

7.7 2021 Flood Mitigation and Resilience Annual Update, CD2022-0324, April 27, 2022

My name is Charlie Lund and I represent the Flood Mitigation Infrastructure sub-committee of the Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association. For almost nine years our group has been advocating for adequate flood protection for our inner city neighbourhood.

We are generally supportive of the flood resilience program described in this annual update, with one important exception: the Kensington Community Drainage Improvement Project.

First, there are things we support.

We are pleased to see construction begin on the Upper Plateau Separation project. This important project will divert stormwater from outside Sunnyside directly to the Bow River so it does not flood our community when the river flow is high.

On the Community Drainage Improvement Project List the Hillhurst Pump Station #4 is second from the top of projects not yet started. Its construction window is 2024-2026. To meet this schedule we anticipate that design work should begin later this year.

We agree that a new or expanded reservoir on the Bow River upstream of Calgary is the best way to achieve the city's goal of resilience to a 1:200 flood. Along with the Calgary River Communities Action Group we have been communicating regularly with Alberta Environment and Parks. In these conversations we have stressed the need for upstream mitigation on the Bow River, including all the recommendations of the Bow River Working Group. A new or expanded reservoir is the most important of these, but a continuing operational agreement with TransAlta for the Ghost Reservoir, a new capability for rapid drawdown of the Ghost Reservoir, and operational strategy adjustments for Barrier Lake should not be overlooked. - What more can we do to support the City of Calgary in advocating for improved upstream mitigation?

We support the Memorial Parkway Program and its commitment to the protection of the Hillhurst-Sunnyside community while maintaining and enhancing the experience for all users. We support the priority given to completing the flood barrier and groundwater protection without necessarily waiting for finalization of the other aspects of the program, important as they may be.

With respect to provincial Flood Hazard mapping we are pleased that areas behind permanent flood barriers will be identified as "protected". The development restrictions for areas at risk of flooding are not appropriate for resilient communities. Will the city recognize protected flood fringe areas as flood resilient for the purpose of development, building and renovation rules?

There are a number of other flood mitigation projects in Hillhurst Sunnyside in design or construction. With these, and the traffic calming and streetscape projects all happening at the same time the opportunity should not be missed to collaborate between projects so as to more cost-effectively put streets back better than they were before.

We are disappointed that the city has strayed so far from the Northwest Inner City Drainage Engineering Study when designing the Kensington Community Drainage Improvement project. We do not want the benefits of the Upper Plateau Separation project to be subverted by the transfer of excess water into Sunnyside. Even after several meetings we remain concerned that the proposed option could result in flooding in Sunnyside.

With respect to predicting floods, Calgary's Flood Resilience Plan says "we may only have 24 hours or less to confirm what's coming". We agree. With this in mind we cannot understand why the city is proposing to replace the plan for a permanent Hillhurst Pump Station #3 with a number of temporary pumps. As we learned during the 2013 flood emergency it is challenging to implement temporary flood mitigation measures in the limited time available at the same time as traffic jams slow response times. Hillhurst Pump Station #3 should be built.

Will the city review and if warranted adjust the Kensington Community Drainage Improvement project to ensure that the overall intent of the Northwest Inner City Drainage Engineering Study is met? Will the city review and consider reversing the plan to replace Hillhurst Pump Station #3 with temporary pumps?

Thank you for your time and attention.

PUBLIC SUBMISSION FORM



In accordance with sections 43 through 45 of [Procedure Bylaw 35M2017](#), the information provided **may be included** in the written record for Council and Council Committee meetings which are publicly available through www.calgary.ca/ph. Comments that are disrespectful or do not contain required information may not be included.

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Personal information provided in submissions relating to matters before Council or Council Committees is collected under the authority of Bylaw 35M2017 and Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act of Alberta, and/or the Municipal Government Act (MGA) Section 230 and 636, for the purpose of receiving public participation in municipal decision-making and scheduling speakers for Council or Council Committee meetings. Your name and comments will be made publicly available in the Council agenda. If you have questions regarding the collection and use of your personal information, please contact City Clerk's Legislative Coordinator at 403-268-5861, or City Clerk's Office, 700 Macleod Trail S.E., P.O. Box 2100, Postal Station 'M' 8007, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2M5.

- I have read and understand that my name and comments will be made publicly available in the Council agenda. My email address will not be included in the public record.

First name (required) Peggi

Last name (required) McDougall

Are you speaking on behalf of a group or Community Association? (required) No

What is the group that you represent?

What do you wish to do? (required) Submit a comment

How do you wish to attend?

You may bring a support person should you require language or translator services. Do you plan on bringing a support person?

What meeting do you wish to attend or speak to? (required) Standing Policy Committee on Community Development

Date of meeting (required) Apr 27, 2022

What agenda item do you wish to comment on? (Refer to the Council or Committee agenda published [here](#).)

PUBLIC SUBMISSION FORM



(required - max 75 characters)

7.7 - Flood Mitigation and Resilience

Are you in favour or opposition of
the issue? (required)

In favour

If you are submitting a comment or wish to bring a presentation or any additional materials to Council, please insert below.

Comments - please refrain from
providing personal information in
this field (maximum 2500
characters)

I am a resident of Sunnyside who has been flooded repeatedly by inadequate storm-water drainage. In 2015 the NorthWest Inner City Drainage Study (NWCIDS) was completed by Associated Engineering (AE), which recommended 4 new PERMANENT pump stations to be built, 2 in Sunnyside and 2 in Hillhurst to take stormwater directly to the Bow River. It also recommended the building of the Upper Plateau Separation Project (UPS) to take excess stormwater from the hill and upper catchment area directly into the Bow, bypassing Sunnyside's stormwater drainage system. Now that the UPS is being built, residents of Sunnyside, who had been flooded by stormwater from the 7th Street trunks many times (not just in 2013), were finally starting to see hope of adequate drainage and less risk of damage to our homes.

Now the City has hired MPE Engineering to do away with Pump Station #3 (effectively tossing out the NWCIDS) and construct a "Gladstone Connect" option which would bring Hillhurst's stormwater through Sunnyside's 7th ST trunks, effectively NEGATING the benefit of the Upper Plateau Separation Project for residents close to the 7th St trunks and in problematic low-lying areas that flood frequently during heavy rainfall. I am ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED to any of the Gladstone Connect options and want to see a PERMANENT Pump Station #3 built in Hillhurst. No TEMPORARY pumps that would require crews to deploy and maintain during high rainfall events. This Gladstone Connect concept is supposed to be a cost-saving venture; many years down the road it will end up costing MORE, because there will still need to be a PERMANENT Pump Station built in Hillhurst to take away excess water from Hillhurst so as not to flood either Hillhurst or Sunnyside. PLEASE BUILD PUMP STATION #3 in Hillhurst and do not bring another catchment's stormwater through Sunnyside. The Province was a major funder of the Upper Plateau Separation project and did not approve any of the Gladstone Connect Options when it approved the funding for the UPS.