Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project

BRITANNIA BEACH
Detailed Design Consultation • Discussion Guide/Feedback Form • February 2007

Sea-to-Sky Highway Project Background

The Sea-to-Sky Highway links communities from West Vancouver to Whistler. With its spectacular mountain landscape, the highway presents complex engineering and construction challenges.

British Columbia's Ministry of Transportation is undertaking improvements to the highway between West Vancouver and Whistler to improve its safety, reliability and capacity. By 2009, extensive improvements will make travel along the corridor safer for residents, commuters and tourists. To be completed before the Olympics, the highway improvements will serve population growth and economic development in the corridor as demand increases for resident and visitor travel, as well as goods movement.

Improvements will include highway widening and straightening, improved sightlines, passing lanes and other design innovations to reduce hazards, shorten travel times and increase capacity of the Sea-to-Sky Highway.

The Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project will result in the following:

- **West Vancouver to Lions Bay** 4-lane sections with continuous median barrier including straightening, widening and improved sightlines (eliminating several sharp curves).
- **North of Lions Bay to Murrin Park** 2, 3 and 4-lane sections; about half of this section includes improved 2 lanes, and the remaining sections include additional passing opportunities with 3 and 4 lanes. Those sections that are 4 lanes will include a median barrier to prevent crossover accidents. Sections adjacent to Murrin Park and within the community of Britannia will include improved 2-lane sections, which is consistent with community input from pre-design consultations. In Furry Creek, there will be 3 lanes moving to 4 lanes with a median barrier.
- **North of Murrin Park through Squamish** 4-lane divided highway. This section will include median barriers throughout, including the addition of urban design features to the median within Squamish.
- **Squamish to Whistler** 3 lanes throughout this section, including improved 2-lane sections and alternating passing opportunities provided by alternating the third lane.

PROJECT GOALS

The **primary goals** for the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project include:

- Safety improvements
- Reliability improvements
- Capacity improvements
- Project completion by late 2009
- Management of traffic flows during construction in order to minimize disruption and maximize predictability
- Completion of the project on time and on budget

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

A key goal of the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project is to manage traffic flows during construction in order to minimize disruption and maximize predictability for travellers. Highway closures will be implemented at set times and publicized well in advance.

To plan ahead for a safe trip, call **1-877-4SAFE99 (1-877-472-3399)** for up-to-date traffic information or go to the website **(www.seatoskyimprovements.ca)** to access the following travel planning tools:

- **Weekly Schedule** – Weekly update on confirmed highway closures and delays.
- **Travel Planner** – A list of the available closure and delay windows for the current season
- **Closure & Delay Windows** – The maximum closure and delay windows to 2009.
- **Road Alerts Service** – Frequent Sea-to-Sky travellers can receive text message alerts about major or unscheduled events that affect highway travel.

Britannia Beach Section of the Sea-to Sky Highway


Southbound Access Right-in/Right-out at Existing Rail Crossing
New 2 Lane Britannia Creek Bridge (Existing Bridge Will Be Removed Summer 2010)
North Gateway
Southbound Bus Stop Location
Access to Frontage Business Area
Pedestrian Crossing Location
Northbound Bus Stop Location
Vehicle and Pedestrian Activated Signal
N

CORRIDOR-WIDE CONSULTATION

Community consultation on detailed design is being conducted in corridor communities prior to completion of the highway improvements in each section.

The Ministry of Transportation (MoT) has consulted about the scope and nature of highway improvements since 2002 with communities, businesses and residents along the corridor. Residents and community stakeholders have participated in hundreds of meetings.

As the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project proceeds through various design stages and ultimately into construction, communities and key stakeholders are being consulted. The design stages include:

1. Project Definition Consultation (completed 2002 - 2003)
2. Pre-Design Consultation (completed 2003 - 2005)
3. Preliminary Design Consultation (completed 2005 - 2006)
4. Detailed Design Consultation (February – June 2007)

The Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project maintains a community relations program to provide on-going communications about construction activities, as well as current construction delays and highway closures updates.

The **S2S Transportation Group** is the contractor responsible for designing, building, operating and maintaining the Sea-to-Sky Highway. A key outcome of detailed design consultation is practical feedback on detailed design features for consideration by the Ministry of Transportation and the S2S Transportation Group, prior to completion of improvements in each section.

Detailed design consultation generally involves the discussion of fewer but very specific treatments related to the final design improvements, including such things as specific traffic calming and noise reduction features, shape and texture of gateway signage, detailed landscaping, lighting and other aesthetic treatments.

RESULTS FROM BRITANNIA BEACH PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONSULTATION

Preliminary design consultation was conducted with the Britannia Beach community in February - March 2006. The following summarizes the input received during this consultation.

Main Street Intersection and Pedestrian Crossing
There was strong community support for the Community Rock option as the gateway feature, although some participants expressed concern that the rock remains unique to Furry Creek.

Bus Stops
The majority of respondents favoured the proposed location of the northbound bus stop between the Main Street intersection and the new Britannia Creek bridge, some participants indicated that the bus stop should be located within the community to provide convenient and safe access for Britannia Beach residents.

There was strong community support for the proposed location of the southbound bus stop immediately south of the Main Street intersection. Some participants indicated that the bus stop should be located off the highway and within the community for convenient and safe access.

In response to the community, provision has been made for both southbound and northbound bus stop locations within a short walking distance of the Main Street Intersection. These locations provide room to pull off and merge back on the highway. A pedestrian activated signal at the intersection allows for safe crossing of the highway to the southbound bus stop.

Community Gateway Features

North Gateway The majority of respondents agreed with the proposed location of the north gateway, 500 metres north of the Main Street intersection.

South Gateway The majority of participants favoured the proposed south gateway location, approximately 1300 metres south of the Main Street intersection.

Community Gateway Sign The majority of respondents chose the Community Rock as the gateway feature.

Landscape Features
In Britannia Beach, the majority of participants indicated a preference for Landscape Option C, using trees, shrubs and native grasses, as long as they were low maintenance and did not block the view of the water from the highway.

Britannia Beach Section of the Sea-to-Sky Highway

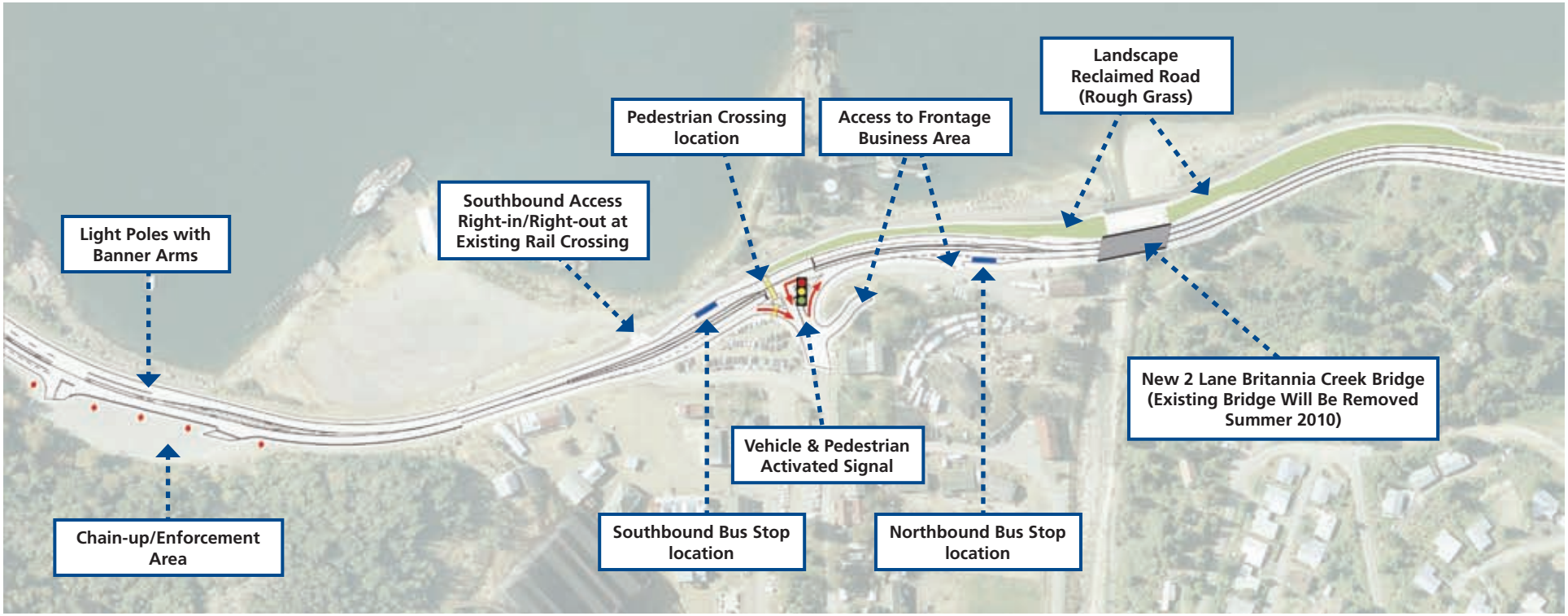
Britannia Beach – Main Street Intersection
In response to community input received during preliminary design consultation, the Main Street Intersection has been designed to consolidate entrances to and exits from the community into one intersection. The design allows for better flow of traffic and reduced driver confusion. Provision has been made for a northbound deceleration lane for right turn access to Main Street and a dedicated southbound left turn lane.

A vehicle and pedestrian activated signal is being provided at the Main Street Intersection to facilitate safe pedestrian access across the highway. In addition, the signal provides safer vehicle access to the highway, by not having to rely on breaks in the traffic to merge onto the highway.

Vehicle access to the businesses along the highway frontage has been maintained with a direct north-bound entrance via the Main Street intersection into the area and an in/out access from/to Main Street.

Traffic Calming and Noise Reduction Features
A number of design features are incorporated into the highway design to signal to drivers that they are entering an urban environment. The following features will influence driver behavior in order to reduce speed and traffic noise within the Britannia Beach community:

- Pedestrian and vehicle activated signal at Main St. intersection.
- Community gateways create a "sense of community" by having the gateways define the entry into Britannia Beach from both directions, as well as highlighting the community through landscaping with trees and shrubs.
- The pavement surface through Britannia Beach includes 'superpave', which helps diminish traffic noise by reducing tire friction.



Detailed Design Consultation Topics

The following detailed design features are the focus of this consultation:

1. COMMUNITY GATEWAYS

OVERVIEW

During Preliminary Design Consultation, the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project consulted on a community gateway concept for the Sea-to-Sky corridor. Feedback from all communities indicated that the **Community Rocks gateway** signage was the preferred option. The *Community Rocks* signage has been refined and two options are being presented to corridor communities for their input during detailed design consultation.

In recognition of First Nations' history in this corridor, the Salish name for each area will also appear on the community rock signage.

Elements of Continuity are consistent features that identify the Sea-to-Sky Highway corridor as a system from West Vancouver to Whistler.

Elements of Distinction are features developed in consultation with each community at the detailed design phase, representing each community as a unique place and destination.

In Britannia Beach, the *Community Rocks* gateway signage defines the entry into the Britannia Beach community from both directions, in a similar manner to other corridor communities but with distinctive elements (such as the colour and shape of a painted metal sign), that are unique to Britannia Beach to set it apart.

The *Community Rocks* gateway signage emphasizes the natural surroundings of the area. Two options are presented for feedback. In both options the rock signage will be approximately eight feet high and illuminated for enhanced visibility at night. In the first option both the boulder base and sign will be made of faux rock. In the second option, the boulder is made of faux rock, while the sign will be made of painted metal and attached to the faux rock base.

Based on input received during preliminary design consultation, the *Community Rock* design will correspond to the system of gateway signage being developed for the other corridor communities and act as an element of continuity throughout the Sea-to-Sky Highway corridor.

Community Rocks – Option 1
Faux rock boulder base with integrated faux rock sign

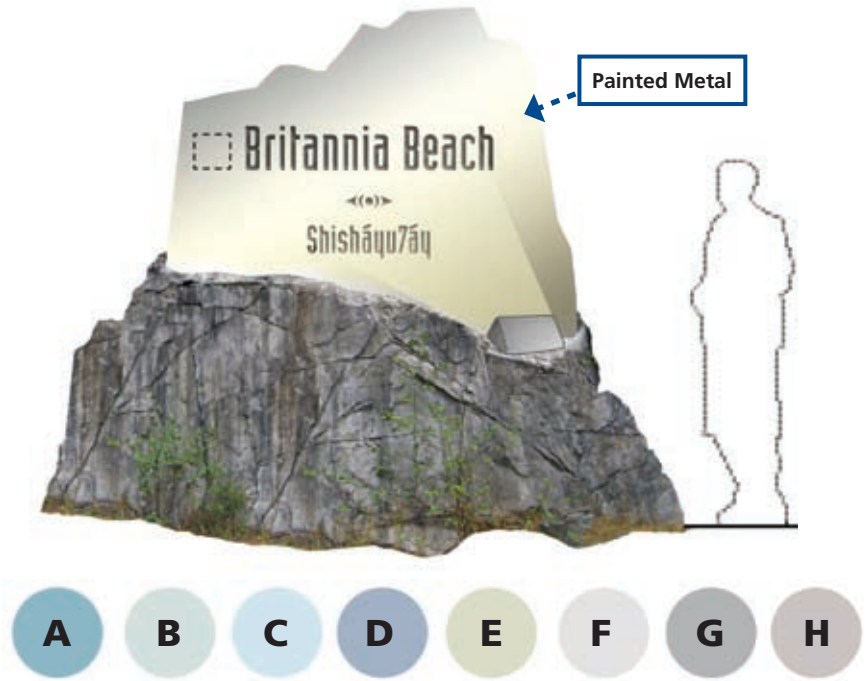
Elements of Continuity
- Consistent "faux" rock base

Elements of Distinction
- Each sign shape could be unique to each community
  – slight variation of height, shape and width will enhance the distinction of each sign.
- Each community will have its name and community logo (logo location indicated by dashed box) displayed prominently in a contemporary, consistent typeface.
- A Salish name for each area will also appear on the sign.

Community Rocks – Option 2
Faux rock boulder base with sign made of painted metal

Elements of Continuity
- Consistent "faux" rock base

Elements of Distinction
- The shape of each community sign will reflect a unique rocky slope or mountain peak.
- The sign with community name and logo (logo location indicated by dashed box) will be made of painted metal attached to base.
- A Salish name for each area will also appear on the sign.
- A selection of colours for the sign (painted metal) may be available to further distinguish each sign.



2. LANDSCAPE FEATURES

The Britannia Beach section of the Sea-to-Sky Highway corridor is defined as a community within a section of rural highway. The intent is to highlight smaller communities through tree or shrub plantings or other landscape features.

With respect to landscape opportunities in Britannia Beach, consideration was given to specific highway limitations such as sightlines and community buildings adjacent to the highway. These considerations are important to maintaining the safety objectives for the Sea-to-Sky Highway.

It is proposed that the medians be planted with low shrubs to provide greenery and seasonal interest. This type of low planting will provide sightlines into the community of Britannia Beach, the mine and towards the water.

Landscape features will be planted in summer 2010.

Plantings or other landscape features will be used to reinforce landscape character and to enhance gateways, contributing to the identification of communities. During the preliminary design consultation phase, Britannia Beach residents indicated a preference for "Landscape Option C – Trees and Native Grasses".

Following is a brief description of that option:

Option C focuses on the use of trees, shrubs and grass within the median in the Britannia Beach area. The area south of the intersection on the east side of the new highway would have grass with banner poles.

Portions of the existing highway near the existing bridge will be reclaimed and restored as green space using grass seed and clusters of natural trees and shrubs. Areas disturbed by construction will be grass seeded.

The following are descriptions of the proposed Britannia Beach landscape features:

South and North Gateways
Six Green Ash trees are proposed to be planted close together along each side of the road at both the north and south gateway to signal the entrance to Britannia Beach.

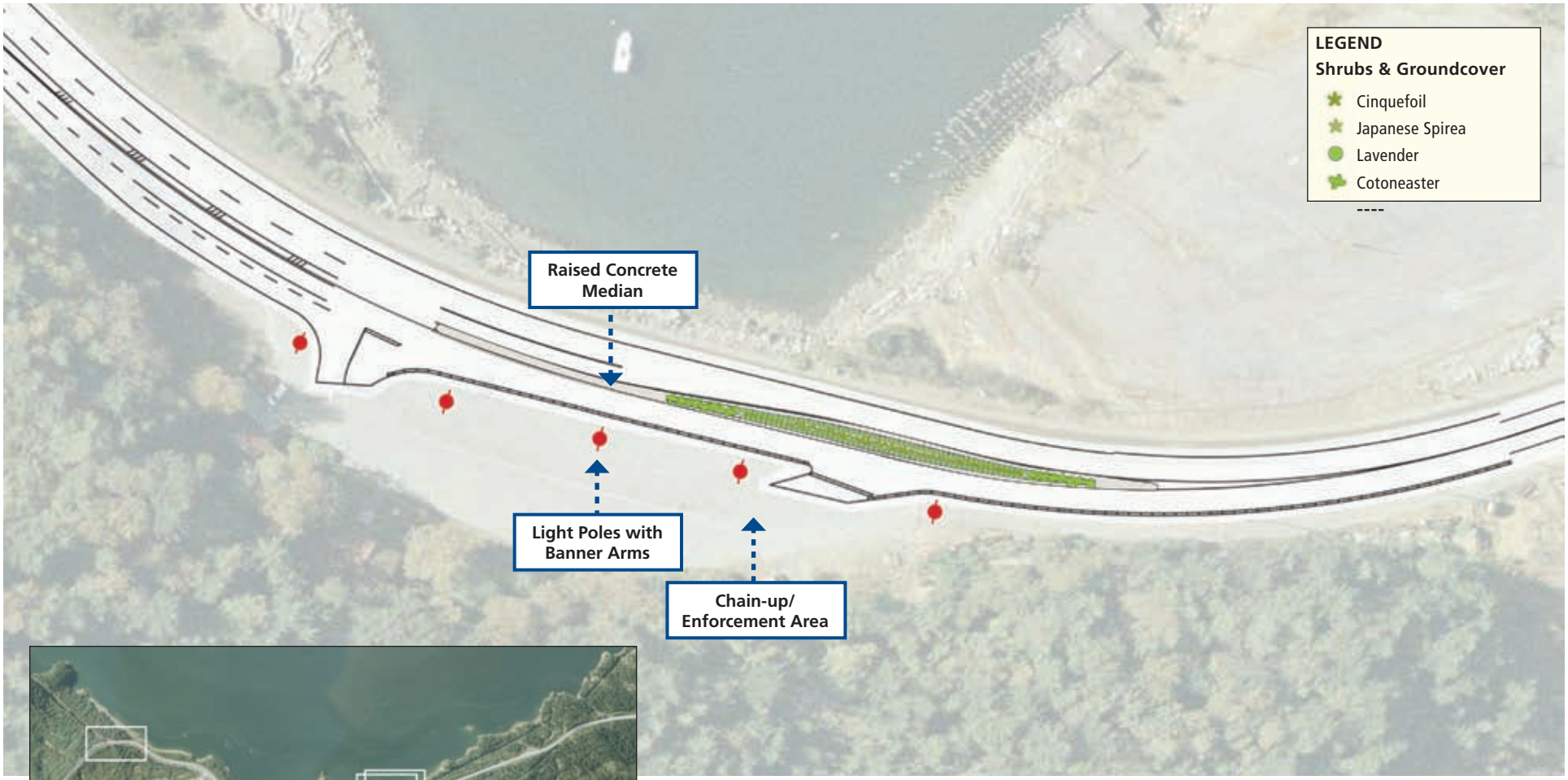
South Britannia Beach
Low shrubs that would not impede sightlines (such as Cinquefoil, Japanese Spirea, Lavender and Cotoneaster) are proposed to be planted in the median. Light poles with banner arms will be installed.

Central Britannia Beach
Low shrubs that would not impede sightlines (such as Cinquefoil, Japanese Spirea, Lavender and Cotoneaster) are proposed to be planted in the medians. The planting area on the west side of the highway would be a combination of rough grasses, low shrubs and groupings of trees, such as vine maple and alder and shrubs that would provide sightlines to the water.

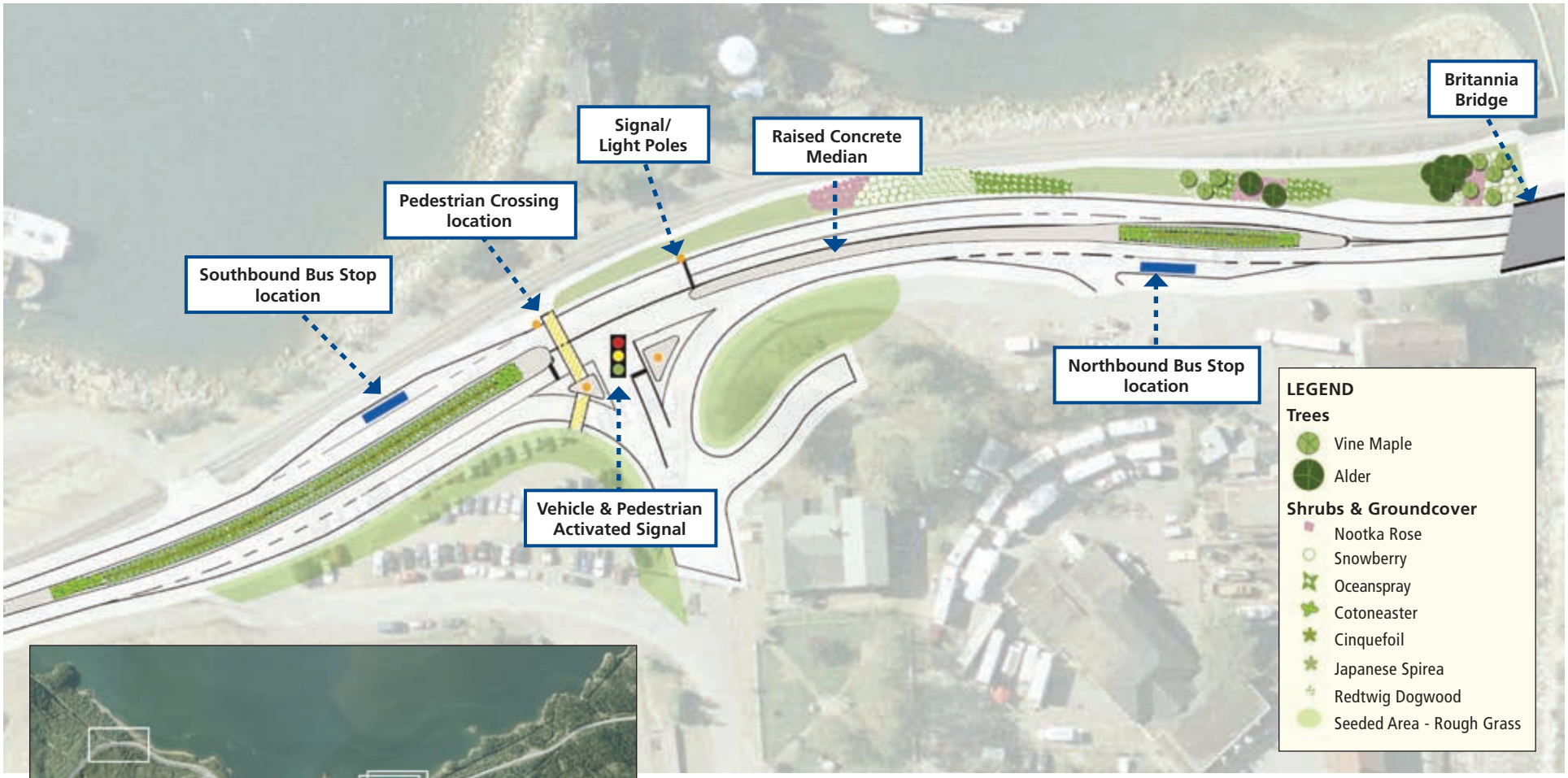
North Britannia Beach
The landscape area to the north of the Britannia Creek Bridge is proposed to be planted with a combination of trees, such as vine maple, alder and green ash and shrubs spaced in groupings located at intervals that would not impede sightlines to the community, the road or the water.

Landscape Plan – South Gateway

Landscape Plan – South Britannia Beach



Landscape Plan – Central Britannia Beach



Landscape Plan – North Britannia Beach

Landscape Plan – North Gateway

The following proposed plant list for Britannia Beach consists of native, native trees and shrubs mixed with some cultivated species.

TREES

Alder *Alnus rubra*

Tree (approx. 25m tall) Detail

Vine Maple *Acer circinatum*

Tree (approx. 7m tall) Detail

Green Ash Tree *Fraxinus americana*

Tree (approx. 20m tall) Detail

Note: Sample plantings are shown at mature size. Trees will require a number of years to reach this level of maturity.

SHRUBS AND GROUNDCOVER

Redtwig Dogwood (Cornus) *Cornus sericea*

Shrub Detail

Pacific Ninebark *Physocarpus capitatus*

Shrub Detail

Oceanspray *Holodiscus discolor*

Shrub Detail

Snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*

Shrub Detail

Nootka Rose *Rosa nutkana*

Shrub Detail

Cinquefoil "Red Ace" *Potentilla*

Shrub Detail

SHRUBS AND GROUNDCOVER (CONT'D)

Japanese Spirea "Little Princess" *Spiraea japonica*

Shrub Detail

Lavender *Lavendula munstead*

Shrub Detail

Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster dammerii*

Shrub Detail

GROUNDCOVER

Mauve Heather *Erica xdarl*

Shrub Detail

Salal *Gaultheria shallon*

Shrub Detail