

PHASE 1: VISIONING ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH SUMMARY

Spring 2023 – Winter 2024

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Introduction

Purpose of Engagement Summary

- Summarize engagement feedback and input from community to be incorporated into Comprehensive Plan.
- Report how feedback is being utilized as part of Comprehensive Plan development process, including metrics and outcomes.

Overall Approach to Outreach and Engagement

- Various methods of outreach and engagement were utilized with a dual purpose of collecting feedback and input and informing the community about the project for engagement and educational efforts.
- Targeted outreach methods were used to reach priority communities by collaborating with local community-based-organizations and local leaders.
- Social Media Kits included content in both written and visual formats and were shared with multiple CBOs and partners across the City for educational purposes and participation recruitment.
- Ongoing engagement with Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese speakers, people with lower incomes, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness was facilitated by Community Engagement Liaisons.

Who Was Engaged?

The Community Survey generated responses from a variety of community members:

- Most respondents were residents of Vancouver.
- Hispanic and Black respondents were under-represented, while Native and Asian respondents had greater representation compared to the population of Vancouver.
- Youth and adults under 35 were under-represented while older adults and elders were over-represented in the survey.
- Respondents came from a wide range of income brackets.

Demographic information was provided by 7 of 31 respondents on the Be Heard Pin Map. Respondents that provided demographic information were adults and predominantly white.

Demographic information was not collected at in-person engagement events. The project team attended several Summer 2023 Community Envision Events that attracted diverse representation from the community, including BIPOC, non-native English speakers, LGBTQ+, youth, and low-income community members.

Community Partners consist of local leaders affiliated with organizations serving BIPOC, queer, youth, immigrant communities, transit users, and people with disabilities.

During Phase I, the project team started working with partner organization to identify co-conveners and potential participants for the community working group process, initial meetings of these groups kicked off in Phase II of the project. Six community working groups were formed with the following focus:

- Business Leaders, co-convened with Identity Clark County and the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
- Housing working group, includes providers, developers, builders and advocates
- Climate working group, includes community members engaged in climate and environmental justice work
- Transportation working group, includes community members focused on increased transportation access and safer mobility
- Building Industry Association of Clark County, Legislative Affairs Committee, includes regional builders
- Leaders of Community Based Organizations that serve equity priority communities, including BIPOC, people with lower incomes, people with disabilities, people exiting the criminal justice system, and advocates for housing and healthcare access.

Data Collection

- Quantitative data was collected in the community survey, spatial analysis of pin maps, and survey questionnaires to Community Partners.

- Qualitative data was collected through conversations at tabling events, pin map comments, survey open ended questions, working group discussions, field notes, and questionnaires.

Analysis Methods

- Mixed methods of both qualitative and quantitative analysis were used for triangulation when reviewing data.
- The project team considered Sense of Place as a key theory driving analysis when exploring themes related to community input in relation to not only the expressed physical space needs of the City but also the reasoning and values behind them.
- Grounded theory was used to identify and organize key themes from engagement by pulling out input and feedback grounded in the data rather than assumptions of answers from biased project team perspectives.

Overview of Engagement Events

This section provides a quick overview of the Engagement Events that occurred during Phase 1 engagement for the Our Vancouver Comprehensive Plan project. Individual engagement summaries provide for more detailed information about each event and are available by request by email at ourvancouver2045@cityofvancouver.us

Summer 2023 Community Envision Events

- **Date(s):** May 2023 – October 2023
- **Engagement Method:** Tabling Events
- **Purpose:** City Envisioning
- **Participation:** 19 total events, over 850 direct conversations
- **Outreach Methods Used:** Be Heard, Social Media
- **Topics Covered:** Vision for future of Vancouver

Interactive Be Heard Pin Map

- **Date(s):** August 2023 – February 2024
- **Engagement Method:** Online Pin Map
- **Purpose:** City Envisioning
- **Participation:** 150 pins, 31 unique visitors
- **Outreach Methods Used:** Be Heard, Social Media, Tabling

- **Topics Covered:** Arts & culture, essential services, housing, community vision, parks & recreation, transportation

Housing Forum Open House Event

- **Date(s):** December 6, 2023
- **Engagement Method:** Presentation and Group Discussions
- **Purpose:** Educate community about new state level housing requirements and discuss implementation preferences within the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Participation:** ~50 attendees
- **Outreach Methods Used:** Social media, Community network of 40 contacts, Flyers
- **Topics Covered:** Current state of Vancouver housing and Vancouver's Housing Action Plan, State Housing Regulations, Affordable Housing, Middle Housing, Homeownership, Multi-Family Housing Development, New State Laws and Regulations and General Comprehensive Plan

Our Vancouver Community Survey

- **Date(s):** December 2023 – March 2024
- **Engagement Method:** Online Survey
- **Purpose:** City Envisioning
- **Participation:** 1,017 responses
- **Outreach Methods Used:** Be Heard, social media, canvassing, community events, newsletters, flyers, Community Engagement Liaison contacts
- **Topics Covered:** Neighborhood, housing, community health & well-being

Community Partners Meetings

- **Date(s):** 8 meetings between June 2023 to January 2024 specifically focused on Phase 1
- **Engagement Method:** Meetings, storytelling, questionnaire
- **Purpose:** Gather local leaders input on comprehensive planning and expand engagement of equity priority communities.
- **Participation:** 13 local leaders
- **Topics Covered:** Equity Analysis, Equity Framework, Community Partnership Framework and Goals Framework including Chapter Vision Statements

Our Vancouver Email Inbox

This mailbox is managed internally by some City staff on the project team.

- **Date(s):** May 2023 – March 2024
- **Engagement Method:** shared Outlook mailbox (OurVancouver2045@cityofvancouver.us)
- **Purpose:** Provide a way for community members to contact the project team, ask questions, and share their thoughts. Newsletter emails were sent from this email address.
- **Participation:** Emails were received that contained direct project input/inquiries. Additional emails were for answering logistical/technical questions, coordinating events, connecting inquirers with correct City staff when un-related to Our Vancouver, or were considered spam.
- **Outreach Methods Used:** Email address was listed on tabling materials, social media posts, newsletter emails, presentations, and Be Heard.
- **Topics Covered:** Parks, transportation, and housing

Informational Sessions

In addition to the previously stated engagement events, City staff were invited to present project information with local groups to spread awareness and provide opportunities for involvement and collaboration. Attendees were encouraged to share about the project in their networks, visit Be Heard and share their feedback through other engagement opportunities like the Pin Map and Community Survey. The project team presented at meetings with education partners like environmental science teachers at ESD 112, community-based non-profits, and neighborhood associations and attended City Manager Quarterly meetings and Council community forums.

Policy and Program Recommendations from Engagement

This section provides an overview of community feedback that emerged during Phase 1 of community engagement for the Our Vancouver Comprehensive Plan. Common “Key” themes emerged across feedback gathered at engagement events, which are organized based on the Comprehensive Plan chapters.

Each Key Theme includes:

- **Key topic overlaps:** The chapter topics that community members commonly referenced in relation to each other are listed here to illustrate the intersectionality of different community values and highlight the need to consider how they impact each other.
- **Themes from the Chapter Vision Statements:** these outline the overall vision and intent of each Comprehensive Plan chapter and what it will aim to achieve. The vision statements are consistent with the Goals Framework previously endorsed by the City Council. For more about the Chapter Vision Statement themes, see [final chapter vision statements document](#).
- **Recommendations for policy and program implementation:** Recommendations emerged from common themes in community input and feedback during engagement events.
 - For each recommendation, we identify the engagement event(s) where community input related to that topic was gathered that informed the recommendations.
- These recommendations will be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan development when possible and influence decision-making and values to use while creating further policy. If recommendations are outside of the scope of the Comprehensive Plan, recommendations may be shared with other City teams and projects.
- The project team documents when and how feedback is incorporated into comprehensive plan development and decision-making in an Accountability Matrix, which will be routinely shared with communities.

Community Feel and Vision

KEY TOPIC OVERLAPS: LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, PARKS AND RECREATION, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Chapter Vision Statement Themes

- Valued, included, and honored
- Different histories and lived experiences
- Strengthens bonds
- Individual and collective trauma and systemic injustice
- Uplift individuals and communities
- Truly belong

Policy and Program Recommendations from Engagement

Maintain existing attributes and aesthetics that exist in green spaces, local art, and community hubs across the City while improving other areas to match.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY AND PIN MAP.

- Appreciation for existing features and character of Vancouver, like green spaces, events, concerts, food trucks, and local art.
- Concerns about graffiti and litter – there are some areas where aesthetic improvements are needed.

Create more community hubs and spaces outside of work and home around the City to foster community.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY, SUMMER ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS, AND PIN MAP.

- Appreciation for existing community hubs that create strong sense of community, including community centers, faith centers, schools, neighborhoods, parks, libraries, waterfront, and Vancouver Mall.
- Desire for more spaces and amenities outside of work and home to encourage community.
- Community partners noted that Esther Short is a “living room” for the community and asked how we can create more of those types of spaces throughout the City (*see Parks and Recreation*).

Foster belonging through culturally inclusive design and aesthetics.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS.

- Welcome people from all backgrounds and cultures and make that visible in our community aesthetics and design through recognition of historical development.

Place equity at the forefront of all components of the Comprehensive Plan to uplift individuals and communities and make Vancouver a welcoming place for all.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS AND CHAPTER VISION STATEMENT.

- Need to foster belonging in the community through affordable and accessible housing (*see Housing*).
- Concern about houselessness crisis (*see Housing*).

Land Use and Development

KEY TOPIC OVERLAPS: TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY, COMMUNITY FEEL AND VISION, COMMUNITY HEALTH

Chapter Vision Statement Themes

- Sense of inclusion for people of all backgrounds
- Preventing displacement
- Community spaces
- Build and sustain community
- Harmony between the built and natural environment
- Choice and opportunity

Policy and Program Recommendations from Engagement

Develop land use policy with trauma informed practice and a goal of preventing displacement of current residents.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS.

- Incorporate trauma informed practice into built environment.

Focus land use policies on creating connected and accessible communities with access to essential services, grocery stores and retail areas, employment, childcare, community spaces, and recreation opportunities.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY, PIN MAP AND COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS.

- Importance of having employment centers, commercial centers, recreation opportunities, and public facilities within walking distance of home (see *Transportation and Mobility*).
- Desire for balance between residential and commercial development to support walkable communities, i.e. the waterfront.
- Support for walkable neighborhoods with access to essential services, healthcare, and businesses (see *Community Health*).
- It is especially important to have places of employment with housing available nearby and access to walkable childcare.
- Community partner neighborhood asset questionnaire results.

Take advantage of underutilized lots and parking areas as opportunities for development to increase neighborhood density.

FEEDBACK FROM PIN MAP AND COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS.

- Opportunities for development in underutilized lots or underutilized parking areas.
- Support for building neighborhood density, while allowing for community spaces.

Maintain low-density residential zoning in many existing neighborhoods throughout the City based on community desire. Consider reducing existing parking minimums while ensuring that there is sufficient parking availability to accommodate increasing density.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY.

- Concern about density increasing too much.
- Desire to maintain low-density residential zoning in existing neighborhoods.
- Concern about parking availability to accommodate increasing density.

Maintain character and qualities of historic neighborhoods like Main Street. New developments should have consistent design standards with existing parts of the City and foster harmony between the natural and built environment.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY.

- Desire for consistent design standards for new developments (*see Community Feel and Vision*).
- New development should consider historic developments and neighborhoods like Main Street.

Housing

KEY TOPIC OVERLAPS: LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Chapter Vision Statement Themes

- Community pride
- Prioritize historically excluded community members
- Non-traditional design methods
- Middle and multigenerational housing
- Connected and accessible neighborhoods
- Access to jobs, education, essential services and open space

Policy and Program Recommendations from Engagement

Increase density and availability of housing, especially middle housing, to create a diverse housing market that meets the varied needs of our community across the lifespan, especially seniors and people with disabilities.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY, COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS, AND SUMMER ENGAGEMENT.

- Increased density of housing is necessary to meet future housing needs (see *Land Use and Development*).
- Need for diverse housing options to meet current and future needs.
- Housing needs evolve across the lifespan – some residents may need larger homes to accommodate growing families, while older residents may be looking to downsize or move to senior living facilities.
- Increase availability and affordability of housing for disabled population on fixed incomes, with specific housing needs.
- Increased housing options are needed to meet needs of seniors and people with disabilities.

Incorporate a variety of housing types to increase availability of middle housing, including ADUs, mixed use housing, duplex / triplex / quadplex housing, cottage clusters, and more.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY, COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS, AND HOUSING FORUM.

- Community Survey: single family homes, mixed use buildings, and duplexes/triplexes/quadplexes and townhomes were the most popular housing types.
- Mixed use buildings were very popular among business owners and renters.
- Desire for mixed use, cottage clusters, ADUs, and tiny home developments to meet a range of needs and income levels.

Plan for culturally specific housing needs, including multigenerational housing.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS.

- Incorporate culturally specific housing needs, i.e. multigenerational housing.
- Housing can help foster independence, develop community support networks, and increase community connectedness and interdependence.

Plan for a future where housing options are and remain affordable throughout Vancouver, despite cost of living and inflation increases, including for people on fixed incomes or people with disabilities.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY, COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS, AND SUMMER ENGAGEMENT.

- Impacts of inflation can impact housing access, especially for single individuals.
- Need for affordable housing for people with disabilities and on fixed incomes.
- Concern about not having attainable or affordable housing ownership options, the rising cost of living, and having to leave Vancouver to find affordable housing in the future due to rising home prices.
- Consider what affordable means in a real-world scenario for a real family. A lot of people are paying up to 50% of their income for housing.

Develop policies to support affordable housing, including rent control, restrictions on short-term rentals, restrictions on private equity and corporate home ownership, inclusionary zoning, and development standards for residential use.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY AND HOUSING FORUM.

- Concern about cost of housing.
- Desire for policies to support affordable and attainable housing options, like rent control, restrictions for short-term rentals, restrictions on private equity

and corporate home ownership, inclusionary zoning, development standards for residential use, and social and supportive services (*see Land Use and Development*).

- There should be more funding for renting and owning, including rental assistance and downpayment assistance.

Consider policies to include air conditioning and heat to address safety concerns in a changing climate.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS.

- Need for access to air conditioning and heat (*See Climate & Sustainability*).

Reduce barriers to housing through social and supportive services; rental assistance and downpayment assistance; and eliminating credit checks, criminal records checks, and rental history requirements.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS AND HOUSING FORUM.

- Concern about barriers to housing access (renting and owning).
- Credit checks, affordability, rental history, criminal records/screening and access to funding support for renting and buying are policies that can create barriers to access.
- Name changes (esp. for women and LGBTQ+) are barriers to housing access.
- Undocumented residents pay extra for downpayments and pay taxes but do not get benefits of social security.

Increase housing and supportive services to reduce and prevent homelessness, including transitional housing services, supportive services for people on the verge of homelessness, and increased housing options.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY AND SUMMER ENGAGEMENT.

- Concern about prevalence of homelessness in Vancouver.
 - Summer engagement: Some community members were personally experiencing displacement or living out of their cars.
 - Community Survey: A few respondents commented on homelessness in response to a question about top issues impacting neighborhood health and wellbeing.
- Keep streets safe by addressing homelessness with built infrastructure, which will allow for children to travel more independently of adults.

- Support for transitional housing services. Lead with a housing-first model and implement transitional housing services.
- Need increased housing options for houseless individuals and supportive services to prevent houselessness and help people who are on the verge of houselessness keep their housing.
- Some opposition to spending public tax dollars on supportive services for houseless individuals in the Community Survey.

Equity and Inclusion

KEY TOPIC OVERLAPS: COMMUNITY FEEL AND VISION, INFRASTRUCTURE, PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES, LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Chapter Vision Statement Themes

- Intersectional Identities
- Past and ongoing exclusion
- Exclusionary practices, raciest and oppressive systems
- Reparative actions
- Increasing pathways to access and participation

Policy and Program Recommendations from Engagement

Evaluate all aspects of the Comprehensive Planning process in the context of historical injustice and systemic racism, exclusionary practices, and intersectionality to ensure that the new plan does not perpetuate harm.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS, SUMMER ENGAGEMENT AND CHAPTER VISION STATEMENT.

- Recognize historical injustice and systemic racism and make reparative actions.
- Be bold, clear, and transparent about these topics.
- Continue to maintain Vancouver's equitable and inclusive community environment and high quality of life (*see Community Feel and Vision*).

Be mindful of the needs of people with disabilities throughout the planning process and set design standards that are compatible with and/or exceed ADA accessibility requirements.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY AND SUMMER ENGAGEMENT.

- Importance of Designing with ADA accessibility in mind (*see Infrastructure, Public Facilities and Services*).
- Consider disabilities in the planning process.

Be deliberate in conducting outreach to and including people of diverse backgrounds in the Comprehensive Planning process.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY.

- Center diversity and inclusion in community events and planning.

- Desire for culturally specific resources in neighborhoods, like grocery stores and events (see *Land Use and Development*).

Increase supportive services for vulnerable populations in our community, especially youth, elders, and people with disabilities.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY, SUMMER ENGAGEMENT AND PIN MAP.

- Need for more services for youth and people with disabilities.
- Need for more supportive services for elders and older adults, including senior centers and senior living communities.
- Community Survey: Resources should be available to support the expected increase in senior residents over the next 20 years.

Climate, Environment, Community Health, Sustainability, and Resiliency

KEY TOPIC OVERLAPS: PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE, LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC SERVICES, EQUITY AND INCLUSION, TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

Chapter Vision Statement Themes

- Built and natural environment
- Climate adaptation and mitigation
- Heat islands
- Sustainable infrastructure and green spaces

Policy and Program Recommendations from Engagement

Consider holistic strategies to reduce air, water, and noise pollution across the City.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY.

- Concern about air, water, and noise pollution.
- Community Survey: air, water, and noise pollution was ranked as the top issue in response to a question about issues impacting neighborhood health and well-being.

Incorporate policies to increase tree canopy and urban shade, landscaping, community gardens, habitat protection, and access to green spaces.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY AND PIN MAP.

- Desire to preserve open space, minimize habitat destruction, and increase urban shade and landscaping.
- Develop more community gardens and plant native, pollinator plants in public spaces (*see Parks and Open Space*).
- Support for increasing the tree canopy.
- Community Survey: Access to green spaces was ranked third priority in response to a question about issues impacting neighborhood health and well-being (*see Parks and Open Space*).
- Community Survey: Habitat destruction was ranked fifth priority in response to a question about issues impacting neighborhood health and well-being.

- Pin Map: 6 pins were placed for increased landscaping, including shade and native plants, primarily in Central Vancouver. 2 pins were placed along the Waterfront to indicate need for increased shade.

Prioritize climate-friendly practices in land use, like closing streets to cars, technological innovations like using porous concrete, and conservation of forest and agricultural land.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY AND SUMMER ENGAGEMENT.

- Implement climate-friendly practices and priorities.
- Consider e-bike subsidies, closing streets to cars, and using porous concrete (*see Transportation and Mobility*).
- Consider long-term sustainability in land use practices (*see Land Use and Development*).
- Balance development with forest and agricultural land conservation.

Be deliberate in planning for climate change and resiliency, including considering urban heat islands, guarded power lines, shelter spaces, and neighborhood meeting points.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY SURVEY.

- Consider resiliency through tree canopy, guarded powerlines, shelter spaces, and meeting points.
- Concern about access to air conditioning and heat.
- Community Survey: Extreme weather events was ranked toward the bottom of priorities in response to a question about issues impacting neighborhood health and well-being.

Prioritize access to healthcare and social services and food and fresh produce in connected and accessible communities.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY.

- Need for increased access to healthcare and social services (*see Public Services, Land Use and Development*).
 - Community Survey: Access to healthcare and social services was ranked as second priority in response to the question about issues impacting neighborhood health and well-being. This was the most important priority for non-white respondents with incomes below \$50,000 or above \$150,000.

- Need for increased access to food and fresh produce.
 - Community Survey: Food insecurity was among the top four priorities in response to the question about issues impacting neighborhood health and well-being for respondents with incomes below \$90,000, and non-white respondents between the ages of 25-44 or with incomes above \$150,000.

Reduce barriers to accessing social services and recreation.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY.

- Need to improve accessibility of services and information for people of all abilities (*see Public Services, Parks and Recreation, Equity and Inclusion*).
- Community Survey: Accessibility of services, recreation, and information for people of all abilities was ranked fourth priority in response to the question about issues impacting neighborhood health and well-being.

Economic Opportunity

KEY TOPIC OVERLAPS: HOUSING, LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Chapter Vision Statement Themes

- Equitable, community-centered economic development
- Housing and childcare as key economic development strategies
- Breaking down barriers to entry
- Uplifting existing residents and workforce
- Upward mobility

Policy and Program Recommendations from Engagement

Prioritize providing neighborhood access to coffee shops, restaurants, and grocery stores.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS MEETINGS.

- Restaurants, coffee shops and grocery stores were most popular businesses to add to neighborhoods in the community survey.
- Coffee shops are particularly popular among respondents 24 years old and younger.
- Grocery stores were slightly more preferred among renters.
- Community Partners indicated local access to these types of businesses is a priority and added arts facilities and retail.

Consider a variety of uses and use cases for small business when developing land use and zoning codes – enable opportunities for flexible use space, food carts, and incubator spaces.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS.

- City should seek to provide incubator spaces, food carts, etc.
- Optimize underutilized spaces for business opportunities.
- Consider affordability – areas along the waterfront are not affordable or accessible to smaller businesses because of high rents.
- Displacement can have significant impacts for small businesses.

Encourage programs to provide workforce development opportunities and technical assistance for small and emerging businesses, especially for equity priority communities.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS, THE COMMUNITY SURVEY AND SUMMER ENGAGEMENT.

- Supporting small business was a common theme in all engagements.
- Community Partners suggested providing technical assistance for small businesses including resources around required licensing.

Prioritize youth education and developing workforce pipeline. Require large corporations and developers to support local workforce development priorities.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY SURVEY.

- Education disparity impacts access to economic opportunities.
- Community Partners recommended workshops focused on youth education.
- Large corporations attracting residents to the area should contribute to affordable housing and other strategies to support local workforce.

Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Community Well-Being

KEY TOPIC OVERLAPS: COMMUNITY FEEL AND VISION, CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT, EQUITY AND INCLUSION, PUBLIC FACILITIES

Chapter Vision Statement Themes

- Increased access to vibrant green spaces
- Adapting to climate change
- Embracing native plants and species
- Diverse recreational opportunities
- Interconnected community

Policy and Program Recommendations from Engagement

Maintain and improve access to existing parks, especially for non-white and low-income residents in Vancouver to increase feelings of belonging.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY, SUMMER ENGAGEMENT, AND PIN MAP.

- Access to parks and open space was reflected as top priority. People frequently commented on trails, positive aspects of recreational spaces, and community resources like libraries, parks, and community centers that respondents enjoy.
- In the Community Survey, most respondents indicated that it is somewhat or very easy to access parks and recreational facilities in their neighborhoods, although approximately 25% of non-white respondents indicated that it was somewhat or very difficult.
- Parks and public spaces encourage feelings of belonging (*see Community Feel and Vision*).
 - City parks, community centers, libraries, farmers markets, and the waterfront are common places to build community.
 - Connection to the natural environment also fostered a sense of belonging.

Develop new green and community spaces with a variety of uses and prioritize culturally specific needs. Ensure that these resources are free or have low-cost to reduce barriers to entry focused on youth.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY, SUMMER ENGAGEMENT, AND PIN MAP.

- Desire for more parks, green spaces, paths, trails, and other community resources (see *Climate and Environment*).
 - Community Members indicated parks and green spaces were a top priority, followed by community centers, performing arts venues and other arts-focused spaces, and libraries.
 - Additional suggestions included indoor recreation spaces, community pool, playgrounds, skateparks and pump tracks, museums, community events, trails, dog parks, and street trees.
 - Community Partners emphasized the importance of culturally specific organizations, parks, libraries and community centers.
- Desire for increased availability and accessibility of spaces outside of work and home, especially for youth (see *Community Feel and Vision, Equity and Inclusion*).
- Low-cost and free activities were particularly important to access and feelings of belonging (see *Community Feel and Vision, Equity and Inclusion*).

Seek resources to maintain and improve existing amenities at existing parks and playgrounds around the City.

FEEDBACK FROM PIN MAP.

- Suggestions at playgrounds included making structures safer, using non-toxic materials, maintenance to remove litter, and inclusive design (see *Equity and Inclusion, Public Facilities*).
- Suggestions at parks included increased parking and bathroom facilities, especially at Wintler and Marine Parks.

Transportation and Mobility

KEY TOPIC OVERLAPS: INFRASTRUCTURE, PARKS AND RECREATION, ANNEXATION

Chapter Vision Statement Themes

- Equitable and connected transportation options
- Prioritize reliability and frequency
- Multi-modal options
- Remove barriers to new modes
- Integrated transportation hubs
- Enhanced regional connectivity

Policy and Program Recommendations from Engagement

Increase transit options, including bus rapid transit, bus routes, and light rail to Portland, especially on the outskirts of the City and connecting to the Vancouver Urban Growth Area.

FEEDBACK FROM ALL ENGAGEMENT.

- Need for more and improved transit options, including increased bus routes and bus rapid transit, and a light rail line to Portland (*see Infrastructure*).
 - Community Survey: Youth were more likely to select or comment on increased transit as priority.
- Privileged people take independence afforded by transportation for granted. If you rely solely on public transit for transportation, the lack of it is a barrier to access (*see Equity*).
- Need increased transit especially on outskirts of the City, especially as it relates to housing displacement.
 - Pin map: 8 pins were placed in areas where more transit was needed, primarily in East Vancouver.
- Need for increased transit between Vancouver and unincorporated areas to the north, including Battle Ground (*see Annexation*).

Increase and improve convenience of transit stops, including adding shelter.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS AND HOUSING FORUM.

- Need for greater accessibility and convenience of transit stops, including shelter.
- Importance of making sure that transit is and feels welcoming and safe to use.

Consider strategies to balance need for parking while reducing underutilized space currently dedicated to parking.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY, HOUSING FORUM, AND PIN MAP.

- Mixed feelings about availability of parking: some people would like to see less space used for parking, others are concerned about parking being removed.
 - Housing Forum: people expressed worry about parking being removed.
 - Pin Map: 10 pins were placed where there was too much underutilized space for parking.
- When thinking about development, we need to make sure that there is enough parking and facilities to handle new development (*see Infrastructure*).

Reduce traffic congestion and incorporate strategies to manage speeding and improve safety on local streets.

FEEDBACK FROM PIN MAP AND COMMUNITY SURVEY.

- Concern about traffic safety and speeding (*see Law Enforcement*).
 - Pin Map: 11 pins were placed in locations indicating traffic congestion, speeding, and concerns about safety and 5 pins were placed in areas with concerns about safety and noise related to industrial traffic. 4 pins were placed in areas where participants suggested traffic calming measures.
- Need for strategies to address traffic congestion and commuting concerns.
- Need for clean and safe roads by addressing street maintenance and potholes, especially on-ramps on highways.

Improve pedestrian facilities across the City by adding sidewalks, ADA ramps, crosswalks, lighting, and connected walkways.

FEEDBACK FROM PIN MAP, COMMUNITY SURVEY AND SUMMER ENGAGEMENT.

- Widespread support for multimodal transportation.
- Need for more pedestrian friendly development, like sidewalks, ADA crosswalks, and connected walkways.
 - Pin Map: 6 pins were added to identify locations for new pedestrian sidewalks and crosswalks.
- Need for pedestrian improvements to increase accessibility to parks (*see Parks and Recreation*).

- Increase street lighting, especially along pedestrian facilities (see *Infrastructure*).

Improve bike facilities, including separated bike lanes, and improve maintenance of existing facilities to prioritize cyclist safety.

FEEDBACK FROM PIN MAP, COMMUNITY SURVEY AND SUMMER ENGAGEMENT.

- Need for improved bike facilities, including separated bike lanes, and improved maintenance of existing bike facilities.
 - Community survey: Most responses were supportive of bike lanes, but a few responses were opposed to converting parking and roadway to bike lanes.
 - Pin Map: 9 pins were added to suggest new or improved bike lanes.
- Importance of fostering a sense of safety and promoting physical safety of cyclists.

Plan for, enable, and encourage opportunities for micromobility options like electric scooters/bikes and bike share.

FEEDBACK FROM PIN MAP.

- Improve access to micromobility options like electric scooters and bike share systems.

Infrastructure, Public Facilities and Services, and Utilities

KEY TOPIC OVERLAPS: TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY, ANNEXATION, COMMUNITY FEEL AND VISION, HOUSING, EQUITY AND INCLUSION, COMMUNITY HEALTH, COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Chapter Vision Statement Themes

- Leverage existing investments
- Efficient and equitable growth
- Mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Equitable access to programs and resources
- Strategic Distribution
- Social Infrastructure

Policy and Program Recommendations from Engagement

Consider cultural differences and plan for a broad variety of use cases in infrastructure development.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS.

- There is a lack of historical consideration of cultural differences in infrastructure development.

Pursue strategies to improve existing public utilities and provide new utilities while avoiding cost increases to users.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY, SUMMER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS.

- Concern about cost of public utilities, including water, sewer, garbage and electricity.
- Desire for improved stormwater management and drainage.
- The City should focus on improving existing infrastructure rather than expanding (*see Annexation*).
- Suggestion to provide City-wide access to free internet.

Enforce existing traffic safety laws and codes to improve safety, reduce illegal parking, and maintain aesthetics.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY AND SUMMER ENGAGEMENT.

- Need for more enforcement of traffic safety laws and speed limits (*see Transportation and Mobility*).

- Community Survey: Desire for increased law enforcement presence was particularly strong among respondents over age 65 or with an income of less than \$50,000, though a few shared concerns about police corruption.
- Need for code enforcement to address illegal parking.
- Need for code enforcement to address litter and unmaintained building facades (see *Community Feel and Vision*).
- Community Survey: A few respondents commented on crime and public safety concerns in response to a question about top issues impacting neighborhood health and wellbeing.

Ensure that all parts of the City are reachable by fire trucks and emergency services.

FEEDBACK FROM SUMMER ENGAGEMENT.

- Concern about road infrastructure being inadequate to enable fire trucks and emergency services to quickly reach parts of the City where roads are narrow (See Transportation and Mobility).

Increase support for and availability of emergency and health services.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY AND SUMMER ENGAGEMENT.

- Need for more support for emergency and health services, including affordable mental health services, disaster preparedness and resilience hubs, resources for houseless communities, drug prevention and rehabilitation programs, family planning programs, and other social justice programs (see *Housing, Equity and Inclusion, Community Health, Community Well-Being*).
 - Community Survey: Access to healthcare and social services was particularly important to non-white respondents.
- Services for houseless community members, youth, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and people living in poverty were also identified as priorities (see *Housing, Equity and Inclusion*).

Annexation

KEY TOPIC OVERLAPS: INFRASTRUCTURE

Chapter Vision Statement Themes

- Sustainable, balanced growth
- Urban levels of service
- Logical boundaries
- Sense of pride, place, character, and identity

Policy and Program Recommendations from Engagement

Plan to conduct additional community engagement when considering annexing new areas within the Urban Growth Area.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY AND SUMMER ENGAGEMENT.

- Support for prioritizing annexation of areas within Vancouver's Urban Growth Area.
- Discussion and questions about timeline for annexing Hazel Dell neighborhood.
- A few people commented that the City should not annex unincorporated areas.

Seek to maintain and improve existing infrastructure while considering expanding service.

FEEDBACK FROM SUMMER ENGAGEMENT.

- One person suggested focusing on improving existing infrastructure rather than expanding (*see Infrastructure*).

Outreach and Engagement Method Lessons Learned

Prioritize youth, black and Hispanic community members in future outreach and engagement by continuing to partner with local community-based organizations and utilizing community partner connections and networks.

Based on demographic information collected, the project team engaged with youth, black and Hispanic populations less than other populations in Vancouver.

Track engagement input from in-person events with more consistent methods for accountability of implementation by requiring reporting and systems in place be utilized.

Due to the variety of engagement methods, audiences and formats, input was not collected as consistently as is possible.

When hosting events, make presentation materials more accessible to community members with less technical jargon, more communal and interactive environments, translated materials and interpretation available.

Based on field notes, the housing forum content could have been less technical, interpreters were available in multiple languages, but materials were not translated into all languages, and the environment felt more formal than many community members feel comfortable with.

Next Steps

- Input from phase 1 engagement will continue to be used as the project progresses. Community members will be able to provide feedback on reflections during small group sessions.
- In phase 2 engagement, the project team will be conducting City-wide mapping activities that community members can select where to place various housing types to utilize their input in zoning codes within the comprehensive plan.