



Institute for
Sustainable
Infrastructure



ENVISSION™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Burnaby's Willingdon Linear Park Earns Envision Silver Award for Sustainable Infrastructure

WASHINGTON, D.C. – June 25, 2019 – The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) announced today that the Willingdon Linear Park located in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada is the recent recipient of the Envision® Silver award for sustainable infrastructure. To earn Envision Silver, a project must demonstrate that it delivers a range of environmental, social, and economic benefits to the host and affected communities.

Before development and construction of this project between Brentwood Park and Hastings Street, pedestrian access was poor and the area east of Willingdon Avenue was overgrown with vegetation and rarely used. The Willingdon Linear Park provides residents with a safe, accessible pathway with a direct connection between Brentwood Town Centre and Hasting Street; green space; and traffic calming of a busy arterial roadway.

“With the ongoing growth in residential communities around Brentwood Town Centre, traffic volumes will continue to increase over the coming years. The Willingdon Linear Park provides pedestrian, cyclist and public transit user facilities and achieves the City’s desire to foster alternative neighbourhood transportation options,” said Philippe Talbot, Project Manager at Eurovia British Columbia Inc.

The project consists of approximately 1.17 kilometres of park and trail development, spanning thirteen city blocks. The road rehabilitation and construction of the park included milling of existing asphalt, asphalt replacement, construction of a new multi-use pathway, extensive landscaping, retaining walls, and other features.

The Willingdon Linear Park accomplishes several goals and meets the needs of the community by:

- incorporating multi-use pathways;
- offering safe pedestrian and cyclist road and laneway crossings;
- integrating rest areas and pocket parks;
- enhancing user comfort through park furnishings, lighting, trees, and other features; and
- establishing character and distinction to the area.

The City of Burnaby worked closely with Eurovia British Columbia and ISL Engineering to deliver this award-winning sustainable project.

“Converting unusable space to areas that offer recreational opportunities and a sense of place is a smart move by the City of Burnaby,” said Melissa Peneycad, ISI’s Managing Director. “It is forward-thinking on the part of the City to incorporate well-designed, safe, and accessible passageways for pedestrians and cyclists that are clearly needed alongside busy traffic corridors. ISI is pleased to present the Envision Silver award for sustainable infrastructure to the City of Burnaby for the Willingdon Linear Park project.”

As said by a representative of City of Burnaby: *“In the years leading up to 2010, expanding the roadway from four to six lanes was considered. However, the idea was ultimately rejected and replaced with the plan for a greenway along Willingdon Avenue. This solution was found to be more sustainable and aligned with the needs of the community for today and for the future. ”*

The Envision sustainable infrastructure framework assesses project sustainability across five categories: Quality of Life, Leadership, Resource Allocation, Natural World, and Climate and Resilience. These key areas contribute to positive social, economic, and environmental impacts on a community during the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure projects.

Key factors contributing to the Willingdon Linear Park project earning an Envision Silver award include:

Enhancing Public Space

The project is based on the guiding principles of public realm and social expression. New pedestrian signals make the park accessible from both sides of the busy street corridor and improve access to public bus stops. Enhanced bike and walking pathways provide new connections for commuters and recreational users. Pocket parks offer space for organized gatherings, chance encounters, and quiet solitude.

Reduction of Air Pollutants

The project retained 31 existing trees along the avenue and added 211 trees. This addition to the urban forest will help maintain and improve air quality, especially along a busy street corridor. The project team compared the site’s pre-construction and post-construction conditions and found there would be the potential for a 500% improvement in air quality based on the increased number of trees planted. Also, during construction, the contractor enforced an anti-idling policy that reduced air pollutants from equipment.

Invasive Species Control and Removal

Management of the park is guided by an Integrated Pest Management approach in accordance with the Canadian Landscape Standard. Before construction, there was extensive Japanese Knotweed. Perennial weeds and invasive plants were identified and mapped by a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) for removal and disposal. Invasive species will continue to be monitored monthly to ensure the control of these species within the park.

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PROJECT ORGANIZATION INFORMATION:

About City of Burnaby: *Burnaby is a great place to live, learn, work and play. We are committed to strengthening our overall well-being and growing into the future as a livable, vibrant and sustainable community. Burnaby works to facilitate an engaged and active citizenry, a healthy economy and a real respect for the natural environment. Some of the City's many features include: 25% of land designated as parks and open space, recreational facilities, major commercial town center development, major post-secondary institutions, rapid transit, arts, heritage and cultural facilities, libraries, high technology research and business parks.*

About Eurovia British Columbia Inc.: *Eurovia British Columbia Inc. has operated in the Lower Mainland of Vancouver, BC since 1983. Over the past 35+ years, we have established ourselves as a leading constructor delivering multi-disciplinary, design-build, and bid-build transportation infrastructure projects. Our experience and expertise includes bridge building, road and utility construction, airport and port works for private and public organizations. Eurovia BC is an ISO 9001:2015, 45001:2018 and 14001:2015 certified company, incorporating our international standard for quality, safety and environmental management systems directly into each project.*

In 2009 Eurovia BC, along with our sister company BA Blacktop Ltd., was purchased by Eurovia Canada Inc., which itself is a subsidiary of Eurovia SA, a global provider of road construction and maintenance solutions/services. Together Eurovia BC and BA Blacktop form the BC Delegation of Eurovia companies.

About ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd: *At ISL, we share an enthusiasm for community infrastructure. From planning through to design and construction management, we create nimble teams to tackle the unique requirements of every project. This integrated service offering gives you the experts you need, when you need them. Our technical expertise encompasses transportation, land use planning, civil engineering, municipal, landscape architecture, environmental management, structural buildings & bridges, and GIS/mapping as well as construction services, community engagement, communications, and 3D visualization. Visit us at islengineering.com.*

About Envision®: *Envision is the product of a joint collaboration between ISI, which was founded by three national engineering associations: American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and American Public Works Association (APWA), and the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure at Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Visit us at sustainableinfrastructure.org.*