

Summary of Neighbourhood Visioning Process Feedback

Community and Individual Well-Being

- The OUR CITY process should consider how the world could change over the next 25 years. Will cars be self-driving? How will that impact parking and road widths? Will everything be bought online?
- New Westminster has great bones but there are many ways to make it even better.
- There should be a heart in every neighbourhood. These should be animated spaces where community members can meet and interact.
- There should be many places in each neighbourhood where people can gather, meet and hold events (formally or informally). They can be public spaces (e.g. parks, plazas, community centres) or private spaces (e.g. Sapperton Pensioners Hall, Schools, Places of Workshop). While many of these are already used, many could be better utilized.
- City Hall is underutilized. Can City Hall be moved? Can a community centre be added to the site? Can community gardens be added to the front lawn?
- How can the City better support or encourage people getting to know their neighbours? More activities in parks (e.g. dance classes)? Advertise how to host a block party?
- There are a number of great events held in the city (e.g. street festivals) that build community spirit. Some areas already have strong spirit others need more events to help build community spirit.
- Every neighbourhood should have a variety of community spaces. This includes indoor and outdoor, big and small, formal and informal. Whenever possible, these spaces should also be free or very low cost. They should be accessible and well located.
- Community spaces should be designed to accommodate a variety of needs, from 8 to 80!
- Community spaces (city and other institutional buildings) should be designed to be welcoming (e.g. the design of the front entrance, signage, landscaping).
- Streets are an amenity! Activate these spaces with sidewalk patios, food trucks, and diverse shops. Have car free days and street festivals. These spaces should enhance social connectedness.
- Benches are important and should be located throughout the city: in parks, on walkways, at key viewpoints (e.g. cemetery on Richmond). Benches in parks and plazas should be designed to face each other to encourage community interaction. They should not be facing traffic or parked cars. There could also be a memorial program for benches.
- The river is an amenity that can be used in many ways: boardwalk and parks, boat launch, boat tours, house boats, riverfront cafes, riverfront festivals, etc.
- New Westminster should be a safe city with low crime.
- Let's loosen up and have more fun! Less rules and regulations (e.g. allow wine in parks).
- Inclusivity is important. The city should embrace newcomers, people of all ages, cultures, etc. Buildings and events should be designed to be welcoming.

Culture

- There should be more public art throughout the city, in public and private spaces.
- Arts and entertainment add vibrancy to the city. The City should allow flexible and creative activities (e.g. pop-up library, more street buskers).

Economy and Employment

- Allow small shops (e.g. Queens Park butcher) to open in single family neighbourhoods (e.g. a coffee shop next to Lord Tweedsmuir School).
- Support small business and help support the growth of these businesses (e.g. incentives, shared office space). How can we encourage young entrepreneurs to start a business in New Westminster? Maybe there are areas of the city with more lenient home based business regulations (e.g. allow a larger scale of business).
- New Westminster needs a diversity of employment opportunities.
- Support tourism. This could include hosting signature events, attracting pocket cruise ships, etc. Hotels and banquet halls can also have other benefits (e.g. a hotel would benefit RCH visitors).
- The City needs a diversity of commercial uses. This includes small, independent business and chains. People should be able to buy all of their daily needs and have affordable options in each area of the City.
- Don't add a large amount of new commercial space. Instead support the existing commercial areas (e.g. Twelfth Street, East Columbia Street). Add to the vitality of these streets by filling the gaps with a diversity of stores. Filling the gaps will help make the Great Streets 'stickier' but attention also needs to be paid to the other commercial streets in the city (e.g. Carnarvon).
- Make sure all areas (e.g. Victoria Hill) have local serving commercial spaces within walking distance, despite the hills and busy streets that act as barriers.
- Can the City do more to support new unique and independent businesses? What can the City do to ensure that existing independent businesses don't get priced out as areas develop and rents increase?
- We like the creative district idea. Allow for innovation and support incubator business. The area could include live/work units.
- Build on the opportunity created by having RCH in New Westminster. RCH is a key employer. There are many complimentary uses (e.g. research). These uses could also benefit the community (e.g. improved access to health care amenities).
- The law courts and educational facilities (e.g. large and small) should be supported and emphasized as a key employer.
- Industry is an important component of New Westminster's economy and adds to the employment diversity. It would be nice to move towards cleaner industries and allow shared, rentable industrial spaces.

Energy and Emissions

- New Westminster should be a leader in energy and emissions (e.g. support the use of electric cars, create alternative energy districts).

Environment and Natural Areas

- Natural areas are important! These areas should be preserved and enhanced. Access to these areas (e.g. Glenbrook Ravine) should also be improved.
- The city has many great old trees! All trees should be preserved and more should be planted! Trees have so many benefits.

Food

- Increase the opportunities for people to access and grow local food. This could include bee-keeping and backyard gardens on private property. It could also include fruit street trees and community gardens on public property.
- Allow food trucks in a variety of locations.

Heritage

- More should be done to help mitigate the negative impacts noise has on health.
- Acknowledge First Nations history (e.g. build a longhouse somewhere along the river).
- Appreciate our heritage assets by protecting and revitalizing them – including allowing adaptive reuse of buildings.

Housing

- Ground oriented housing should be designed in a way that encourages neighbours to interact with each other. Increase the sense of community.
- We need a diversity of infill housing forms (more townhouses, laneway houses, small lot duplexes, etc.) but these new forms should be sensitive to the existing neighbourhood character and have a high quality design.
- What is infill? Need more details about what it could include.
- Be careful about what form and where infill housing is permitted. Do not create an incentive on demolishing heritage houses which significantly contribute to neighbourhood character.
- Strategically locate new housing to support commercial businesses on Great Streets (e.g. behind Twelfth Street, above shops on East Columbia Street).
- Strategically located medium density housing forms in some areas (e.g. on the edges of neighbourhoods) and not in other areas (e.g. Lower Sapperton).
- Explore laneway housing. There are many pros and cons. Consider design guidelines to mitigate concerns (e.g. massing, site coverage, height). Consider different ownership options in limited conditions (e.g. allow the sale of the laneway house if the principle dwelling enters into an HRA). This housing form is not a solution to all of New Westminster's housing needs so still explore other infill options.

- There should be a diversity of tenure options (e.g. rental, ownership, strata, co-op). This includes having high quality rental options.
- There are already a high number of high-rises in the city. Limit the number of new towers and make sure that the new towers permitted are very well designed.
- It is expected that there will be significant redevelopment around SkyTrain stations. This redevelopment should include a mix of housing forms, not just high-rises.
- Make sure people missing from the conversation so far have a voice in the OUR CITY process, especially in regards to the location of new housing.
- Consider different age groups (e.g. students, singles) and their needs when planning for future housing. For example, to allow for seniors to age in place there should be more diverse housing forms in each neighbourhood. There should also be a variety of supported housing options. Family friendly housing is a high priority.
- Affordability of housing is a huge issue. Consider how different housing infill housing forms could help or hinder the ability for people to afford housing in New Westminster. For example, laneway housing could increase property values which would make it harder for young families to afford the down payment on the property.

Parks and Recreation

- The City's recreation facilities have many strengths but many could be upgraded (e.g. Canada Games Pool). Whenever upgrades are done the City should explore adding meeting rooms that can be used by the community.
- The new Sapperton Green development should include community facilities.
- There are many great big and small parks in the city. They can be made even better by adding more amenities (e.g. add picnic tables at Moody Park).
- Better utilize the underutilized parks (e.g. Albert Crescent) and other non-city owned green spaces (e.g. Westburnco, BC Hydro Lands, Popular Island).
- Parks and community centers should help connect neighbours.
- Cafes or restaurants should be permitted in the City's larger parks.
- There should be more high-quality dog parks in the city.
- There should be more greenspace in the City. This should include adding new park space to areas where there is limited existing park space. This could also include bold and creative expansion to existing parks (e.g. expanding Queens Park over McBride, building a park on the top deck of the parkade).
- The City should be creative about adding small scale parks and open spaces. This could include pocket parks, parklets, gardens in traffic circles, etc.
- Think about structured (e.g. play equipment) and unstructured (e.g. grass lawn) when (re)designing park space since both are important.
- Green spaces are hearts!
- Connect to the river. There should be a continuous waterfront trail on the mainland and in Queensborough that is connected by a pedestrian and bicycle bridge. This trail should also

include activities such as cafes, marina and boat launches. It is also important that people are able to access this trail from different locations in the city.

- There should be a comprehensive and well integrated network of walking trails/greenways/bike routes in the city. This should include maintaining existing routes (e.g. along Stewardson), building missing segments (e.g. along Agnes), and creating new routes that connect to key destinations (e.g. the 22nd Street SkyTrain Station). There should be a number of east/west and north/south routes. These routes should extend beyond the city (e.g. to Choices in Burnaby, over the Brunette Interchange).

Transportation and Accessibility

- The impact of regional traffic (including truck traffic) needs to be addressed. How do we keep people and goods moving through the region, accommodate growth and have a liveable city? There are a wide range of potential solutions (e.g. find other bridge connections, build tunnels, etc.). Traffic calming should be considered too but needs to be balanced against the ability for local traffic to move through the city.
- There should be car free zones and car free days.
- Pay parking has a negative impact on commercial businesses. Consider removing it from some streets (e.g. East Columbia Street, Twelfth Street).
- Roads should be upgraded.
- Increase traffic safety but slowing traffic and enforcing traffic regulations.
- All of the Great Streets have potential but they can each be made stickier. They should each be destinations. To be great Great Streets should be designed for pedestrian and bikes first and cars second. Consider making 20th Street a Great Street.
- Bike and pedestrian streets/greenways (e.g. 7th Avenue) should be designed for pedestrian and bikes first and cars second.
- The city needs more bike amenities (e.g. bike parking, bike lockers at SkyTrain stations, end of trip facilities).
- There should be more protected bike (and scooter) lanes.
- We need to design bike and pedestrian routes and multi-use pathways. Define who gets what space.
- Crossing improvements for cyclists and pedestrians should be made throughout the city. Particular attention should be given to making sure pedestrians and cyclists can cross the busy arterial streets safely (improved intersections, overpasses). This will help better unite different neighbourhoods.
- Take on the hill challenge. There should be strategic, complete, lower grade bike and pedestrian routes. There should be cheap or free transit up the hill. The City could also embrace the hill and build a grand staircase.
- SkyTrain Stations should be more accessible and welcoming. They should have amenities and act as neighbourhood hearts. They (and the surrounding area) should be well designed and give a good first impression to people arriving by train.

- Expand transit options. This could include a large range of options: a new SkyTrain stations at Victoria Hill and Third Avenue, a new commuter rail line, etc. This could also include a “people mover” that loops the city and connects key destinations.
- Increase the frequency of transit and expand service. Transit amenities (e.g. covered bus shelters with seats) should also be improved.
- Be creative about moving people. What about a gondola, passenger trams or tuk-tuks.
- There should be cheaper transit options to make it more affordable to use for short distances.
- There should be water transportation (e.g. aquabus, human powered boats) that are designed to be used by tourists and residents. There could be an aquabus station on Poplar Island. The route could expand beyond New Westminster (e.g. to Surrey and Coquitlam).
- Reduce the impact of trains. Move the train yards out of New Westminster. Improve the aesthetics around the rail line (e.g. improve quality of landscaping and fences).

Urban Design and Public Realm

- Great Streets should be vibrant and active. This could be achieved by having a diversity of stores with interesting storefronts, sidewalk cafes, food trucks, buskers, parklets, plazas, etc.
- The design of Great Streets is also important. This should include: wide sidewalks, smooth sidewalks, benches and other well design street furniture, good lighting, street trees, less sandwichboard signs, etc.
- Sidewalks throughout the city should be wide, smooth and accessible. Traffic calming measures should also be used (e.g. curb bulges) to help improve the ease of pedestrian movement.
- There should be more/improved pedestrian crossings throughout the city (e.g. painted crosswalk, well lit/viable, longer crossing times, more controlled crossings).
- More streets should include protected bike lanes and bike parking.
- Good design helps make density more livable. Buildings should be well designed (using a diversity of designs) and use high quality materials.
- The green/open space between high-rises is important and should be well designed.
- Buildings should have green roofs.
- Developers are driving growth and design instead of the City.
- Views should be considered when new towers are proposed. They should not block the view of the river.
- There should be more public spaces to sit in the sun and take in the view.

Utilities

- Plan for future impact on infrastructure and reduce demand on infrastructure (e.g. improved stormwater management).

Parking Lot

- How do we increase/improve civic engagement and knowledge of governance?
- Work closely with neighbouring municipalities. Borders shouldn't be barriers.