



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: General Purposes Committee
FROM: Lauren Melville
Chair - Civic Beautification Team
RE: Gateway Improvements at Garden City Road and Westminster Highway

TO GENERAL PURPOSES - Nov. 20/00
DATE: October 13, 2000
FILE: 6340-20-P.00210

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That gateway improvements at Garden City Road and Westminster Highway be constructed at a cost of \$20,000.

Lauren Melville
Chair – Civic Beautification Team

Att. 2

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Transportation	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>for.</i>
Engineering	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Design, Construction & Programs....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Budget	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

The enhancement of gateways is identified as a key component of the Beautification Strategy as they are visible by the greatest number of people, and help form a first impression of Richmond. Since the Beautification strategy was launched, improvements have been introduced at the following gateway entrances to Richmond and the downtown: No. 2 Road and Westminster Highway; Gilbert Road between Elmbridge and Westminster Highway; Steveston Highway near Iron Wood Shopping Centre, as well as at Granville and No. 3 Road.

As part of the Civic Beautification Strategy, the intersection of Garden City Road and Westminster Highway is identified as a gateway to the City Centre as can be seen on Attachment 1. This key intersection is a heavy commuter traffic route into Richmond from the east. Improvements to this gateway will also contribute to the long term vision of creating an enhanced pedestrian circulation system along Granville Avenue and Garden City Road which will link residents to the future community park in McLennan North, and the Civic Precinct.

In order to co-ordinate the improvements with the current sidewalk construction on the west side of Garden City Road, staff have commenced the design of the initial Garden City Road and Westminster Highway gateway enhancements. The improvements include low level planting and irrigation in the medians near the intersection.

The purpose of this report is to request for funding to complete additional improvements that will help to improve traffic safety, and the appearance of this gateway entrance.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Currently, removable no post barriers are located within the Garden City median to discourage motorists from doing U-turns.

ANALYSIS

Given that a sidewalk is being constructed on the west side of Garden City Road, and basic beautification improvements to this intersection are underway, staff believe that it is timely to further enhance this gateway by replacing the no post barriers with curbs, trees and bollards in accordance with City standards. This will not only improve the appearance of this key intersection, but will also improve safety by helping to prevent cars from doing U-turns.

Restrictions on available median width and traffic sight lines are the primary factors impacting the type and location of these additional proposed improvements. If approved by Council, the Garden City Road medians will undergo more significant changes. The portion of medians that are a minimum of one metre wide will be excavated and landscaped. Those portions of median narrower than one metre will remain hard surface with new City Centre style bollards installed in the centre similar to what was done at the No. 2 Road and Westminster Highway gateway. The concrete curb surrounding the southbound median on Garden City Road will be extended further south to prevent vehicles from crossing the median. This will allow the City to remove the concrete no post barriers in the median currently preventing vehicles from crossing the median.

There are three primary benefits to completing these additional gateway improvements at this time. The first benefit is that there will be some financial savings realized from constructing the gateway improvements concurrently with the Garden City Road sidewalk construction as the crews and equipment are already on site. The second benefit is that the area will be disturbed only once, rather than returning in the future after the sidewalk construction is complete. The third benefit is that the unsightly no post barriers can be removed and be replaced with curbs, trees, and bollards in order to help discourage unsafe U-turns.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The total estimated cost of the improvements in the medians is \$20,000. The majority of the gateway improvements will be on Garden City Road. As there will be concrete curb extensions to the median including planting to prevent vehicles from crossing the median, we recommend that the improvements be funded from the same account as the Garden City sidewalk improvements. Account details are appended.

CONCLUSION

The intersection of Garden City Road and Westminster Highway is a gateway to the City Centre and is a major commuter route. Constructing further gateway improvements would improve the image of the intersection by defining an entrance to the City Centre as well as reduce the potential for vehicles to cross the grass median. The opportunity to combine construction of the additional gateway improvements with the Garden City sidewalk construction will allow the City to disturb this busy intersection only once.


We therefore request that \$20,000 be approved for additional traffic safety improvements to the medians at the Garden City Road and Westminster Highway intersection.


Robert Gonzalez, P.Eng.
Project Engineer

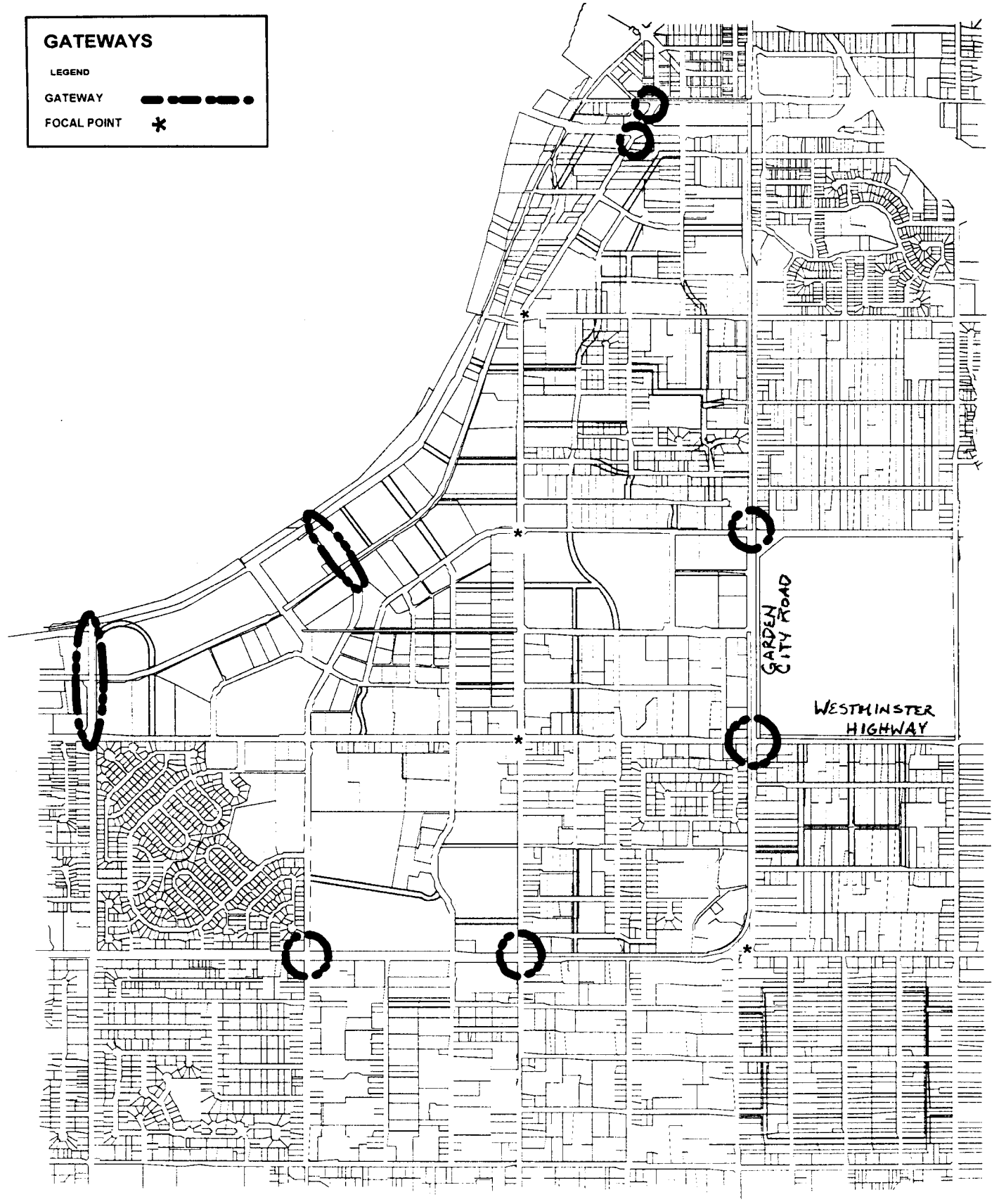
RG:rg

GATEWAYS

LEGEND


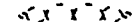


GATEWAY 










FOCAL POINT 

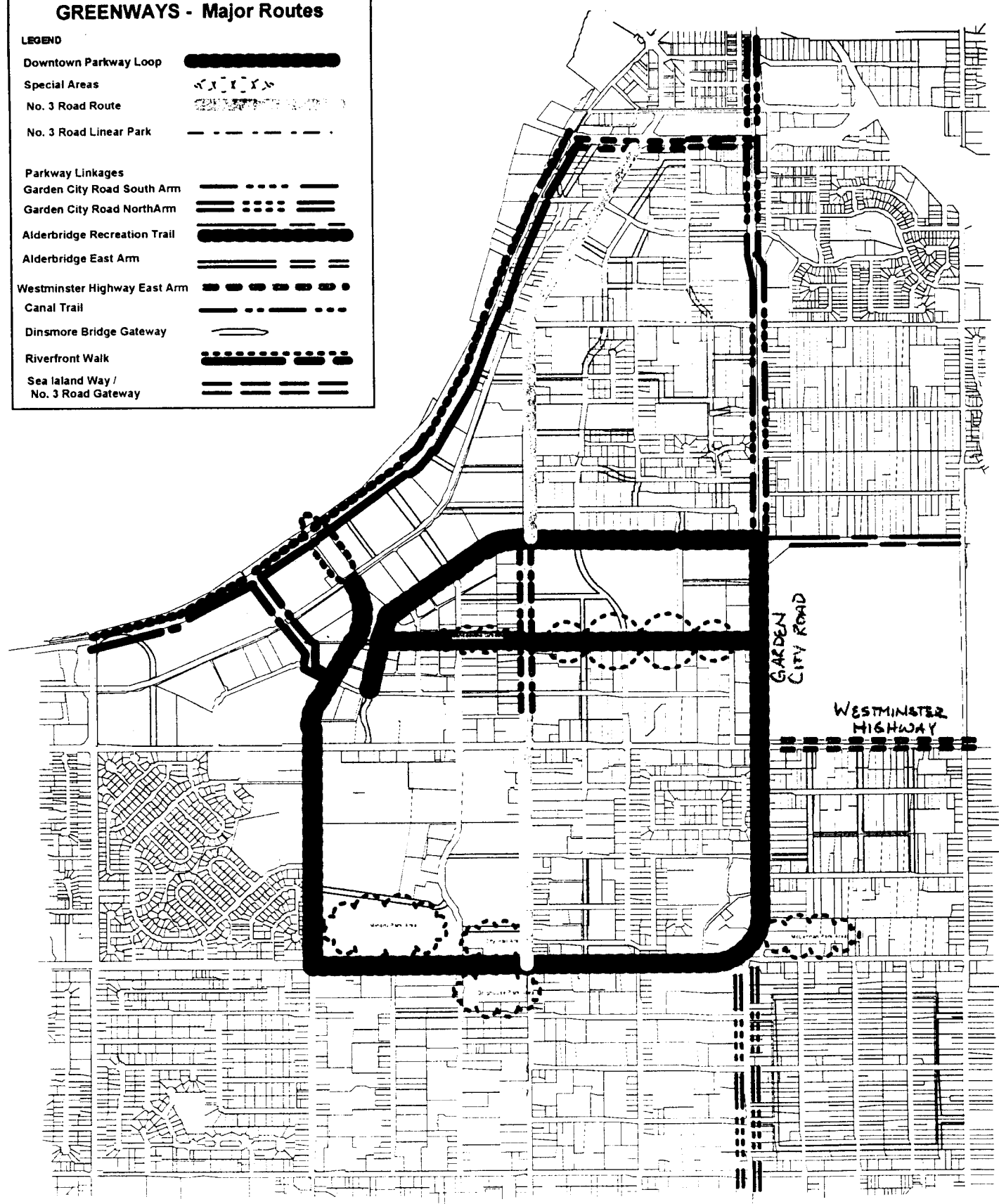


GREENWAYS - Major Routes

LEGEND

- Downtown Parkway Loop 
- Special Areas 
- No. 3 Road Route 
- No. 3 Road Linear Park 

- Parkway Linkages**
- Garden City Road South Arm 
- Garden City Road North Arm 
- Alderbridge Recreation Trail 
- Alderbridge East Arm 
- Westminster Highway East Arm 
- Canal Trail 
- Dinsmore Bridge Gateway 
- Riverfront Walk 
- Sea Island Way / No. 3 Road Gateway 



map not clear
older 1992/93

Attachment 2

Funding sources are as follows:

Funding Source:	Account No.	Remaining Funds	Funding Required	Additional Funding Required (Unallocated)
1997 Pedestrian Safety Program	45201	(\$ 103,000.00)*	\$ 20,000.00	(\$ 83,000.00)
TOTAL		(\$ 103,000.00)	\$ 20,000.00	(\$ 83,000.00)

* Estimated remaining funds upon completion of Garden City Sidewalk construction.