

UVic Centre for Athletics, Recreation & Special Abilities (CARSA) with Attached 7-Storey Concrete 505-Car Parkade - Make Your Voice Heard on Tues Oct 4 at 7:30 pm

UVic held an Open House on September 8, 2011 and, except for minor cosmetic changes, presented the same proposal to the community which Saanich Council referred back to UVic for further consideration in August. In the two working days provided, your residents association developed a response to UVic's proposal which we submitted to UVic as well as to Saanich Mayor and Council outlining three major concerns:

1. "Massive and unrelenting"* visual impact on McKenzie Avenue
2. Lack of meaningful consultation
3. Traffic congestion in the community will be exacerbated.

The full response is available on the [CBRA website](#) .

*Saanich Advisory Design Panel description of the parkade.

On September 14, 2011, UVic filed a revised application for variances with Saanich. In response to community feedback at the Open House, the revised application includes only minor cosmetic changes to the 505-car 7-storey parkade and a traffic modification which does not resolve all of the traffic issues and which precludes construction of a public square, a feature proposed by UVic's own traffic consultant.

We endorse an athletics, recreation and special abilities centre. However there has been no meaningful consultation with the community regarding major aspects of this project which significantly impact our community. In addition, residents and the residents association should be able to view the cumulative impact of all proposed UVic plans that affect our communities: CARSA, Queenswood, B.C. Transit's need for modification to the UVic bus exchange and any other plans affecting neighbours contained in UVic's Strategic Plan to be released October 7.

Saanich Council Committee of the Whole will decide whether to approve the UVic CARSA application on October 4. The meeting will be held at Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Avenue, starting time is 7:30 pm. We encourage residents to attend and voice your opinion to Council or just to be present to support those residents who speak. Any one may speak; simply show up. Only a large turnout will send a clear message to Council. If you are unable to attend, consider writing mayor@saanich.ca and council@saanich.ca . This is a very large project which UVic states has a life span of 100 years. If approved, the impact on our community is irrevocable.