

Dear Mayor Alto and Council Members,

I trust this message finds you well. As the CEO of Destination Greater Victoria (DGV), I am writing to share our perspective on the Roundhouse at Bayview Place project. While DGV typically refrains from participating in residential land-use processes, certain aspects of this project align with our broader goals of fostering a vibrant, sustainable destination for both residents and visitors.

The upcoming public hearing before the Victoria City Council in January 2024 regarding the Roundhouse at Bayview Place redevelopment has caught our attention due to its potential impact on the visitor economy. Our focus, as considered at our December 2023 Board of Directors meeting, centers on two key aspects critical for the success of this development:

Roundhouse Revitalization as a Priority Investment:

We emphasize the importance of prioritizing the revitalization of the Roundhouse. This historic site, currently housing railway buildings and vacant contaminated soil, has the potential to become a vibrant hub with retail spaces and amenities that could be an attraction for residents and visitors alike. This transformation aligns with our vision of creating a dynamic and attractive destination.

Preservation of Rail Lines for Future Rail Options:

Multimodal transportation is a priority for Destination Greater Victoria. Residents and visitors need to be able to travel to our region, and throughout it, with ease and enjoyability. We support the preservation of the rail lines within the Roundhouse development to ensure flexibility for potential future rail options, in alignment with our broader goal of fostering sustainable and interconnected transportation infrastructure. The completion of the E&N Rail Trail through the site will also be a welcome step forward.

While recognizing the need for more housing options, particularly for workers in our industry, we defer to housing and land-use experts for detailed discussions on the residential aspects of the project. We are open to providing insights on the type of hotel properties well-suited for the marketplace. There is certainly a need for more hotel rooms in the region, however, without specific details, we are unable to offer concrete comments on the hotel element currently. We remain open to offering additional insights as more information becomes available.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the Roundhouse at Bayview Place development. Thank you for your dedication to the continued enhancement of our community.

Sincerely,



Paul Nursey

CEO, Destination Greater Victoria