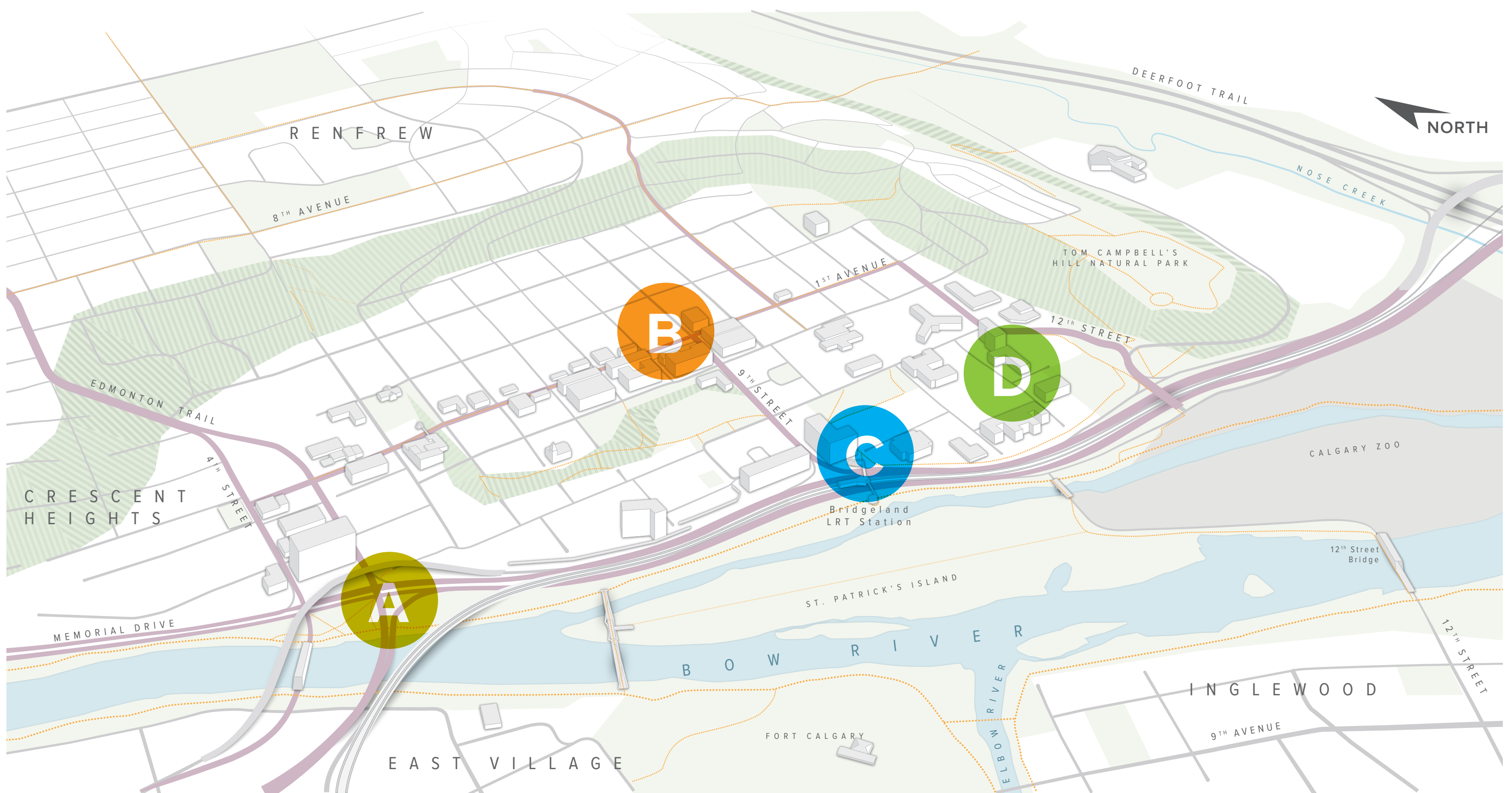




Active Neighbourhoods Bridgeland-Riverside Design Schemes



Project Description

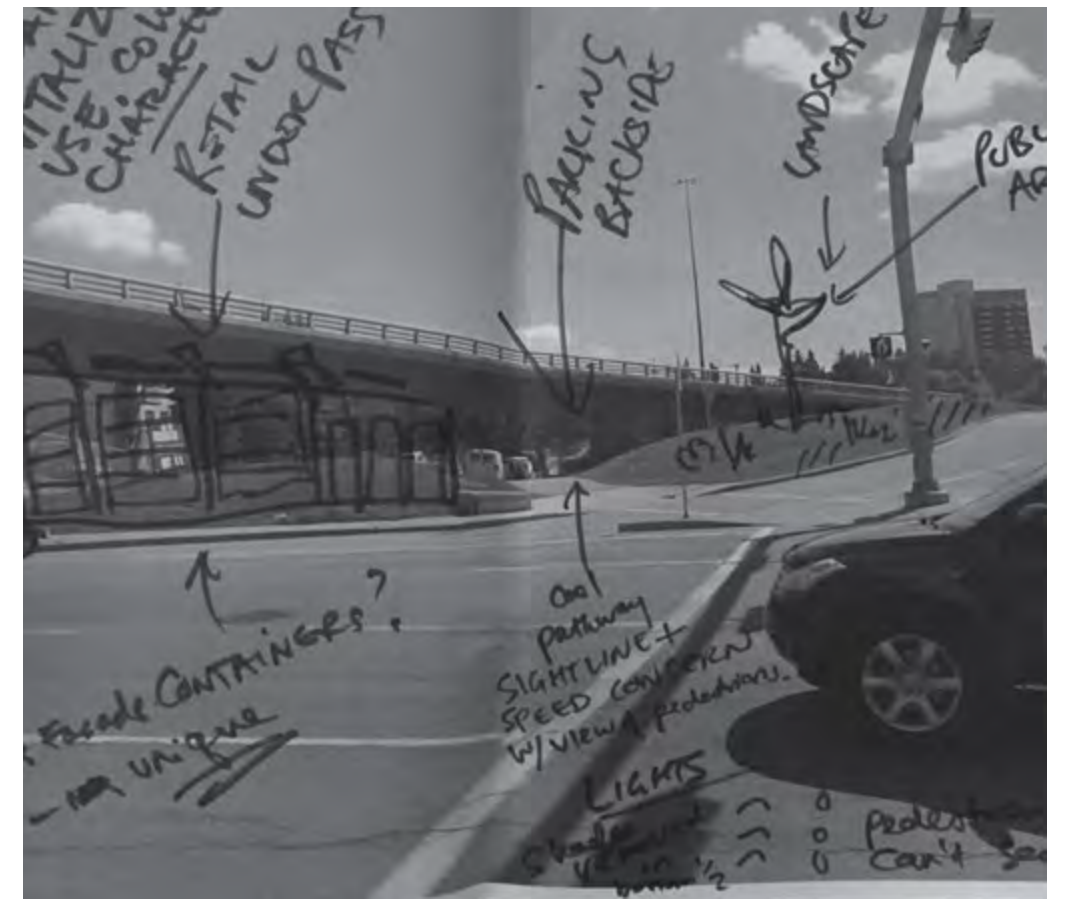
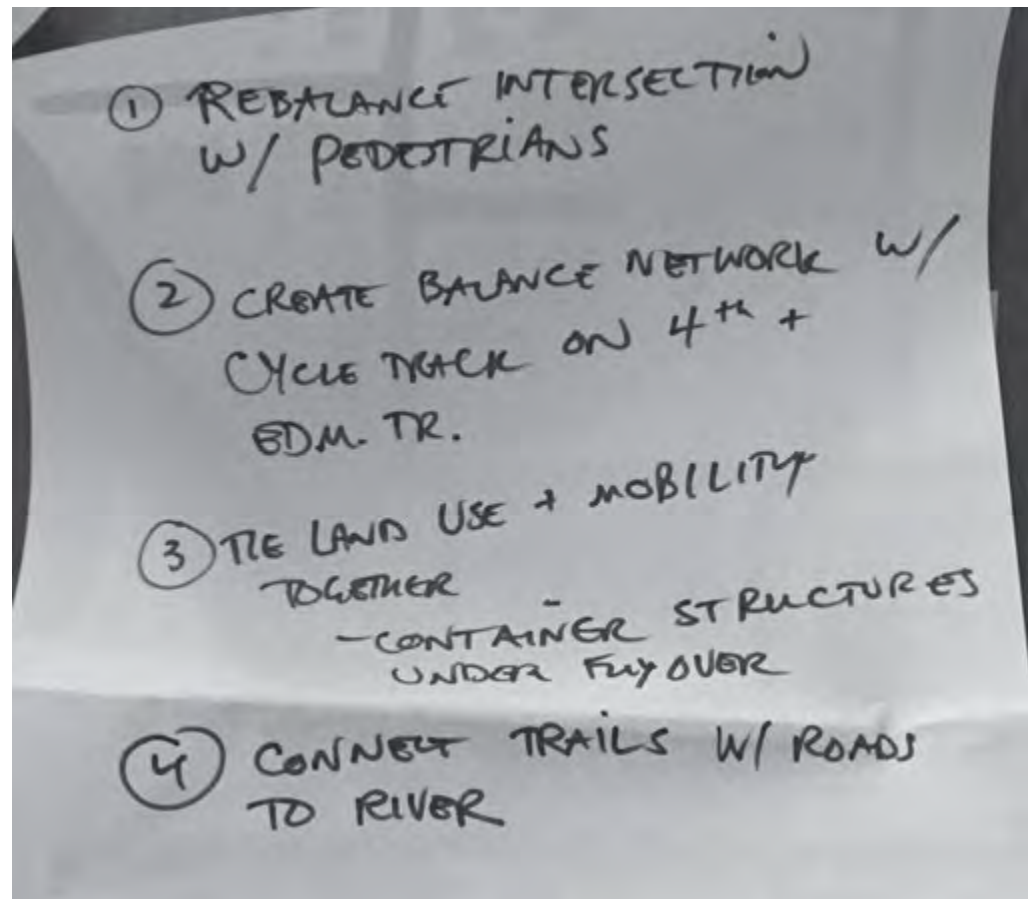
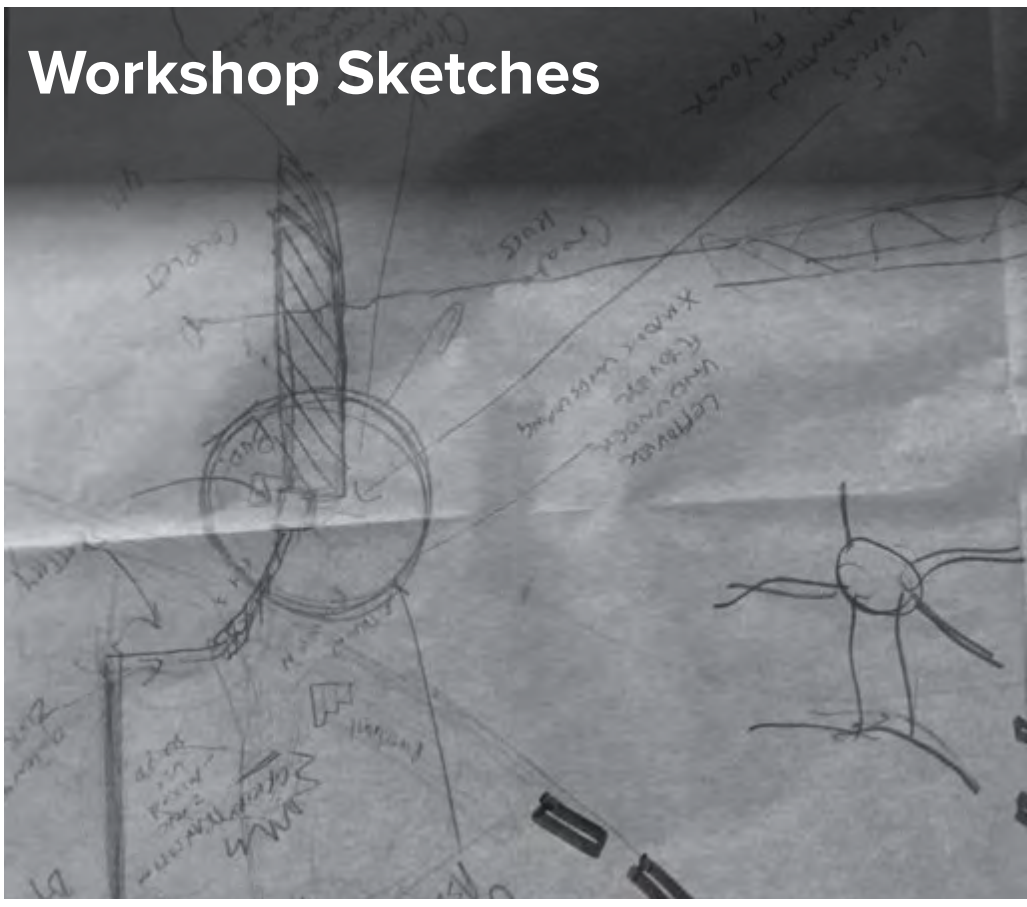


How can the design of our communities contribute to public health, wellness and safety? Respond to traffic congestion? Stimulate the economy? Work towards the overall sustainability of our city? These are questions that inspired the development of Active Neighbourhoods Canada, a collaboration between Sustainable Calgary, the Montreal Urban Ecology Centre, and the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation.

Active Neighbourhoods has been working with Bridgeland-Riverside since July 2014 to find out the good, the bad and the “meh” of its public spaces. Since it began, this process has engaged over 600 residents and business owners and 22 organizations.



Workshop Sketches



Design Scheme



Container Couplet

A Funky Shopping District Creates a Community Gateway

The 'Container Couplet' scheme addresses the intersection of Edmonton Trail and Memorial Drive, at the southwest corner of Bridgeland-Riverside. This scheme aims to make a safer, dynamic environment for pedestrians and a unique identity for the neighbourhood. These goals are approached with two pieces: a pedestrian shopping lane on Meredith Road between 4th Street and Edmonton Trail, and a plaza in the space underneath the 4th Avenue Flyover.

The crossing at Memorial Drive is a critical connection for neighbourhood residents who walk to the river or to work downtown. Currently, the site consists of a series of small

residual spaces left over from the flyover. This scheme introduces a broader and more distinct pedestrian entrance that connects to McDougall Road, flanked by a plaza and a garden. This entrance pathway extends to become cleaner, broader crosswalks across both major roads.

The blocks between 4th Street and Edmonton Trail (referred to as the 'couplet') present a series of opportunities to create special spaces that can enliven this edge of the neighbourhood. The Meredith Road lane becomes an opportunity for quiet, human-scale space amidst the area's heavy traffic.

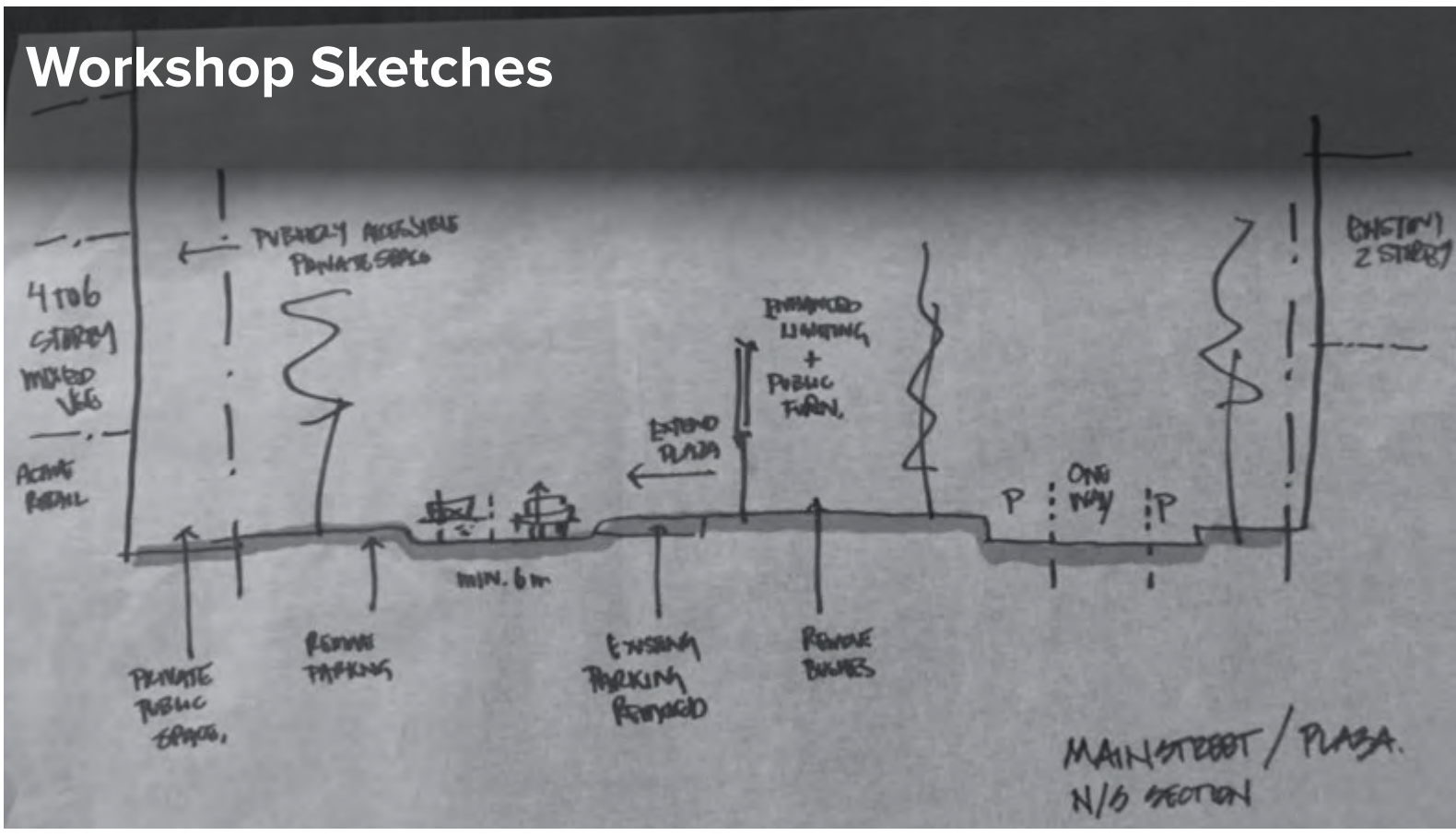
Current Space



Inspiration



Workshop Sketches



Design Scheme



General Plaza

A Heart for Bridgeland's Main Street

The 'General Plaza' scheme proposes the creation of a community square in the heart of Bridgeland-Riverside. Located on 1st Avenue between 8th Street and 9th Street, the design calls for the road surface to be lifted and re-surfaced, creating a central space that is shared between vehicles and pedestrians. For special events, traffic could be routed around the plaza to create a safe and sunny gathering space.

General Plaza would establish an 'anchor' at one of the neighbourhood's most important intersections, linking the community main street and the route to the LRT station.

Over the long-term, the laneway to the north can be re-configured into a 'T', creating a more viable lot on the plaza's north edge. A building here would frame the plaza and activate the space's north edge with shops and patios, bringing security and vibrancy. 2nd Avenue to the north can evolve to become a supporting street, with parking and cycling infrastructure.

Over time, the quality of this plaza space can help spur improvements to the entire length of 1st Avenue all the way from 4th Street to the west, along 12th Avenue, to St. George's Road to the east.

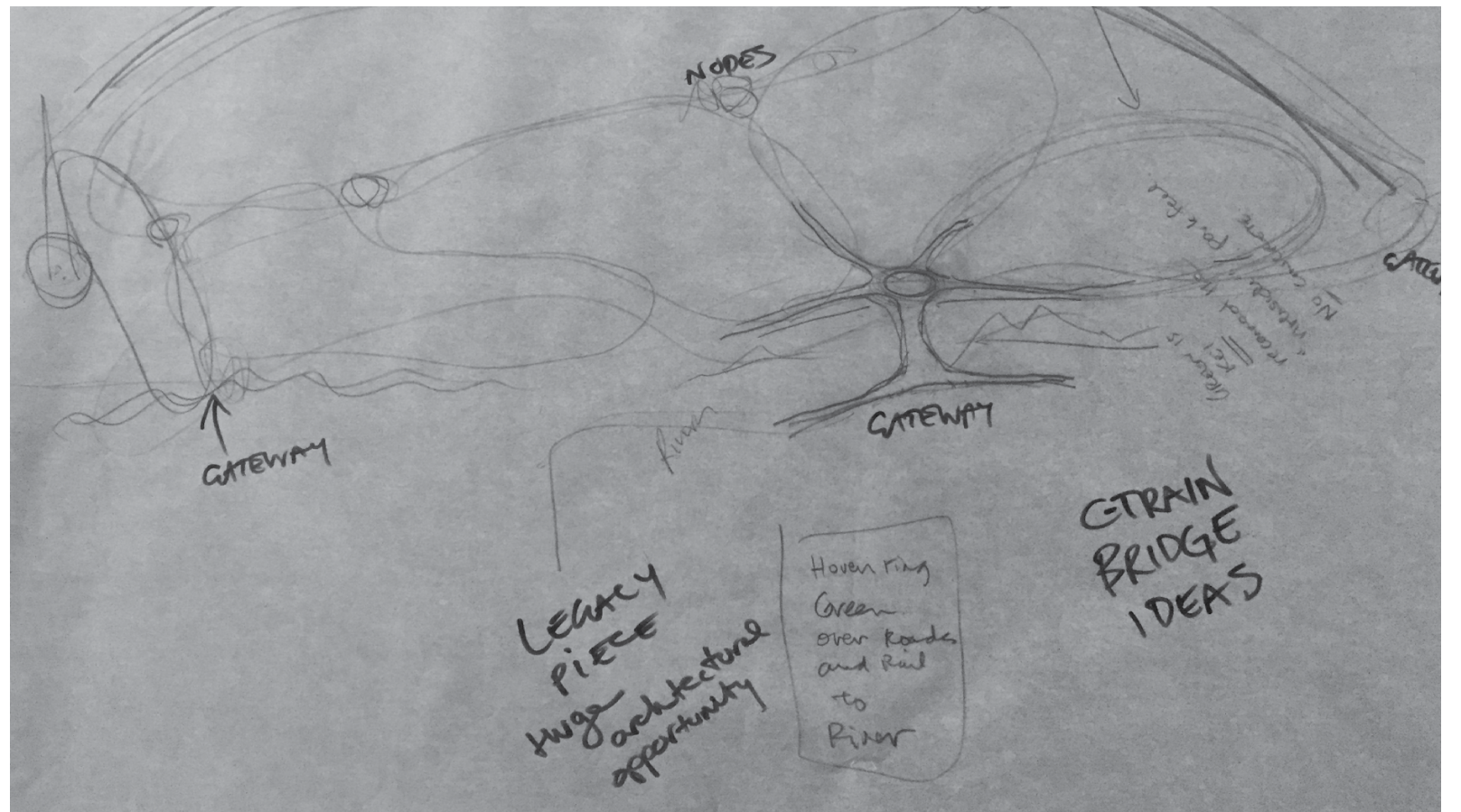
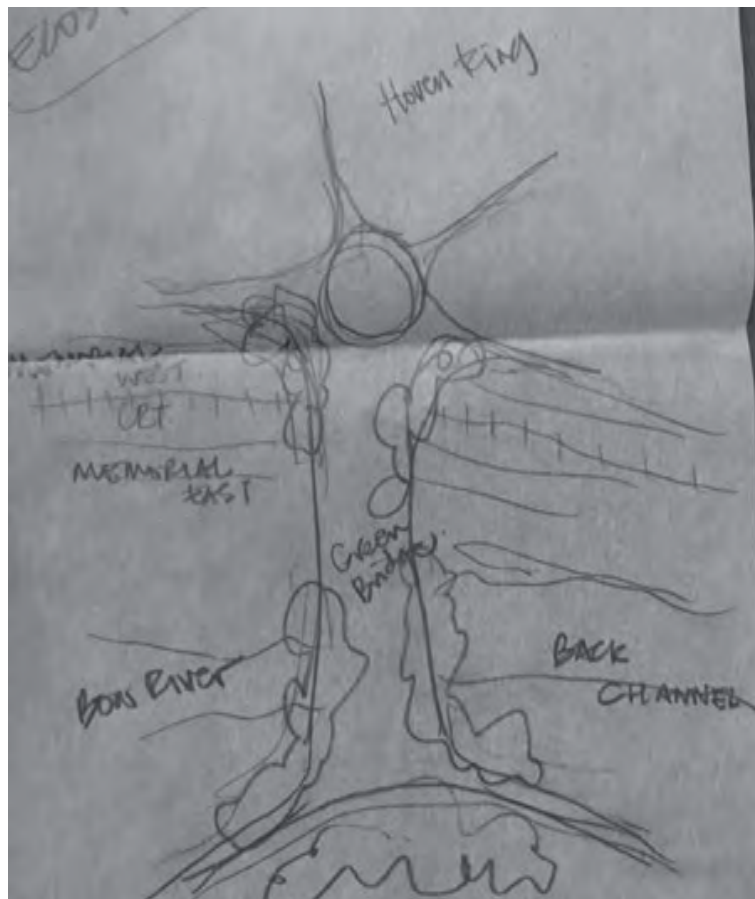
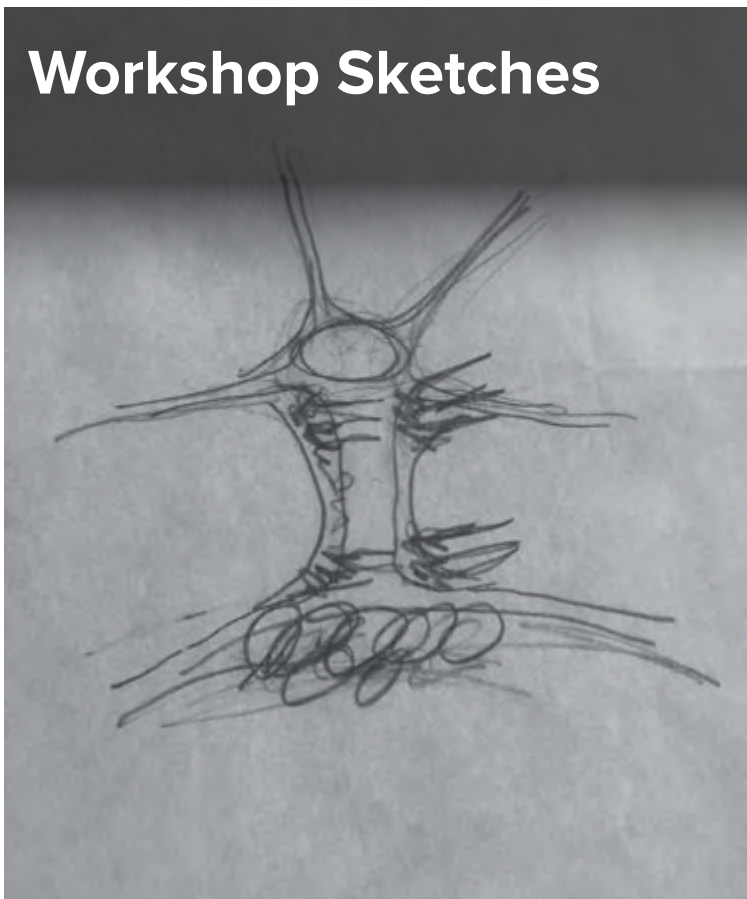
Current Space



Inspiration



Workshop Sketches



Design Scheme



Landscape LRT Bridge

Inviting the River Back Into Riverside

The 'Landscape LRT Bridge' scheme reconsiders the existing pedestrian crossing at the Bridgeland-Riverside LRT station. It is an elevated park space that creates functional and inviting links between the community, the Bow River pathway, and the newly renovated St. Patrick's Island Park.

On the north end of the bridge, a pathway roundabout links various access points and helps bring the bridge to the required elevation. On the south end, a broad landscape span reaches up from St. Patrick's Island and over Memorial Drive, inviting the landscape of the river back into the neighbourhood. These two systems meet

at the LRT station, which now exits onto a beautiful floating park space.

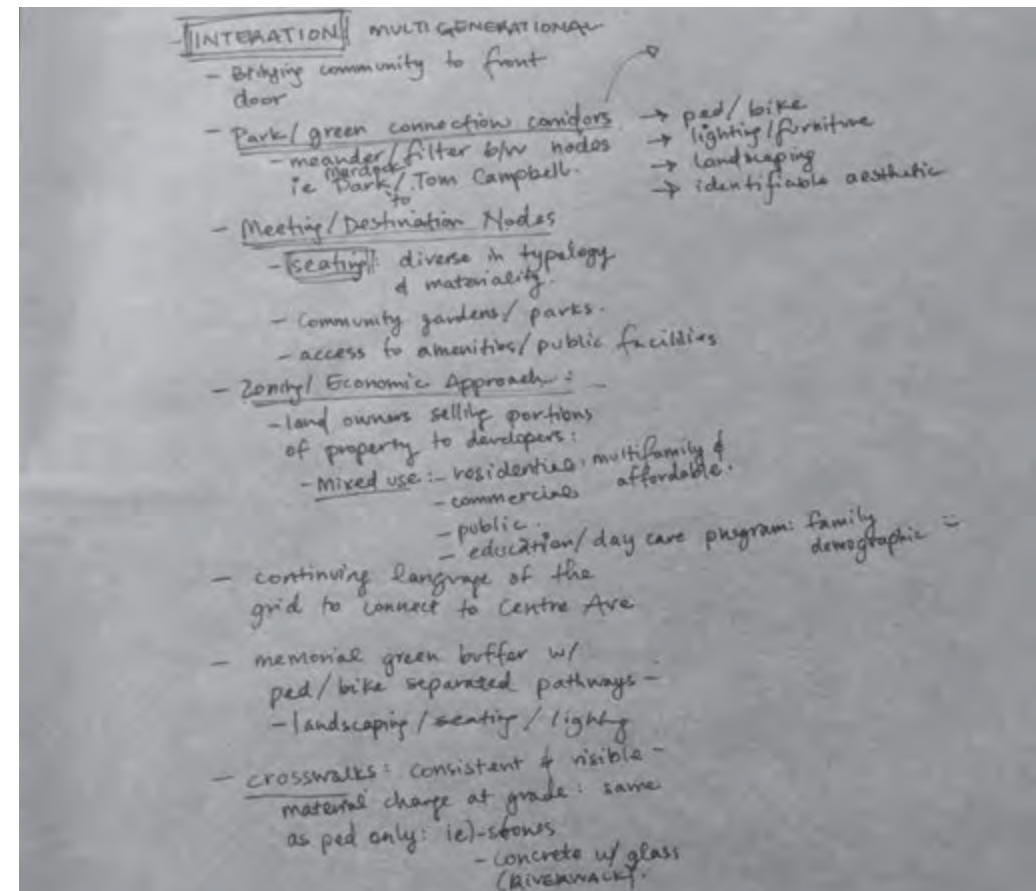
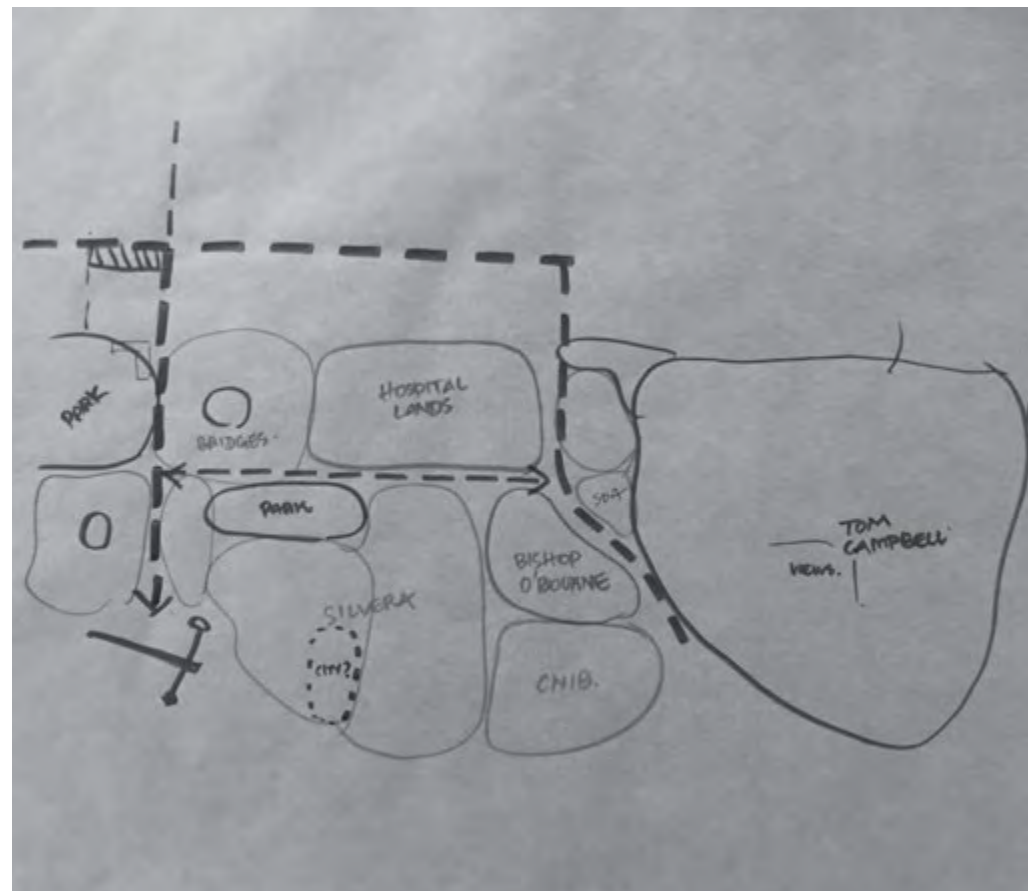
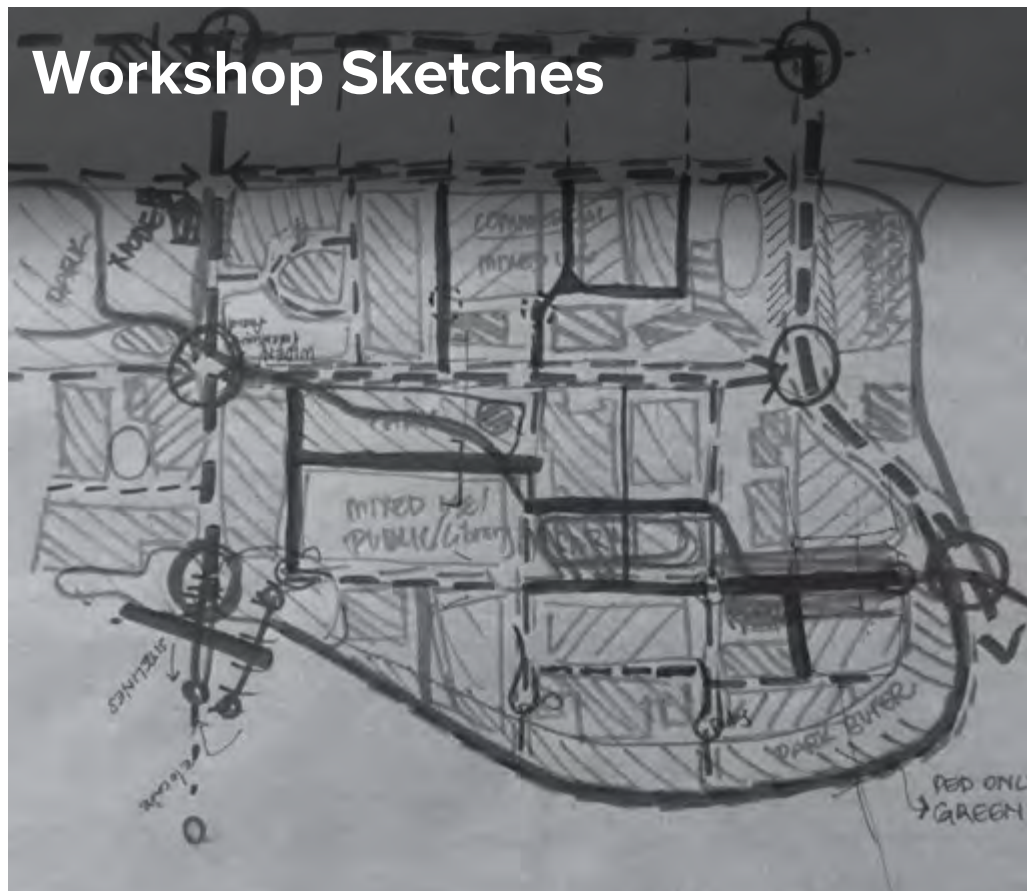
Below the bridge, the 9th Street exit into the neighbourhood would be reconfigured slightly to calm traffic entering the neighbourhood from Memorial Drive. The broad bridge helps establish this as a 'gateway' both for the vehicles below and the pedestrians and cyclists above.

Current Space



Inspiration





East Riverside Greenway

A Walkable Green Corridor Links Parks and Communities

The 'East Riverside Greenway' scheme proposes a new green corridor through the southeast quadrant of Bridgeland-Riverside. The corridor runs from the Community Centre on 9th Street, through McDougall Park, and onward to Tom Campbell's Hill on the neighbourhood's east edge. This section of Bridgeland-Riverside has been fragmented by private space, parking, and large institutional lots. The Greenway is a gesture that sets out a new walkable core for this area, anchoring a network of people-scaled, safe, and accessible pedestrian loops.

The scheme integrates and enhances existing park spaces and links these parks

with stretches of 'greened' streets that have permeable paving and tree cover. Secondary 'loops' extending from the corridor are designed with pedestrian comfort in mind; they would be cleared in the winter and outfitted with regular shading and seating.

In the long term, as this area experiences increased investment and redevelopment, the Greenway would help ensure greater connectivity, clarity, and safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

