Project Site

The ECS Expansion site was identified in the 2016 Campus Plan. The proposed six-storey expansion to the ECS building and a new building, the High Bay Research and Structures Lab in Parking Lot A, will provide the space required to support the Faculty’s growth while supporting compact growth and maximizing tree retention.

The project supports the goals of the Campus Plan including compact growth, campus vibrancy along Ring Road, and creating engaging outdoor spaces to encourage academic and social interaction.
Engagement To Date

Over 1200 people have participated in our engagement events whether through the pop-up displays, first open house, student research, community presentations or stakeholder workshops.
Project Timeline

We are nearing the end of the design process. The design team will incorporate your feedback into the design before construction commences in 2021.
Project Context

What’s Included

ECS EXPANSION
- Computational Research Labs
- Materials Lab
- Geotechnical Labs
- Graduate Student Workstations
- Environmental and Hydraulics Labs
- Building Science Labs
- Biomedical Engineering Labs
- Computer Labs
- Faculty Collaboration Space
- Active Learning Labs
- Civil Engineering Department Office Space

High Bay Research and Structures Lab
- Welding Bay
- Wood Shop
- Machine Shop
- Shake Table
Project Vision

The Engineering Expansion will be a beacon of innovation, collaboration and learning for an adaptive and sustainable future.

Site-Wide Principles

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<th>VISION</th>
<th>PRINCIPLES</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>TARGETS</th>
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<td>Orient primary frontages along Ring Road to create an engaged pedestrian realm</td>
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<td>Visually unite the precinct with signage, landscape features and plantings</td>
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<td>Create visual interest to evoke a sense of arrival to the engineering precinct</td>
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<td>Maximize potential to restore natural landscapes with Indigenous plantings</td>
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<td>Replace each tree removed with three new trees on campus</td>
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<td>Design new paths to enhance and connect pedestrian and cycling routes</td>
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<td>Setback the buildings from Ring Road to implement the Campus Cycling Plan’s pathway improvements</td>
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Sustainability Approach

The project is informed by the university's Sustainability Action Plan and best practices for environmental stewardship and management.
Proposed Site Design

The proposed site plan provides areas for gathering, hosting events, managing and celebrating stormwater, and new weather-protected bike parking.

Campus Cycling Plan directions have been incorporated into the design including:

- Convenient covered and uncovered bike parking racks,
- End-of-trip facilities such as showers and lockers, and
- A 3m wide Cycling path and a 2m wide pedestrian pathway fronting the building along Ring Road.

Overall, the project aims to support sustainable transportation choices.
ECS Expansion Design

ECS Expansion entrance from Ring Road.
ECS Expansion Interior

1. Proposed collaborative classroom space with views in at the ground level
2. Proposed social spaces with views to trees
3. Storage space provided for students
HBRSL
High Bay Research and Structures Lab entrance.
Transportation

The university has engaged a transportation engineer to conduct a comprehensive review of UVic’s current parking supply as well as future parking demand.

Short-term & Accessible Parking

The project is providing five new parking stalls as parallel parking stalls along Ring Road. These include 3 accessible parking stalls and a loading stall for two vehicles.

Loading & Deliveries

Loading and deliveries to the ECS Expansion will be addressed through a rerouting of the existing ECS’ loading aisle.
Loading for the High Bay Research and Structures Lab will take place to the east of the new building. An overhead door will give access to the building from the loading area.

Parking Demand

The Oak Bay Parking Facilities Bylaw requires the provision of 63 new parking stalls to support the project. Through transportation analysis, it is expected that the project will increase parking demand on the UVic campus by only 20 stalls. As the project is only providing five new parking stalls, it will require a parking variance approval from Oak Bay Council.

With the development of 621 new residence units on campus by 2023, the estimated overall parking demand on campus is expected to decrease by 74 stalls. This reduction will outweigh new demand generated by the Engineering Expansion.

Supporting Sustainable Transportation

UVic monitors transportation mode share (cyclists, vehicles, pedestrians, etc) on a bi-annual basis. Since 2016, UVic has experienced a steady decline of vehicle driver mode share. Now, over 60% of all trips to and from campus are made by transit, cycling, walking, or carpooling.

To support members of the campus community who choose sustainable transportation modes, and support the University’s sustainability goals, UVic provides a number of alternative travel programs, initiatives, and support systems such as:

- Bicycle upcycling and loan program through SPOKES Campus Bike Centre that provides covered bike parking, equipment lockers and work benches
- U-Pass
- UVic Employee Bus Pass
- Continuing to incentivize and support sustainable transportation methods will further reduce parking demand on campus.
Building Height
Variance

The ECS Expansion and High Bay Research and Structures Lab projects include a request to increase the permitted height. The ECS Expansion is requesting a variance from 14m to 32m, or six storeys, consistent with the existing building’s six storey height. The orientation and scale of the building has been carefully considered, taking on a terraced form, providing a pedestrian friendly scale on Ring Road with windows at the ground level to showcase teaching and research taking place inside.