

Welcome

Public Information Session for the North Cowichan Active Transportation Overpass Project

The purpose of this information session is to:

- Share information about the North Cowichan Active Transportation Overpass Project, why it's needed and how it will benefit the community
- Show you an example of what the Project could look like when it's finished
- Give you an opportunity to meet key members of the project team, to ask questions and provide feedback about the Project

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure acknowledges that this Project is located on the traditional territory of the Hul'qumi'num Nations of Cowichan Tribes, Halalt First Nation, Lyackson First Nation, Penelakut Tribe, Stz'uminus First Nation and Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation.

We want to hear from you!

Please provide your feedback by March 8, 2024.

- Complete a hard-copy comment form and leave it with a member of the Project team
- Email your feedback to **north.cowichan.overpass@gov.bc.ca**

How input will be used

Your feedback will be considered by the Project team, along with technical and financial information, and input from First Nations and key interested parties, residents and businesses.

About the North Cowichan Active Transportation Overpass

The North Cowichan Active Transportation Overpass is a proposed new active transportation overpass that will cross Highway 1 between Beverly Street and James Street/York Road.

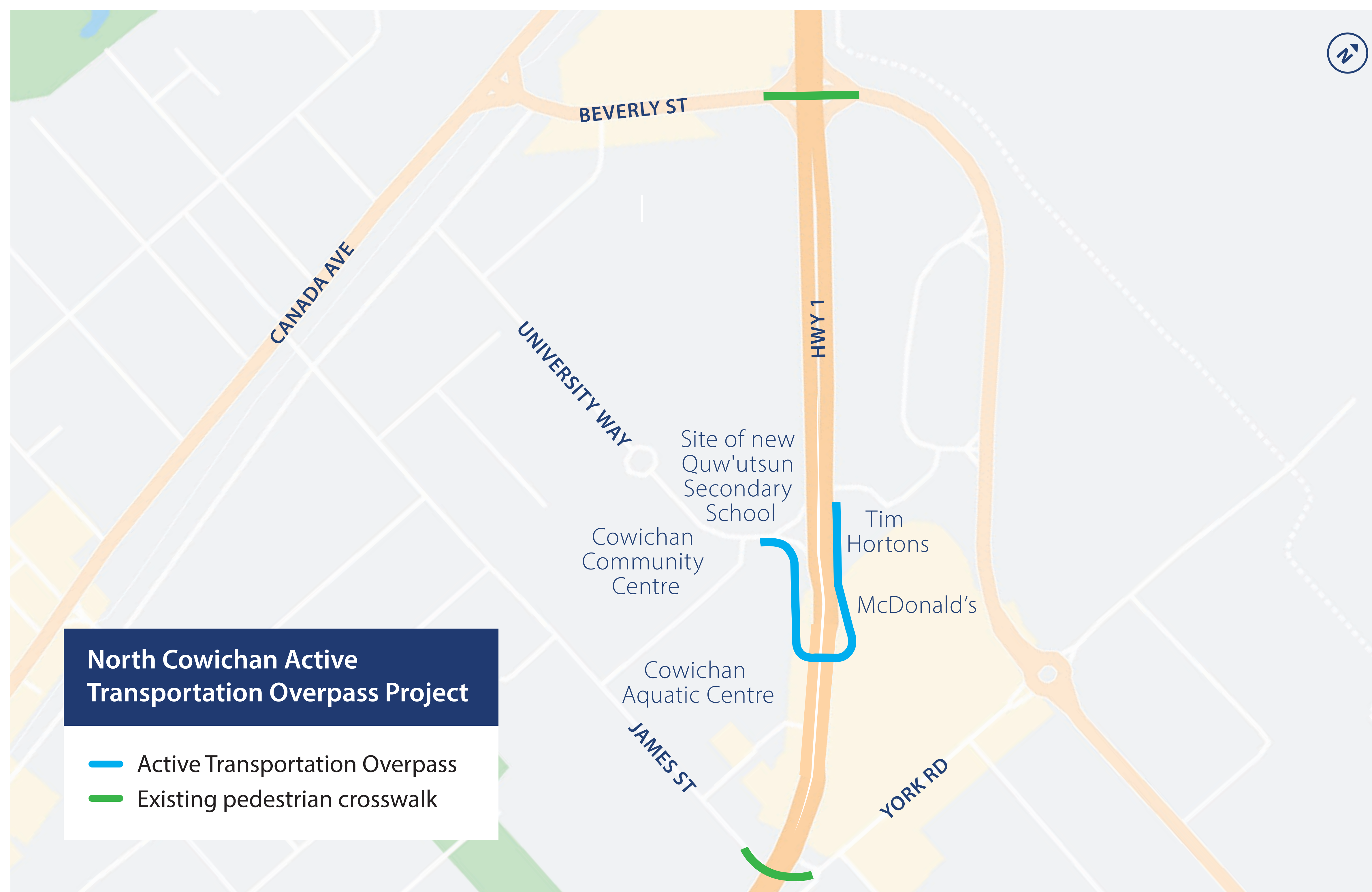
The proposed new overpass will connect people travelling on foot or rolling (for example, using a bicycle, wheelchair or scooter) safely across Highway 1. It will also help to maintain the flow of traffic along Highway 1 by reducing vehicle turning conflicts.

By making it easier to get around without a car, it will help to support the actions B.C. is taking through CleanBC to lower climate-changing emissions by 30% by 2030.

Why is the Project needed?

Today, there are no safe options for people to cross Highway 1 between Beverly Street and James Street/ York Road intersections — a distance of more than 700 metres. Approximately 30% of all pedestrian movements across this section of Highway 1 are against existing signed pedestrian restrictions or in areas where at-grade pedestrian crossings may not be safe.

With the opening of the new 1,100-student Quw'utsun Secondary School in 2024, the number of people crossing the highway to reach restaurants and businesses is expected to grow considerably.



Project features

4.2m-wide overpass with a grade of 6% to accommodate people walking and rolling (for example, using bicycles, wheelchairs and scooters)

Stairs by the southeast and southwest corners to improve connections on either side of Highway 1

Additional features, including fencing along landscape center median to discourage jay-walking and full lighting along the new overpass

Aesthetically pleasing bridge design

Closure of left turns into businesses along Highway 1 between Beverly Street and York Road to improve overall safety for people and cars.

What other options did we consider?

We considered 7 potential overpass designs. The design that you see on this board was chosen because it meets the project objectives related to safety and accessibility, does not require cyclists to dismount, and has the least impact on neighbouring properties.



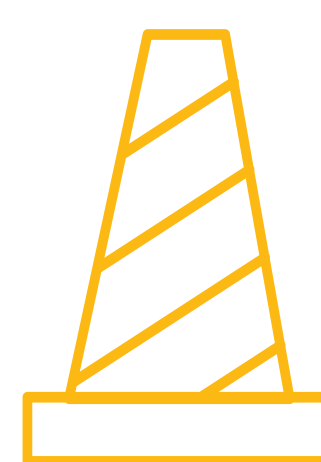
An artist's rendering of the North Cowichan Active Transportation Overpass facing north. Rendering is conceptual and subject to change.

Project features



Improved active transportation safety:

Providing a grade-separated protected crossing option for people walking and rolling over Highway 1, eliminating unsafe mid-block at-grade pedestrian crossings.



Traffic flow and safety for drivers:

Improving traffic flow and reducing the potential for collisions along Highway 1 by closing mid-block left turn bays.



Greater connectivity and mobility:

Building an overpass that is designed for people travelling using bicycles, wheelchairs and scooters as well as on foot, including improved connections to the local active transportation network.



Overpass appearance:

The new overpass will be designed to fit in with the surrounding community. It will include improved landscaping and existing overhead utility lines will be moved underground.



Improved access management:

New curbs will help drivers to easily identify business access locations and to see the difference between the driveable part of the road and the pedestrian part of the road when they are turning.

North Cowichan Active Transportation Overpass



An artist's rendering of the North Cowichan Active Transportation Overpass, facing south. Rendering is conceptual and subject to change.

North Cowichan Active Transportation Overpass



An artist's rendering of the North Cowichan Active Transportation Overpass from the ground, facing west. Rendering is conceptual and subject to change.

Video flythrough of the North Cowichan Active Transportation Overpass

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Completing a hard-copy comment form and leaving it with a member of the Project team



Emailing your feedback to
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How input will be used

Your feedback will be considered by the Project team in finalizing the Project design, along with technical and financial information, and input from First Nations and key interested parties, residents and businesses.

Next steps

- Compiling and considering feedback from this engagement to refine Project design
- Continued engagement with First Nations, key interested parties, residents and businesses
- Finalizing the Project design and securing funding for construction