

7 April 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Strathcona – Grandview Greenway Project



**Commercial Drive
Business Society**
Suite #4
1726 Commercial Drive
Vancouver, BC
V5N 4A3

T: 604.251.2884
F: 604.251.2899
E: info@thedrive.ca
www.thedrive.ca

I am writing to support the Grandview Woodlands Area Council Greenway Project plan to create a sustainable corridor for people between Strathcona Park and Commercial Drive.

Venables Street is a central boulevard in the Strathcona and Grandview woodlands area. It provides a route of transportation between downtown Vancouver and the vibrant residential and business district of Commercial Drive. As a key means of travel between downtown and East Vancouver, and as the intersecting road with Commercial Drive, Venables serves as the "Welcome" sign for Commercial Drive, and the Strathcona and Grandview area.

The plans for the Strathcona-Grandview Gateway project include street beautification, such as public art features to honour the history and various cultures of the area, as well as safety improvements, including street spaces to provide pedestrian and parking space, and increased lighting to both sides of the street. There would also be design guidelines for industrial properties, such as the use of awnings, windows and greenery, and an eventual shift toward Commercial zoning to integrate the current Industrial area into surrounding residential and retail zones.

The Strathcona-Grandview Gateway project plan would transform the industrial area of Venables Street into a safe and welcoming path for residents, businesses and patrons to enjoy. It would also make a positive impact on the great local businesses and organizations that already exist in the area, complement the vibrant commercial and residential district of Commercial Drive, and provide a connection to and from downtown Vancouver that reflects the beauty of the areas it brings together.

Sincerely,

Michelle Barile, Executive Director
Commercial Drive Business Drive