, for example by connecting to existing trails instead of creating new ones.



How will this information be used?



Inform the vision and guiding principles



Support the development of an amenities and programming concept plan



Inform the selection of the primary and interim routes

Figure 1: Pictures from the January 17 open house in Whitby and the January 19 open house in Pickering.



Online Survey #1

285 survey submissions

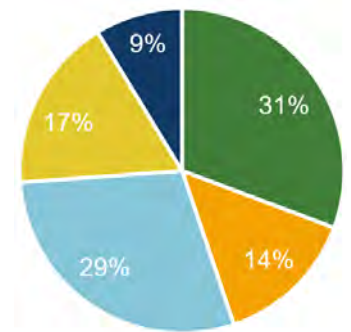
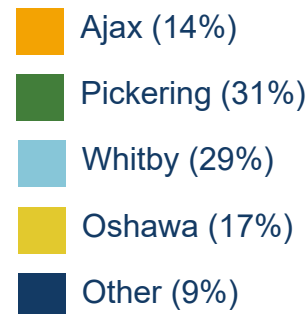
154 participants shared their own vision for the Durham Meadowway during the survey period (January 30 to February 13).

64 provided input on the principles that will guide decision-making.

93 suggested amenities that would make the route more comfortable and convenient.

63 shared ideas for what they would like to see and do along the Durham Meadowway.

Where do participants live?



How was the survey promoted?



Newsletter

225 Your Voice Durham page subscribers reached by email.



Social media

14 social media posts across Durham Region's Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.



Stakeholders

Additional social media by municipalities and Durham Region Cycling Coalition.

How will the survey information be used?



Inform the vision and guiding principles

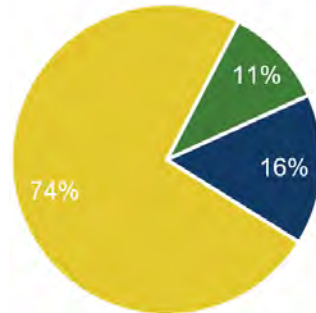


Support the development of an amenities and programming concept plan

Online survey question: Do you like the vision statement? Why / why not?

Summary of quantitative responses 255 responses

The draft vision statement for the Durham Meadoway is:
"To create a quality, regional-scale greenspace and complete active transportation corridor that will stitch together rapidly growing neighbourhoods in Pickering, Ajax, Whitby and Oshawa."



-  Yes, I like the vision statement (74%)
-  No, I don't like the vision statement (11%)
-  I don't know / I'm not sure (16%)

Summary of qualitative responses



Language (32 tags)

Main themes:

- Some words and phrases such as “regional-scale”, “active transportation” and “complete” are too jargony or vague.
- The concept of communities being stitched together resonates, but an alternative to “stitch” should be explored.



Nature (16 tags)

Main themes:

- More emphasis on environmental opportunities and benefits such as preserving and restoring ecosystems and supporting pollinator species.



Community (10 tags)

Main themes:

- Connecting communities is a good goal.
- Benefits to individual communities such as fostering social cohesion and improving quality of life could be emphasised.



Transportation Network (33 tags)

Main themes:

- Connections to destinations outside of Durham Region could be acknowledged (e.g., connection to Toronto).
- Support for extending the project to encompass more of Durham Region.
- Vision should strike a balance between recreational and active transportation use.

Online survey question:
**What's YOUR vision for
the Durham Meadowway?**

(158 responses)

The complete list of responses is
provided in Appendix A.

An end-to-end
trail that connects
Pickering to other
communities
to promote
healthy and
active lifestyles

As a runner, my vision is
a paved pathway that is
snow cleared in winter to
promote year long
activity. The occasional
bathroom and water
fountain like Ajax's
waterfront trail has (that
Pickering doesn't) would
also be great.

Almost like a bike
highway that allows
cyclists to get to
places of
entertainment and
shops easily and
safely

An animated public
green space that
connects essential
natural habitats and
dynamic
neighborhoods across
Durham Region

A way to travel
while enjoying
the route.

A place to see familiar
faces and keep our
family healthy and
active

Active
trail
promoting
health and
community

Create an active
transportation
loop that will
connect Pickering
Ajax, Whitby,
Oshawa, up to
Uxbridge

Accessible
for all
people

Almost like a bike
highway that allows
cyclists to get to
places of
entertainment and
shops easily and
safely

A magical,
immersive,
multi-use
transportation
corridor that will
forever stamp
Durham Region
in the minds of
families across
the region and
beyond.

A protected
habitat corridor
that gives
residents access
to both nature
and a healthy
lifestyle

A safe and
dedicated car
free route
throughout
Durham

Community-
oriented

I hope that it will be
a beautiful trail for
me to walk and ride
my bike. I live in
South Ajax and I
use the trail system
every day

A great
place for
walking and
cycling

A huge community
environment where
everyone can
enjoy physical
activities in nature

Just a place to go for
awesome walks with
the family, meet up with
friends to do activities,
let the kids run and
play. Somewhere that
is beautiful and nice to
visit

Green,
inclusive,
safe,
connected

A well-maintained
access route to
spend time with
friends/family, with
varying abilities or
ages, to connect, be
active and be safe

A means of
connecting
active
transportation
networks across
Durham Region

Create
green
pathways
across
Durham

A safe and easy
to reach outdoor
public space
where interesting
features can be
enjoyed by all
people

Effectively using
green space for
health and wellness
while maintaining its
natural beauty and
taking in what
nature has provided
us

It will be great to
walk/ride between the
regions in a safe
manner. I love biking
great distances and not
having to worry about
traffic

The vision should
talk about the treaty
land it covers
through the
Williams Treaty and
talk about original
indigenous land

A lively pathway that
inspires outdoor
activity and healthy
lifestyles. It
connects people to
nature, wellness and
each other

Would
for
increased
skating
in the

It provides not only
important leisure
space but a safe,
dependable
alternative to
personal
automobiles

Two separate
trails side by side.
One for
pedestrians and
one for cyclists

Add art and
culture to the
vision
statement

A great cycling
and walking
path linked to
the Waterfront
trail and others.

Extend it
further east

A large & long green
space to preserve a
significant area of
natural landscape.
Nature is
disappearing all too

Create an
environmentally
responsible meadowway

A Meadowway
across all of

Provide the
opportunity to
actively move
between

The image displays a collection of approximately 20 hand-drawn or printed sticky notes in various colors like yellow, pink, blue, green, and purple. These notes are scattered across the page, each containing handwritten-style suggestions for a community project called "Greenbelt". The ideas range from creating walking paths and bike trails to establishing protected habitat corridors and public art installations. Some notes mention specific locations like Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa, Uxbridge, and Durham Region. Others focus on themes such as accessibility for all abilities, family-friendly spaces, and connecting different parts of the region. The overall tone is enthusiastic and collaborative.

I hope there
are large
parks

Please include
walking parks
with benches for
those who are
disabled

An animated public
green space that
connects essential
natural habitats and
dynamic
neighborhoods across
Durham Region

'One of a
kind'.
Include art
and
theatre

A peaceful, high
quality, connected,
region wide
corridor that
showcases the
natural beauty of
the region and
everything it has to
offer. The corridor
would be ideal for
bikes and
pedestrian
transportation

Create an active
transportation
loop that will
connect Pickering,
Ajax, Whitby,
Oshawa, up to
Uxbridge

A protected
habitat corridor
that gives
residents access
to both nature
and a healthy
lifestyle

Connections by
bike/trike going
North and South
as well as East
and West

Prioritize
environment,
then
community
use

A cycling super
highway that will
make a significant
improvement in
our transportation
network across
the Region

A green space
pathway connecting 4
cities that seamlessly
allows for human
activity without
disturbing natural
Habitats and the
species that reside in
them

A connected
pathway to all
communities
north and south
that replaces the
need for a car

Along with better
mixed use
zoning and
density to allow
people to live
richer, better
lives

An area that
seamlessly
blends into the
natural habitat
allowing an
escape from
the busy
suburbs

Being able
my bike
north A
shops at
lake with
on a b

To create a
quality,
ecologically
diverse and
native
species-based
green space to
increase
biodiversity and
the appreciation of
our natural
habitats in the
Durham Region

Having a nice
path with
skateboard and
mountain bike
options
along it

My vision of the
Durham Meadoway
is of a trail that runs
the length of
Durham Region,
west to east,
connecting various
local trails, and
stream systems that
are part of the
current Greenbelt.
In other words, the
Durham Meadoway
becomes an integral
part of the
Greenbelt

Family friendly
(walking, stroller,
bike, wheelchair
accessible).
Female friendly
(safe)

Would love
for it to
include a
skating trail
in the winter

Safe, family
friendly,
accessible by
all abilities

Extend it
further east

Provide the
opportunity to
actively move
between
communities without
relying on motorized

A space that
multiple user
groups can
enjoy for free
in the Durham

A lively pathway that
inspires outdoor
activity and healthy
lifestyles. It
connects people to
nature, wellness and
each other

Create a unique
green space and
path network
across the
region of
Durham

A great cycling
and walking
path linked to
Waterfront
trail and others.

A well-maintained
access route to
spend time with
friends/family, with
varying abilities or
ages, to connect, be
active and be safe

A protected
habitat corridor
that gives
residents access
to both nature
and a healthy
lifestyle

shops easily and
safely

people

Active
rail
Promoting
health and
community

ical,
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stamp
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Online survey question: Is there anything missing from the list of guiding principles? Are there words or phrases you think should be captured in them?

64 responses

Participants were asked to provide input of the draft list of guiding principles, which are presented in the following table:

Draft Principle	Description
Natural Environment	- Protect sensitive habitat - Enhance biodiversity - Support educational opportunities and community stewardship
Community	- Create places for people to gather - Minimize negative neighbourhood impacts
Connectivity and Accessibility	- Create a continuous, safe and easy to navigate trail - Connect to adjacent communities - Minimize use conflicts - Allow for emergency and maintenance access
Identity	- Showcase cultural and environmental heritage - Create a distinct identity through public art, wayfinding and gateways
Healthy and Active Lifestyles	Provide active and passive recreational opportunities

Summary of qualitative responses

Themes with 4 or more tags include:

- Safety for both people and animals (10 tags)
- Ease of use, fun and enjoyable (4 tags)
- Habitat protection and restoration, climate change mitigation and sustainability (16 tags)
- Accessibility and inclusiveness (9 tags)
- Transportation equity, connectivity and mode shift to more sustainable and healthy modes of transportation (9 tags)

Online survey question: Which of the following would help make using the Durham Meadoway more comfortable and convenient? Please check all that apply.

241 responses

Summary of quantitative responses

Answer Choices	Responses	
Signage that helps you understand where you are and how to get to important destinations.	213	88%
An app that you could use on your phone that helps you understand where you are and how to get to important destinations.	108	45%
Places to sit and rest.	189	78%
Places to park your car while you use the Durham Meadoway.	159	66%
Washrooms.	186	77%
Places to lock your bicycle.	116	48%
Bicycle repair stations.	88	37%
Other (please specify)	94	39%

Online survey question: Is there anything else that should be considered in the planning and design of the multi-use path?

232 responses

Summary of qualitative responses

Themes with five or more tags include:

- Things to do and see (44 tags)
- Design and signage strategies to reduce cyclist / pedestrian use conflicts (35 tags)
- Water and food (34 tags)
- Safety (22 tags)
- Connectivity to other trails and destinations (18 tags)
- Wayfinding and signage (17 tags)
- Shade and shelter (13 tags)
- Amenities for pets (13 tags)
- Garbage cans (12 tags)
- Lighting (12 tags)

Online survey question: What would you most like to be able to do while visiting the Durham Meadoway? Check all that apply.

239 responses

Summary of quantitative responses

Answer Choices	Responses	
Enjoy nature	196	82%
Ride a bike for fun and recreation	189	79%
Enjoy winter activities such as skating, tobogganing or skiing	138	58%
Learn more about the natural environment via interpretive signage along the corridor (self-guided)	116	49%
Ride a bike to get to work or other destinations	111	46%
Sit and socialize with friends	104	44%
Help with a natural environment restoration project	99	41%
Attend an outdoor concert or performance	96	40%
Learn more about the history and culture of Durham Region via interpretive signage along the corridor (self-guided)	89	37%
Take your children to a dedicated play area	85	36%
Learn about Indigenous history and culture	80	33%
Learn about the natural environment through a guided walk	74	31%
View art installations	67	28%
Let my dog socialize with other dogs in a safe, fenced area	64	27%
Attend a community event such as a neighbourhood block party	62	26%
Organize or attend a community fitness class	53	22%
Learn about the history and culture of Durham Region through a guided walk	50	21%
Participate in community art projects	40	17%
Use a skateboard park	39	16%
Other (please specify)	35	15%

Question: Is there anything else that you would like to see or do along the Durham Meadoway?

98 responses

Summary of qualitative responses

Themes with 5 or more tags include:

- Experience and learn about nature (18 tags)
- Participate in warmer season activities (18 tags)
- Use it to get to destinations (13 tags)
- Access food and water (11 tags)
- Food systems and urban agriculture (11 tags)
- Maintenance suggestions and concerns (8 tags)
- Participate in winter activities (7 tags)



Council and Committee Presentations

7 presentations

During Phase 1 of the study, presentations were made to the following councils and committees at the request of area municipal staff:

Committee	Date	Agenda link
City of Oshawa Active Transportation Advisory Committee	December 7, 2022	Link
City of Oshawa Economic and Development Services Committee	February 6, 2023	Link
City of Pickering Executive Committee	February 6, 2023	Link
Town of Whitby Active Transportation and Safe Roads Advisory Committee	February 9, 2023	Link
Town of Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee	March 1, 2023	Link
Town of Ajax Committee of the Whole	TBD	
Town of Ajax General Government Committee	TBD	

Appendix A

Below is a complete list of responses to the online survey question “What’s your vision for the Durham Meadowway?” Responses have been lightly edited to correct spelling and grammar.

1. Wide paths allowing for multiuse, walk, cycle, run/accessible.
2. A space that multiple user groups can enjoy for free in the Durham Region.
3. A corridor for animals (inverts to mammals) to use as well as people.
4. A great place for walking and cycling.
5. Connected pathways facilitating day-to-day usage and safe travel for walking or commuting.
6. A link from Morningside Toronto through past Oshawa on a paved bike path.
7. A great cycling and walking path linked to the Waterfront trail and others.
8. I want to have a safe, visually pleasing, natural pathway to walk or cycle. Somewhere I can’t hear the traffic of cars and trucks.
9. See above. I am an active community member that enjoys walking, running, rollerblading and cycling. The traffic and increased building of communities is making our roads dangerous and unsafe.
10. Provide opportunity to actively move between communities without relying on motorized transportation.
11. A continuous pathway to travel and enjoy greenspace in Durham.
12. a multi-use well maintained recreational community trail.
13. Green space that is accessible for all.
14. "Nature - having nature be alongside the path.
15. Consider dedicated bike / rollerblade lane within the path so people walking don’t have to stay on the alert for a bike racing up behind them.
16. Adequate parking at checkpoints along the path so someone not living next to it can easily join the path and enjoy it.
17. A continuous easily accessed multi purposed transportation corridor that offers a number of cultural, nature-based activities including community gardens, playgrounds, separate walkways for people and bicycles maintained by community volunteer groups including washrooms and water fountains.

18. Create an environmentally responsible multi use corridor in the Durham Region.
19. I think you need to add the word recreational in there somewhere.
20. As above. A large & long green space to preserve a significant area of natural landscape. Nature is disappearing all too quickly in Durham Region.
21. Some thought should go into future connection with other regions.
22. "A calm, quiet, and accessible space, where nature preservation is of the utmost importance. We are losing too much to urban sprawl already, and I don't want this to become another overcrowded area, where it should not be.
23. A corridor for the promotion of recreation, health and inter-community travel
24. That the project is shelved.
25. Talk about the treaty land it covers through the Williams Treaty and talk about original indigenous land
26. Connect to other parks, walking, hiking and biking trails and to be safe on them.
27. Hikers are looking for trails that begin and end in the same place. For me an ideal hike would take approx. one hour.
28. A well-maintained access route to spend time with friends/family, with varying abilities or ages, to connect, be active and be safe.
29. Add the words 'one of a kind'. Include for art and theatre. Provide for review, revision, renewal and growth opportunities.
30. Adding the opportunity to address food security (via urban farms, market gardens, etc.) since it is a regional and accessible approach that can support communities across several cities.
31. An opportunity to experience nature in our backyard through using the pathway.
32. My vision involves an active, safe and simply trail network that attracts use due to its functionality and ability to draw communities out of the "car culture" existence regardless of the time of year.
33. A safe space for healthy active living.
34. Primarily interested in the benefits for cycling.
35. The vision statement above is ok if you need one!
36. Connected pathway to serve residents for leisure such as cycling, to connect communities and businesses and protect environment.

37. Effectively using green space for health and wellness while maintaining its natural beauty and taking in what nature has provided us.
38. Uninterrupted pathways accessible for cyclists.
39. A vision that includes free space, transportation and links various communities.
40. Connections by bike/trike going North and South as well as East and West
41. An accessible & safe cycling route.
42. Multi use pathways that are wide and that offer separation of riders and walkers as well as a true division between the east and west routes. Bordered by green space. Benches that can be dedicated. Tree planting of types of trees that would be usual for the environment. Flower gardens. One issue would be that it be the same. Not Pickering design for one area, Whitby for another etc. Make a decision on design for the length of the trail.
43. A way to encourage people and families to get more active and see all the great outdoor spaces we are fortunate to have in Durham Region, and have connecting arteries between cities that's a non-automobile route.
44. A green corridor for birds, bees and butterflies; a place of learning for residents.
45. A path for providing connections and alternate transportation methods in a natural greenspace setting
46. It is a reclaimed utility corridor that has been naturalized, providing a passive nature experience to the user that also allows for active transportation opportunities across multiple municipalities. It needs to be worded more appropriately to effectively justify and define the name 'Meadoway'.
47. My vision of the Durham Meadoway is of a trail that runs the length of Durham Region, west to east, connecting various local trails, and stream systems that are part of the current Greenbelt. In other words, the Durham Meadoway becomes an integral part of the Greenbelt.
48. Being able to ride my bike from north Ajax to shops and to the lake without being on a busy road.
49. Community oriented.
50. Walkable cities and rethink housing to reduce footprint and increase affordability.
51. Open free use of green space for leisure or active transportation.
52. As above, but adding "provide continuous habitat for native flora and fauna".

53. I would try to fit culture or art into the statement
54. I would personally like the Durham Meadoway to be an accessible and safe way to make use of active transportation that is not alongside dangerous road vehicles.
55. To create and maintain a safe and beautiful regional-scale greenspace and thorough active transportation corridor that will facilitate community and activity while maintaining the integrity of wildlife in Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, and Oshawa.
56. I tilt a little towards active transport- Durham will need to build out a lot of pathway to alleviate car dependency, so emphasis on connections to existing and new multi use paths is essential. What I don't want to see is parking lots at trailheads which defines this green space as something you "drive to" as opposed to something that is part of your daily routine. Green space is not an accessory to living which is the way we have been conditioned by decades of car-centric design.
57. Open and accessible in winter months.
58. That it's used and maintained well.
59. I just want a way to bike to the Pickering go station that doesn't feel like it's designed to inconvenience me at best, or kill me at worst...
60. See comments above; complete communities; multi-use trails and uses.
61. Safe, family friendly, accessible by all abilities
62. A huge community environment where everyone can enjoy physical activities in nature.
63. I love the idea of having a safe active transport route across Durham region.
64. That it would be easily accessible and continuous and somehow minimize time spend on roads.
65. A area people can access easily and be drawn into nature in various ways. walking, jogging biking picnicking. Spending time outdoors and not having a fee attached so it can be an everyday experience if desired.
66. Recognizing the importance of natural environments, in addition to the health benefits of being in nature and having an active lifestyle.
67. The vision described is great. Accessibility in all seasons, particularly during the winter, is an element worth investing in.
68. "A safe, peaceful, greenspace connecting the Durham region community that encourages activity and meditative views."

69. Same as Scarborough but also connecting all of Durham major cities from Pickering to Courtice.
70. Active transportation! Please connect useful places.
71. See answer in #3
72. Create an active transportation loop that will connect Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa, up to Uxbridge.
73. An animated public green space that connects essential natural habitats and dynamic neighborhoods across Durham Region.
74. Green. Local 4 season recreation and the abilities to cycle long distances with family without traffic.
75. I would love to see a greenspace that has lots of trees. A lot of other greenspaces in Pickering have no shade and have a very "manicured" or "suburban lawn" feel. I would love to have a space that feels more natural/wild and gives a feeling of getting out of the city and into nature more. I love the incorporation of art and other cultural components as well.
76. Extend it further east
77. A long bike path that goes east / west that isn't the waterfront trail.
78. An end-to-end trail that connects Pickering to other communities to promote healthy and active lifestyles. As a runner, my vision is a paved pathway that is snow cleared in winter to promote year long activity. The occasional bathroom and water fountain like Ajax's waterfront trail has (that Pickering doesn't) would also be great.
79. Promote use of greenspace; accessible opportunities to get outside and be active.
80. A means to connect 4 cities while being able to enjoy nature.
81. A way to use any foot, bike, recreational (non-motorized) transportation to enjoy the community and to avoid using longer routes on roads and sidewalks.
82. a continuous corridor that the communities of Durham can enjoy using in a healthy and active lifestyle set in a green/nature environment.
83. It provides not only important leisure space but a safe, dependable alternative to personal automobiles.
84. Two separate trails side by side. One for bikes one for cyclists.

85. I like the Meadowway to be similar in scope to the one being currently designed and built by the TRCA in Scarborough. Lots of native pollinator species and the encouragement of biodiversity.
86. That it be safe, well maintained and accessible.
87. The mission is great, but it also needs more awareness for people to enjoy this space and greater connectivity through sustainable transportation. We need the path to be better connected to the rest of the city's bike paths, walking trails and public transit.
88. Green, enough shade for summer days (tree, etc.), usable everyday for commute (bike to Dundas St and take GO to work), kid friendly, children play areas, picnic tables and benches on the way, water filling stations, WC facilities.
89. Leave alone.
90. A path for cycling families, joggers etc., etc. other uses for local horticultural society, not the city, community vegetable gardens, not by the city but city to monitor people play by the rules minimal landscaping minimal interference to what is already there.
91. An area that seamlessly blends into the natural habitat allowing an escape from the busy suburbs.
92. The project should be across to Clarington, not to just Pickering to Oshawa.
93. To create a quality, ecologically diverse and native species based green space to increase biodiversity and the appreciation of our natural habitats in the Durham Region.
94. A cycling route that can be used for travel and commuting.
95. It should also include space for cultural expos or something that binds communities. Durham has historic population as well a great influx of immigrants & younger generations moving here. Durham is missing a vibrant cultural hub and Meadowway should respond like that.
96. Almost like a bike highway that allows cyclists to get to places of entertainment and shops easily and safely.
97. For the love of god please just let the path just be crushed gravel, or wood chips, otherwise it is a skating rink in the winter.
98. Dedicated, winter-maintained trail that connects the Durham Region and encourages non car-based mobility.

99. I hope that it will be a beautiful trail for me to walk and ride my bike. I live in South Ajax and I use the trail system every day.
100. Inviting, well maintained, w sections that are cleared during winter months. A place I can walk my dog.
101. A start; an honest effort to help break our destructive addiction to far too much reliance on cars.
102. That it will be similar to projects like one I've seen in Atlanta.
103. A place where people can walk/bike obviously but to do it in a place that has been restored to a very healthy ecosystem, there should be effort to create beautiful native plant gardens. I'd love to see educational signs all along the way about native plants, lots of labeled trees that are native but not common. Even some indigenous education about the plants and how indigenous peoples used these plants for various purposes. We should make an effort to connect people with nature, the way the indigenous people of the area were connected with nature.
104. Please include walking parks with benches for those who are disabled.
105. Prioritize environment, then community use.
106. accessible for all people
107. It will be great to walk/ride between the regions in a safe manner. I love biking great distances and not having to worry about traffic.
108. A great way to commute safely between all of our Durham towns/cities.
109. Great trails/paths that offer the community a place to enjoy nature the healthy outdoors be it for health biking jogging walks or educational learn about natural species and plants that live along the walk and past history Indigenous Communities that use to live in area and farming communities that once existed prior to the development of The City of Pickering.
110. A safe and easy to reach outdoor public space where interesting features can be enjoyed by all people.
111. A Meadowway that can be used for both commuting but also pleasure / fun. Have parks / parkettes along the way, workout stations, water bottle stations, bike repair stations, etc. The Meadowway could be the "highway for bikes" with feeder trails connecting to it.
112. If money is no object, have bridges over streets (would need to allow on/off access) so that it can be a continuous ride and no car traffic. Garbage bins, benches, bathrooms, and water spigots en route would be nice. I would love to organize a point to point half marathon when it's complete!!!

113. Safe trails for various means of commuting exercising. I would like to see separate paths for bicycles/scooters and walk/runners
114. A means to get around the city by bike/scooter/walking with places to stop and enjoy the surrounding. A place for kids to play with friends and perhaps play sports.
115. A green space pathway connecting 4 cities that seamlessly allows for human activity without disturbing natural Habitats and the species that reside in them
116. Just a place to go for awesome walks with the family, meet up with friends to do activities, let the kids run and play. Somewhere that is beautiful and nice to visit.
117. We need more green space & being able to walk or cycle avoiding the roads which are too dangerous and a lot of vehicular traffic don't like cyclists. They drive so close (big trucks) you can feel the heat from the vehicle on your arm. Something that resembles Scarborough's Meadoway.
118. A connected pathway to all communities north and south that replaces the need for a car along with better mixed-use zoning and density to allow people to live richer better lives.
119. Would love for it to include a skating trail in the winter.
120. A lively pathway that inspires outdoor activity and healthy lifestyles. It connects people to nature, wellness and each other.
121. A safe and dedicated car free route throughout Durham Region.
122. Recreational, community green space corridor across Durham region.
123. An opportunity to improve community health by providing good walking and cycling thoroughfares in a potential group setting. Moving some of the exercise from busy roads to safe areas.
124. A corridor that is both useful as transportation, and enjoyable as a recreational pursuit, with as few detours to busy traffic corridors as possible.
125. A place to see familiar faces and keep our family healthy and active.
126. A magical, immersive, multi-use transportation corridor that will forever stamp Durham Region in the minds of families across the region and beyond.
127. Family friendly (Walking, stroller, bike, wheelchair accessible). Female friendly (safe).
128. A means of connecting active transportation networks across the Region.

129. To enhance the regional green space and connect the communities from east to west.
130. A trail similar to the one extending from Cullen gardens to north Brock St except servicing along the northern area. Along the Brooklin area extending east and west. Already have waterfront trail to the south but no place to meet for a walk in north Oshawa/Columbus/ Brooklin/ Hampton.
131. The Meadoway will lead the future of mobility, active transportation and Recreation in Durham region, enriching lives through a connection to the beauty of natural and built environments and enhancing the freedom of movement for all residents.
132. A way to travel while enjoying the route.
133. Safe area for active lifestyle.
134. "Appropriate spaces for multiple active user groups to minimize conflicts; my interest is a corridor for cycling, in nature, away from motorized traffic; adjacent spaces for other activities, skate park, bike park, pump track.
135. Nature areas, butterfly gardens, etc.
136. An Active Transportation network connecting different areas across Durham Region.
137. My vision would be that it includes all cities/municipalities within Durham. Is there an option for an outdoor skate trail?
138. Make it as unobtrusive to natural habitat as possible.
139. A trail system for biking and hiking.
140. green, inclusive, safe, connected.
141. An all-weather active transit corridor providing a real alternative from car based transit that incorporates prioritising active segregated transit at road intersections (e.g. make cars wait not people and bikes) and optimises the natural environment as part of the project.
142. A Meadoway across all of Durham - East to West.
143. An active transportation route that connects Pickering to Oshawa with connections to Toronto and further east of Oshawa.
144. A protected habitat corridor that gives residents access to both nature and healthy lifestyle
145. A recreational trail that needs connections in each community. North/south routes. Also needs to connect to Scarborough Meadoway.

146. Active trail promoting health and community
147. A safe way to traverse the Region by bike. It would be nice if it connected Eastern Durham as well.
148. To create a unique green space and path network across the region of Durham.
149. Forms a AT corridor between 407/401, like Waterfront Trail south of 401 does. Don't forget to connect with north/south power corridors in Oshawa, Whitby and Pickering, as well as Seaton, TCT etc.
150. A cycling superhighway that will make a significant improvement in our transportation network across the Region.
151. SKATEPARK!! having a skatepark could help the youth to have a way to get away from being around drugs and bad choices
152. More skateparks.
153. Skateboard park, no graffiti.
154. Having a nice path with skateboard and mountain bike options along it.
155. More green space and recreational activities.
156. A peaceful, high quality, connected, region wide corridor that showcases the natural beauty of the region and everything it has to offer. The corridor would be ideal for bikes and pedestrian transportation.
157. I hope there are large parks.
158. A major trail that links Pickering through to Oshawa.