ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

Part 1: May-July 2022

November 2022



RUPERT + RENFREW

Station Area Plan

CITY OF VANCOUVER

INTRODUCTION

In November 2021, the City of Vancouver initiated a planning process for the area around the Rupert and Renfrew SkyTrain stations. When complete, the Rupert and Renfrew Station Area Plan will guide growth and change in alignment with the Vancouver Plan and other City policies. Following Council's approval of the project's Terms of References, staff begin a first phase of public engagement in May 2022.

The following document provides a summary of the engagement process to date for the Rupert and Renfrew Station Area Plan. Building on the goals and vision of the Vancouver Plan, this first phase of engagement was designed to solicit input, build partnerships and promote awareness of the planning program. As part of this process, staff engaged with members of the public, development industry, and government stakeholders with the goals of 1) testing agreement on the Early Directions, 2) identifying community assets and gaps, and 3) receiving ideas on plan directions and priorities. The Early Directions were informed by the Vancouver Plan's Three Big Ideas ("Equitable Housing & Complete Neighbourhoods", "An Economy that Works for All", and "Climate Protection & Restored Ecosystems").

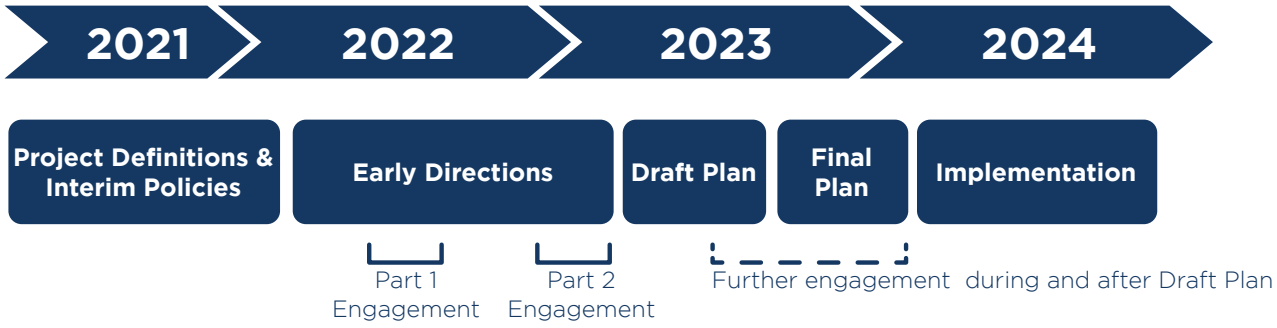
Spanning the course of 10 weeks (from May through July 2022), Phase 1 Engagement encompassed a range of methods: online survey, neighbourhood mapping, pop-up events, open houses, community workshops, and stakeholder meetings with industry representatives, non-profits, and local governmnet agencies. Staff also held targeted workshops with equity-denied groups, including Indigenous people, youth, seniors, and low-income earners. This approach provided an effective way to reach a broad audience while collecting input from experts and groups historically left out of municipal conversations.

The feedback received was analysed and synthesized to inform draft policies, recommendations, and corresponding technical analysis.

Additional consultation is planned for early 2023 and will include further public engagement and a check-back with industry stakeholders, and equity-denied groups. Feedback from the technical work and engagement will be used to develop a draft plan, including choices between different options for the types, locations, and sizes of new buildings across the area. We will seek input on the draft plan in Q2 2023 and input on a final draft in Q3 2023. We anticipate bringing a final plan to Council for approval in Q1 2024.

PROJECT TIMELINE

AS OF OCTOBER 2022





SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

SURVEY RESULTS

The City ran an online survey from May 5 to June 24, 2022 to gather public input and receive feedback on the Draft Early Directions. The survey was hosted on the City's online engagement hub, Shape Your City, and was translated in Traditional Chinese. Interpretation services in Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog and Vietnamese were offered over the phone to those seeking additional language assistance.

Staff also distributed the survey to community members at in-person events such as open houses and neighbourhood pop-up sessions. Residents were asked various questions on key topics including housing, transportation, natural ecosystems, public spaces, community services, and arts and culture. Overall, we received 300 responses and over 1,600 open-ended comments. Key highlights are summarized below.

304
completed surveys

+1,600
comments

- **Early Directions:** General agreement on the draft Early Directions, particularly those related to protecting and adding job space in the Employment Lands, adding more housing options in the surrounding areas and comments supporting making the area more vibrant, walkable, and bikeable.
- **Housing:** Strong support for more housing options, especially for families and moderate-income renters.
- **Nature:** Wide support was noted for restoring natural ecosystems, especially bird and wildlife habitat, particularly for Still Creek and the Renfrew Ravine.
- **Community Services:** Childcare was identified as the most desired service in the community, followed closely by libraries, pools and fitness facilities.
- **Arts and Culture:** Respondents noted the absence of cultural and artistic spaces and events, or a lack of awareness of existing amenities. Strong support was indicated for increasing arts and culture in the area.
- **Transportation:** Strong support for improved cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, especially separated bike lanes, and better sidewalks. There was also wide support for more frequent bus service and traffic calming.
- **Public Spaces:** Strong agreement on the need to enhance parks and green areas to improve enjoyment and accessibility (e.g. adding more benches, trees, picnic tables and outdoor covered areas).

NEIGHBOURHOOD MAPPING RESULTS, PART I

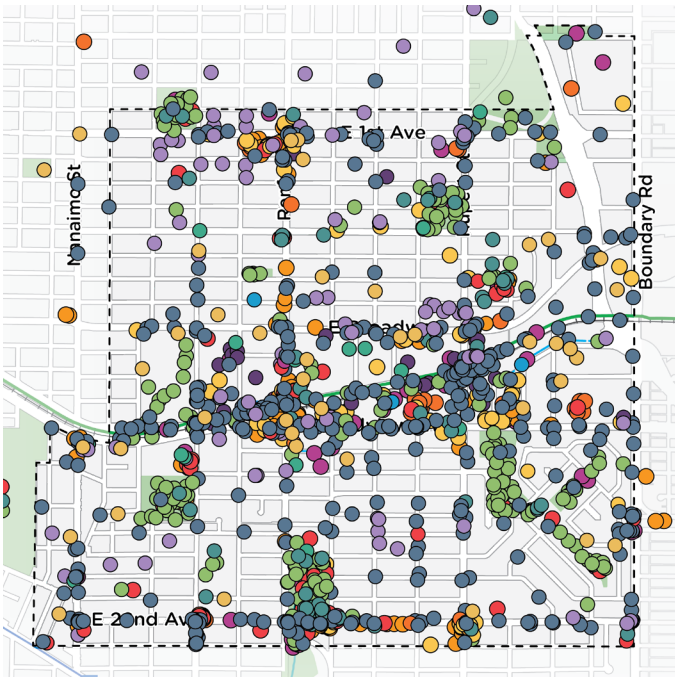
Various mapping activities were conducted between May and July 2022. The public was invited to identify locations in the Rupert-Renfrew area that were important to them and the neighbourhood as well as opportunities for improvement. Input was collected online through the Shape Your City platform as well as through various in-person events, including open houses, community pop-up events, and meetings with groups who have been historically left out of municipal planning such as Chinese seniors, Indigenous people, youth, and low-income people. In total, over 350 people participated in the neighbourhood mapping, providing over 1,500 comments.

350
contributors

1,500
comments

NEIGHBOURHOOD MAPPING

This image shows the breadth of comments collected as part of the asset mapping activities.



- Unique
- Neighbourhood Heart
- Groceries
- Restaurants & Other Food Services
- Shops & Stores
- Parks, Plazas & Open Spaces
- Arts & Culture Spaces
- Community Services
- Transit
- Walking/ Rolling
- Driving/Parking
- Housing

WHAT WE HEARD (TOP RESPONSES)

Places people especially love:

- Renfrew Community Centre
- Still Creek & Renfrew Ravine
- Thunderbird Community Centre
- Cherry Blossoms
- Italian Cultural Centre
- Local Parks

What parks and open spaces do people use?

- Falaise Park
- Beaconsfield Park
- Sunrise Park
- Clinton Park
- Renfrew Ravine & Still Creek

Where do people shop?

- Superstore
- Banana Grove Market and Deli
- Walmart
- 1st Avenue Marketplace

What community services are important?

- Renfrew Community Centre & Library
- Thunderbird Community Centre
- Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House

What arts and culture space do people love?

- Lu'ma
- VIVO Media Arts
- Renfrew Ravine Moon Festival

Where do people go for a drink or bite to eat?

- 1st Avenue Marketplace
- Ragazzi Pizza
- Strip mall at Grandview Hwy and Renfrew St

NEIGHBOURHOOD MAPPING RESULTS, PART II

We also heard about areas in need of improvement. The key themes below are organized below according to their connection to the Three Big Ideas presented in the Vancouver Plan. These Big Ideas guide the land use strategy and direction for the development of policies for the Rupert and Renfrew Station Area Plan.

BIG IDEA #1: Equitable Housing & Complete Neighbourhoods

What we heard:

- More affordable housing options across the income spectrum
- More housing options in missing middle forms or beyond 6-storeys
- Opportunities for more density on and off arterials
- Opportunities to integrate housing with other amenities
- More childcare and after-school care spaces needed
- Lack of spaces in which to gather and socialize (plazas, patios, etc.)

BIG IDEA #2: An Economy that Works for All

What we heard:

- Lack of independent, local-serving retail
- Opportunities for more restaurants, pubs and cafes
- Lack of arts/studio spaces
- Need to protect and intensify Employment Lands
- Opportunities for more job space around transit stations
- More local-serving grocery stores

BIG IDEA #3: Climate Protection & Restored Ecosystems

What we heard:

- Enhance Still Creek
- Protect Renfrew Ravine
- Enchance cycling network
- Improve walkability in the jobs lands
- Opportunities for more community gardens
- Plant more trees in public spaces
- Upgrade sidewalk infrastructure
- Need for safer intersections

OTHER THEMES:

- More traffic calming & noise mitigation
- Lack of off-leash dog parks
- Need to upgrade playgrounds
- Create more shaded areas
- Upgrade public washrooms

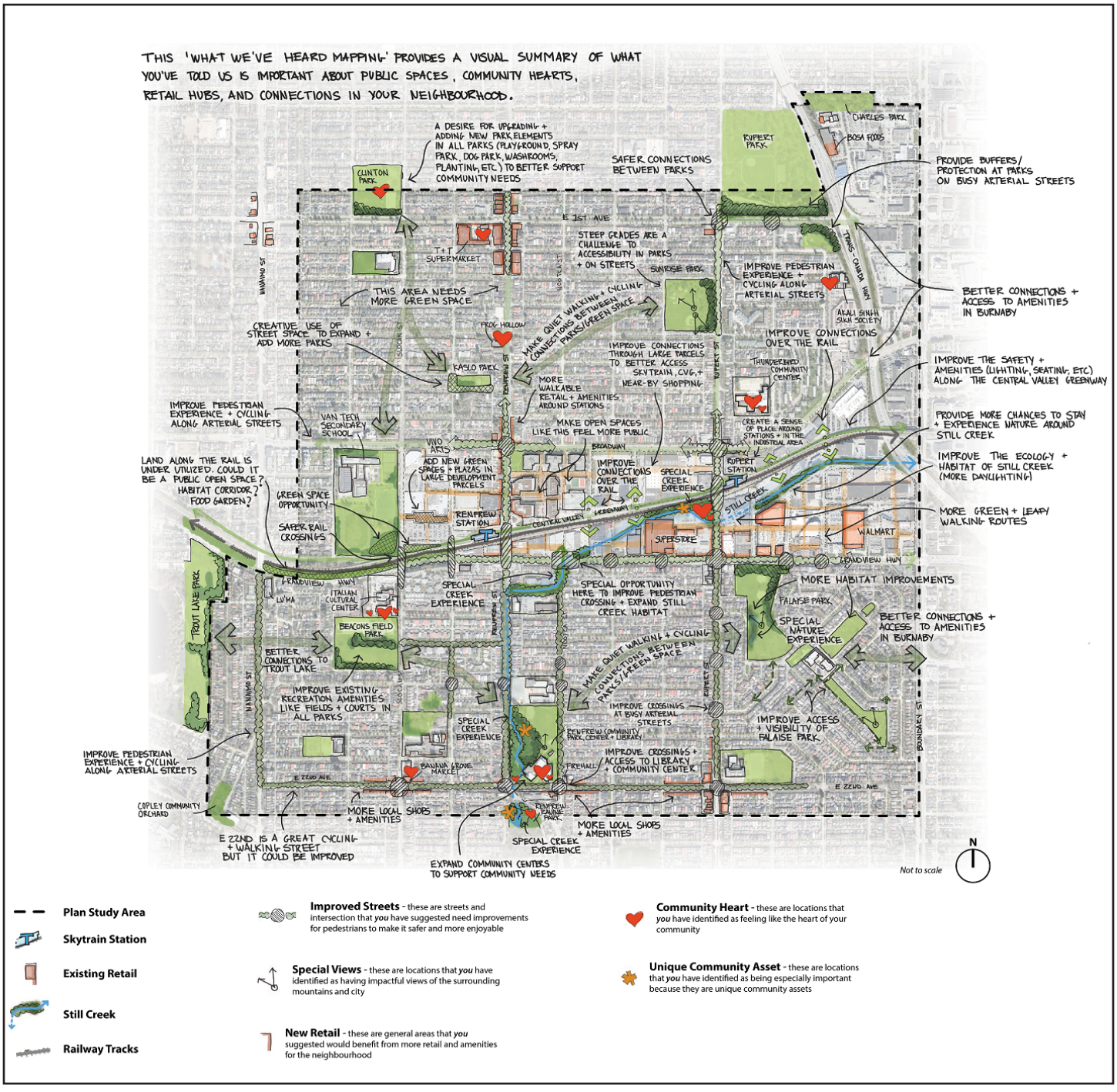




NEIGHBOURHOOD MAPPING RESULTS, PART III

'WHAT WE'VE HEARD' MAPPING

This map provides a visual summary of the what you've told us is important about public spaces, community hearts, retail hubs and connections in your neighbourhood. This feedback will help staff understand ways to consider future growth and public realm improvements based on the current conditions while developing the Rupert and Renfrew Station Area Plan.



USING YOUR INPUT

How are we using your input from the neighbourhood mapping activities?

For the Rupert and Renfrew Station Area Plan, we are taking this input and using it to inform and shape the Plan's policies and actions. For instance:

INPUT

We heard about the need to improve cycling infrastructure in the study area. Draft Early Directions include creating a safer, more comfortable, and more fine-grained active transportation network.

OUTPUT

Potential near-terms improvement could include protected mobility lanes on E 22nd Ave, and the creation of the Eastside Crosscut Greenway (identified as a Council priority, with more detailed engagement tentatively scheduled for late 2023).

Other examples of how your input is shaping the plan:

1. We heard that large fenced in blocks along major roads restricts walking and cycling connections to opportunities from rapid transit and other locations. Examples of new connections for walking and rolling through large site developments include providing an improved pedestrian connection between Cornett and Rupert Street.
2. We heard strong support to upgrade the Renfrew Community Centre. Renfrew Community Center has been identifed in the top three centers with high priority for renewal in the Vancouver Park Board's Community Center Renewal Strategy, and is awaiting capital plan funding.
3. Many have said to open up and expand Still Creek. The City is in the process of updating the 2002 Still Creek Enhancement Study which will help guide updated creek corridor daylighting opportunities.

