

Davie Village: *Space for People*

Engagement Summary Report Phase II

December 2024



Land Acknowledgement

Davie Village is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, who have lived on these lands since time immemorial.

On June 25, 2024, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Action Plan was formally adopted by Vancouver City Council. The UNDRIP Action Plan implements the long-term Vancouver UNDRIP Strategy, endorsed by the City Council in 2022. The co-developed action plan sets the course for the City of Vancouver's work with local Nations over the next five years.

Davie Village: Space for People is an opportunity to advance this reconciliation work. The City of Vancouver will continue to collaborate with local Nations to advance meaningful relationships and to reflect Indigenous histories in this project.

There are a number of resources available to learn about the Nations and their ongoing relationship with the land which is now known as the City of Vancouver:

Musqueam Indian Band: musqueam.bc.ca

Squamish Nation: squamish.net

Tsleil-Waututh Nation: twnation.ca

Please visit our website to learn more about Vancouver's designation as a City of Reconciliation: <https://vancouver.ca/peopleprograms/city-of-reconciliation>



Executive Summary

Davie Village: Space for People shares a proposed design for three blocks of Davie Street.

The City of Vancouver is planning walking and public space changes on the West End commercial streets starting with Davie Village. This is part of our commitment to deliver the [West End Community Plan \(2013\)](#).

The West End Community Plan identified Davie Village as the section of Davie Street between Burrard and Jervis streets. It emphasized the importance of supporting businesses and enhancing Davie Village as a space for local celebration and gathering. It also highlights the importance of making a walkable and welcoming environment in Davie Village.

After engaging with businesses and the public in 2023 about their needs and aspirations for the street, we shared a proposed design for Davie Village with the community in February 2024. Community perspectives are important

to the design team as they can inform design adjustments and help the project better meet community needs. Further, they can help the design develop, from a high-level concept to a detailed design that can then be built.

This report shares back community perspectives on a new design proposal for Davie Village, from public engagement in early 2024.

Davie Village is an important cultural and social gathering place for West End communities, and especially for the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Our 2023 on-street visitor survey heard from a lot of West End residents (60% of respondents), and our 2024 public survey heard from a representative sample of local residents. Respondents who identified as Indigenous made up 2.5% of public survey responses, which is proportionate to the West End population. Additionally, 40% of public survey respondents identified as part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Below: Davie Village: Space for People project area and its surrounding context



This project delivers on three objectives

The **Davie Village: Space for People** design proposal introduces wider sidewalks on Davie Street (between Jervis and Burrard streets) to meet three key community objectives:

More space to stroll



Support for local businesses



A welcoming and vibrant street



The project's three objectives are rooted in previous public engagement findings. In 2023, [communities told us](#) that transportation and public space changes could focus on a better pedestrian experience, more reliable transit, more comfortable places to sit or eat together, a greener street with healthier trees, and a celebration of what's special about Davie Village.

The Davie Village: Space for People design proposal aims to deliver on these objectives by making design changes to the street:

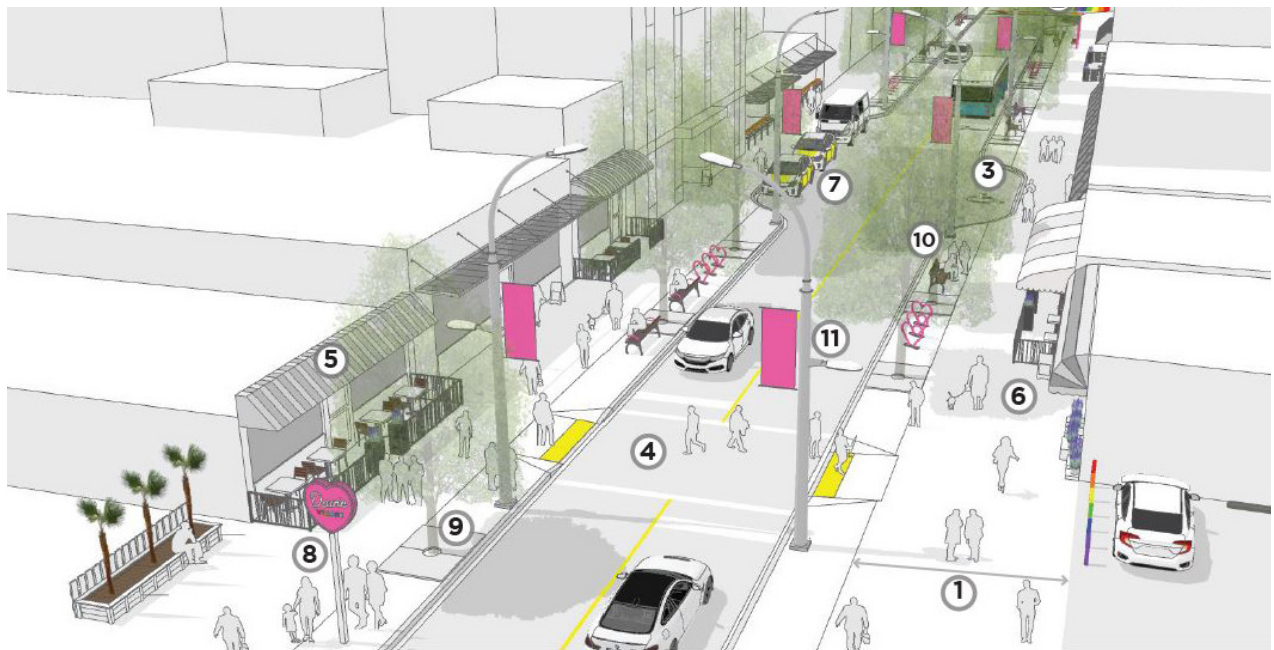
More space to stroll: Wider sidewalks, mid-block crossings, and more space around bus stops. Visitors with accessibility needs are supported with smoother sidewalks and more accessible parking.

Support local businesses: More space for accessible patios, located on the sidewalk, next to businesses. Curbside vehicle stopping space is used more efficiently, with pick-up/drop-off spots in front of or close to businesses or services. Bike parking is increased, and spots are in clusters, to improve the arrival experience.

A more welcoming and vibrant street: New trees with more space for roots to grow. More places to sit and socialize together. Partnerships that recognize Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh) and Tsleil-Waututh (səlilwətaɬ) history and culture. Celebration of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Ongoing stewardship partnerships with the business community and other community groups.

Key findings from public engagement

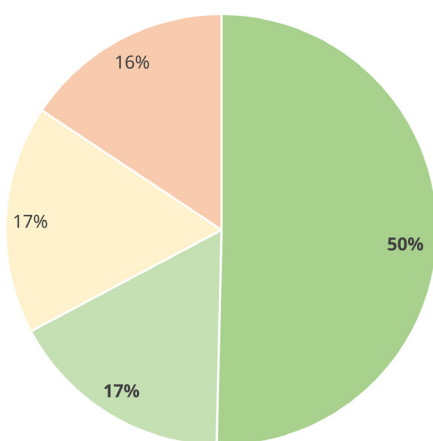
Below: Artistic visualisation of how *Davie Village: Space for People* could look between Thurlow Street and Bute Street, after construction.



- ① Sidewalks are wide and smooth, so people can walk together side by side
- ② Bus stops have more space to wait, and to stroll past
- ③ Accessible parking spot
- ④ Safe place to cross mid-block
- ⑤ Outdoor patios are up on the sidewalk, a more comfortable spot to eat together
- ⑥ Patios and displays have more room and don't block walking space
- ⑦ Curbside spots for quick stops, where passengers can be picked up or dropped off
- ⑧ The Heart of Davie sign is out on the street, recognising community work on 2SLGBTQ+ visibility and rights
- ⑨ Under our sidewalks, trees have more space to grow, rainwater is collected and cleaned
- ⑩ Evenly spaced benches provide rest spots
- ⑪ Sidewalk space is well lit

Strong overall support for the Davie Village project

A total of 1,093 people responded to the *Davie Village: Space for People* public survey. Most either **fully supported** the design or liked **most elements**. Only one in six didn't like it.



Left: Responses to the survey question "Do you support what is proposed in this design?" (Davie Village public survey, February 2024)

- Yes, I fully support it
- I like most elements
- I like some elements, but I have some concerns
- I don't like it

Did support vary across different groups?

Young people were more likely to support the proposed design than older respondents. **80%** of respondents under 29 years of age expressed support, compared to less than half among those aged 70 years or older.

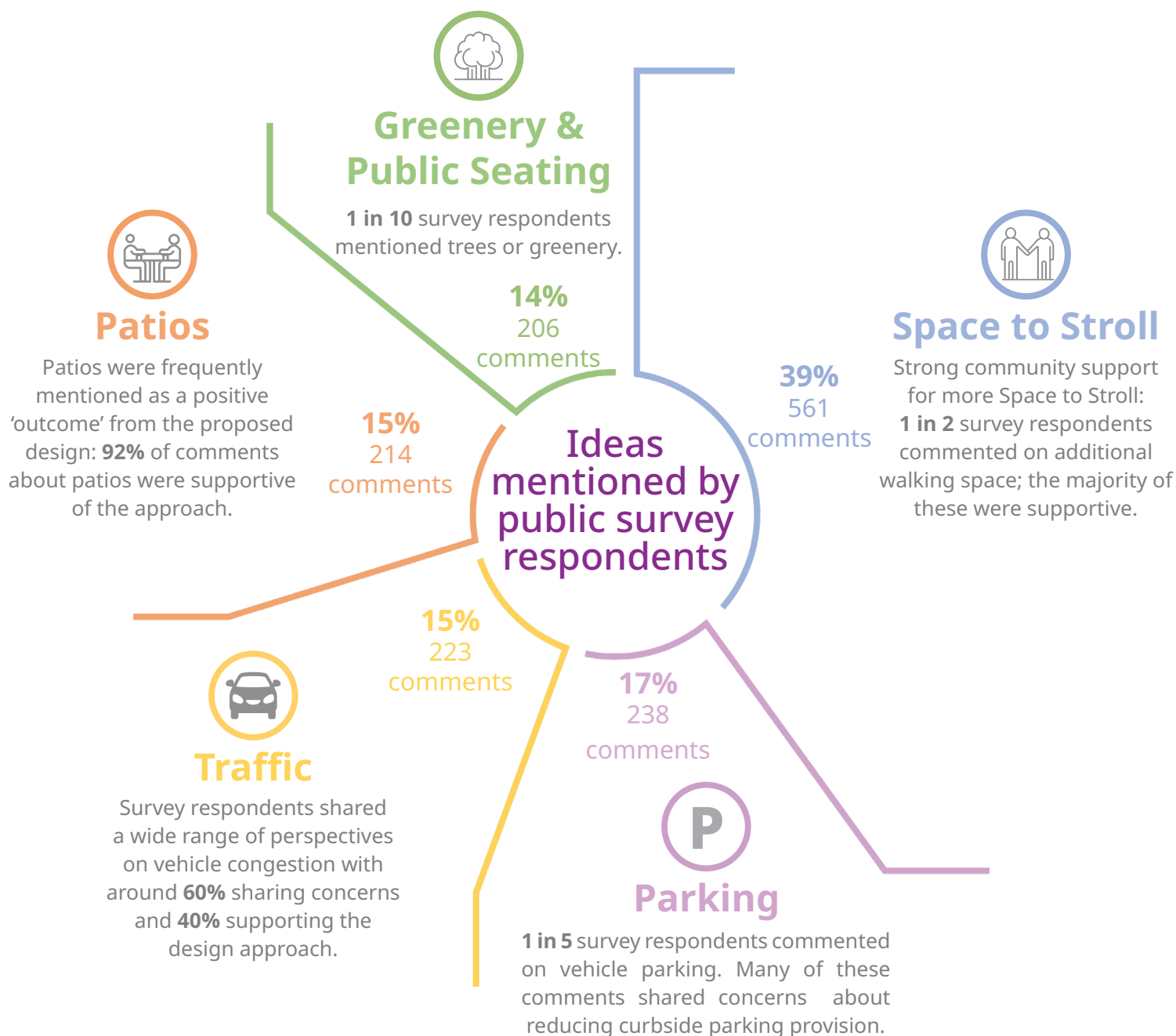
77% of respondents who identified as 2SLGBTQ+ supported the proposed design.

Visitors to Davie Village expressed higher levels of support for the design (**75%**) than local residents (**65%**).

Among indigenous respondents (27 total), the level of support was slightly lower, at **63%**.

For respondents who had a disability, overall support dropped to **53%**, with 24% saying they didn't like it.

Overall, communities placed most emphasis on five areas of feedback



Mixed views on transit stop consolidation

To provide faster and more reliable transit service, the proposed design removes four bus stops on Davie Street, two at Jarvis Street and two at Thurlow Street. This change supports [TransLink's bus stop balancing](#) work.

Overall, **38-42% support** this approach, 24-31% disagree with it, with views varying depending on the bus stop. Opposition to the removal of the Thurlow Street stops is stronger than the Jarvis Street stops. Respondents over the age of 70, who did not identify as having a disability, were most likely to oppose this.

Communities support new public seating

The proposed design would increase the number of public benches and introduce a new shared seating area. The benches would be located at regular intervals throughout Davie Village to create places to stop and rest, and the seating area would replace the existing public parklet near the intersection with Thurlow Street.

Overall, we heard support for our proposed approach.

About half of survey respondents felt that there were **enough public benches** proposed in the design and about **one quarter** disagreed. Nearly 25% people felt that one **shared seating area** was enough whereas **50%** disagreed.

Proposed design meets curbside needs

The proposed design would reallocate existing curbside vehicle parking space to allow for wider sidewalks. Some vehicle spots would remain for pick-up and drop-off and accessible parking.

Vehicle parking was raised frequently in written responses, particularly among respondents who didn't support the design. However, **two thirds** of respondents told us their needs could be met with the number of vehicle stopping spots proposed, or even fewer.

Next steps – phased implementation

The Davie Village: Space for People project will be delivered in two phases.

The blocks between Thurlow and Bute streets will be built first. The design team will now take the design concept to develop detailed technical drawings.

The 1000 block (between Thurlow and Burrard streets) will be built later. Here, we heard a diversity of feedback including strong support for additional space to stroll. However, some businesses expressed concerns about the negative impact that curbside parking loss could have on their sales.

Additionally, reviewing vehicle parking needs in proximity to medical services, including at 1033 Davie Street, is necessary to support accessibility needs.

More significant land use changes are also proposed on this block, and later delivery allows for further technical studies to be carried out to inform the most appropriate design here.

In the future, additional community and business engagement will inform how staff review options for the 1000 block, prior to more detailed design.