What We Heard Report: Child and Youth

Phase 3 Engagement 2021



CITY OF VANCOUVER | Vancouver Plan

Planning Vancouver Together

Acknowledging the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations

This place is the unceded and ancestral homelands of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ and Sḵwxwú7mesh speaking peoples, the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations (MST), and has been traditionally stewarded by them since time immemorial. These lands continue to be occupied by settlers, and Indigenous peoples face ongoing dispossession and colonial violence. Despite systematic and institutional efforts to eradicate their communities and cultures, the resilience, strength, and wisdom of MST have allowed them to revitalize their languages and cultures, and exercise sovereignty over their lands.

Recognizing the lives, cultures, languages, and peoples of this land, the process of Planning Vancouver Together seeks to build on our commitment as a City of Reconciliation. Through the Vancouver Plan, we hope to strengthen reciprocal relationships with each of the three host Nations to ensure we move forward together toward a city truly worthy of this amazing place. Settler Vancouver residents have a responsibility to the host Nations and the Indigenous peoples that have stewarded these lands to tangible actions and a commitment to reconciliation through decolonization.

Date of Engagement: October 25 to December 3, 2021

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Young Planners



1. Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

From its launch in 2019 the Vancouver Plan public engagement program has been structured to prioritize and advance equity through the development of activities specifically targeted to equity-denied communities, which includes children and youth.

As part of Phase 3, Emerging Directions - Three Foundational Principles, Three Big Ideas, Three Areas of Change, the City developed a specialized program of engagement for children and youth and related stakeholder groups. Activities built on the relationships, activities, and resources developed with these "young planners" in Phases 1 and 2. Through this multi-faceted program City staff recorded 782 engagement interactions in Phase 3.

Age-appropriate activities included:

- Youth survey (276 participants)
- 13 Youth workshops (248 participants)
- Young Planners Design Studio – supported by youth facilitators paired with an architect or urban designer (33 participants)
- Post-secondary partnership events with students at City Studio/SFU and UBC CAPACity (105 participants)
- Additional information sessions and updates (120 Participants)
- Youth-focused educational portal with information on the planning process (550 video views)

Combined, these provided Vancouver's youngest residents a range of opportunities to discuss the three Big Ideas and provide their preferences for how growth and change should be directed in the three Areas of Change.

Other related activities involved stakeholder meetings with key partners and collaborators, including representatives from Community Centres and Neighbourhood Houses, the Vancouver School Board, post-secondary institutions, and a longer workshop on emerging policy directions with the City's Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee.[1]

Engagement activities were designed to incorporate questions (or age-friendly variants thereof) drawn from the City's broader Phase 3 program. This gave children and youth the opportunity to consider the same larger questions about the future of Vancouver as other participants. Owing to their format, each activity covered Phase 3 subject matter in different ways. The youth survey invited feedback on Key Priorities, the Big Ideas and Areas of Change, while the workshops, Design Studio and post-secondary partnerships focused mostly on Areas of Change (while also encouraging survey participation).

The following is a synopsis of key findings on Key Priorities, the three Big Ideas and three Areas of Change, comprised of input from all child and youth engagement activities. Section 2 of this report includes detailed results for each activity. Additional information about Phase 3 Public Engagement is available at vancouverplan.ca.







Phase 3: Child and Youth Engagement Key Findings

Key Priorities (Youth Survey Responses):

Drawing on the same list as found in Question 1 of the main survey, youth survey respondents were invited to rank their top priorities for the Vancouver Plan. The following results are based on the number of times each was ranked as most important or second most important.

[1] As with earlier Vancouver Plan work, this phase was supported by a range of partnerships including Community Centre and Youth Worker collaborations, Neighbourhood Houses, the Vancouver School Board and CityStudio. Additionally, the City's Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee participated in three sessions where they provided input on the overall youth engagement program and a working session on the emerging policy directions.

1. Add Affordable Rental housing in neighbourhoods all across the city (46%)
2. Protect the Environment and Natural Spaces (36%)
3. Reduce Vancouver's Carbon Footprint (26%)
4. Create streets for people where it's easy and safe to walk, bike and roll (17%)
5. Add 'Missing Middle' housing like duplexes, townhouses, and low-rise apartment buildings in neighbourhoods all across the city (13%)
6. Provide shops, services, and things to do in more neighbourhoods across the city (12%)
7. Protect small, locally-owned businesses (9%)
8. Help more people access nature and parks by increasing these spaces all across the city (7%)
9. Create spaces for new jobs like office buildings and manufacturing plants (6%)
9. Retain neighbourhood character and identity (or the look and feel of the streets and buildings) (6%)
9. Provide for childcare in more neighbourhoods all across the city (6%)
12. Provide arts, entertainment and cultural spaces in more neighbourhoods across the city (5%)

Three Big Ideas (Survey Responses):

Survey respondents were provided an opportunity to share their thoughts on a series of questions on the three Big Ideas that had been adapted from the main Vancouver Plan survey.

Big Idea 1: Equitable Housing and Complete Neighbourhoods

Participants were invited to share their perspective on the types of housing that might be appropriate in neighbourhoods, their level of support for higher buildings for rental or non-market housing, and the elements and amenities that they felt would make their neighbourhoods more complete.

Through their feedback, respondents indicated a desire to see a variety of different housing types allowed in neighbourhoods across the city, with roughly equal levels of support (61%-62%) for Townhouses and Multiplexes, Mid-rise Apartments, and Single Detached Dwellings and Duplexes. Similar levels of support were also noted for Mixed-Use Apartments (a choice not available on the main survey) (63%).

Survey responses also indicated high levels of agreement (75% combined somewhat agree and strongly agree) with the statement that "Vancouver should create more affordable housing (rental and non-market housing units) by allowing for taller buildings with more housing units in all neighbourhoods across the city."

Participants were further invited to identify the sorts of shops, services and amenities that they wanted to see in their neighbourhood. Of these, the top five most popular responses were Grocery Stores (69%), Places to eat or drink (68%), Access to transit (62%), Public spaces (60%), and Safe paths for walking and biking (58%).

Big Idea 2: An Economy that Works for All

One survey question discussed the protection and intensification of industrial lands and job-creating uses. Participants were asked if Vancouver should "keep these areas for jobs and/or try to develop even more kinds of industries and jobs on them." 58% of respondents somewhat or strongly agreed with this statement, while approximately a third (32%) of respondents indicated that they were neutral.

Big Idea 3: Climate Protection and Restored Ecosystems

Survey participants were asked three questions related to the last of the three Big Ideas: These provided respondents an opportunity to weigh in on several topics: how they want to move through their neighbourhoods, the use of environmentally friendly construction materials and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas.

- 84% of respondents somewhat or strongly agreed that "Vancouver needs to make it easier and safer to walk, bike, roll, or take transit in my neighbourhood;"
- 80% agreed that "Vancouver should make everyone use environmentally-friendly construction methods and materials in new buildings and renovations of older buildings;"
- 94% agreed that "Vancouver should protect important natural spaces like shorelines, floodplains and sensitive habitats that support birds, animals, and fish, from new development and buildings."

Three Areas of Change (Survey, Workshop, Studio & Post-Secondary Partnership Responses):

Participants in all youth engagement activities had a chance to share their perspectives on the three identified Areas of Change (Rapid Transit Neighbourhoods, Neighbourhood Shopping Areas, and Residential Areas). The following summarizes key findings for each area, drawn from across these different activities.

Areas of Change - Rapid Transit Neighbourhoods

Youth participants were provided a number of means to provide input on future growth and change around Rapid Transit Neighbourhoods – areas within a 10 minute walk/roll of a rapid transit station or corridor.

- Survey respondents were asked to share their perspectives on the type of growth they preferred – fewer high-rise buildings close to the station/corridor, more low/mid-rise buildings spread further out from the station, or a mix of both.[2] Most participants (55%) preferred a mix of both focused and spread out density. An additional 20% preferred only focused density, while 13% preferred only spread out density.







2 This approach modified the main survey to provide a "middle" option.

- Workshop attendees participated in a version of this question that featured a "dotmocracy" poll, using sticky dots to indicate for their preferred approach. Here, there was no distinction between the top choices with "Mix of both" and "Focused density" each garnering 37% support. "Spread-out density" received 26% of the sticky dot votes.

Participants in the Design Studio identified several additional considerations they felt were important for future Rapid Transit Neigbourhoods:

- Accessibility should be a key organizing principle in this area, including physical access to transit stations, as well as principles of universal design throughout station areas and their surroundings;
- Design must integrate housing (including modular housing), shops and services, and parks and natural spaces within station areas.
- Amenities and public space designs should be youth-friendly.

Areas of Change – Neighbourhood Shopping Areas

Engagement participants were invited to share their thoughts on growth and change in Neighbourhood Shopping Areas, and the surrounding residential neighbourhoods.

- 68% of survey respondents agreed that Vancouver needs "to add different types of housing options to our Neighbourhood Shopping Areas;"
- Survey respondents were asked to select the types of housing they would like to see in and around Neighbourhood Shopping Areas. Mid-Rise Apartments (60%), Low-Rise Apartments (53%), and Townhouses and Multiplexes (51%) were the most popular choices;
- Workshop participants were able to indicate their degree of support for how growth should take place in shopping areas – with fewer taller buildings closer to shopping areas, more spread out low-rise buildings further into the surrounding area, or both. Responses to a dotmocracy poll on this question showed that "Focused" density was the most popular choice (43% support), followed by "Both focused and spread out" density (34% support). "Spread-Out Density" was the least popular option (23% support).

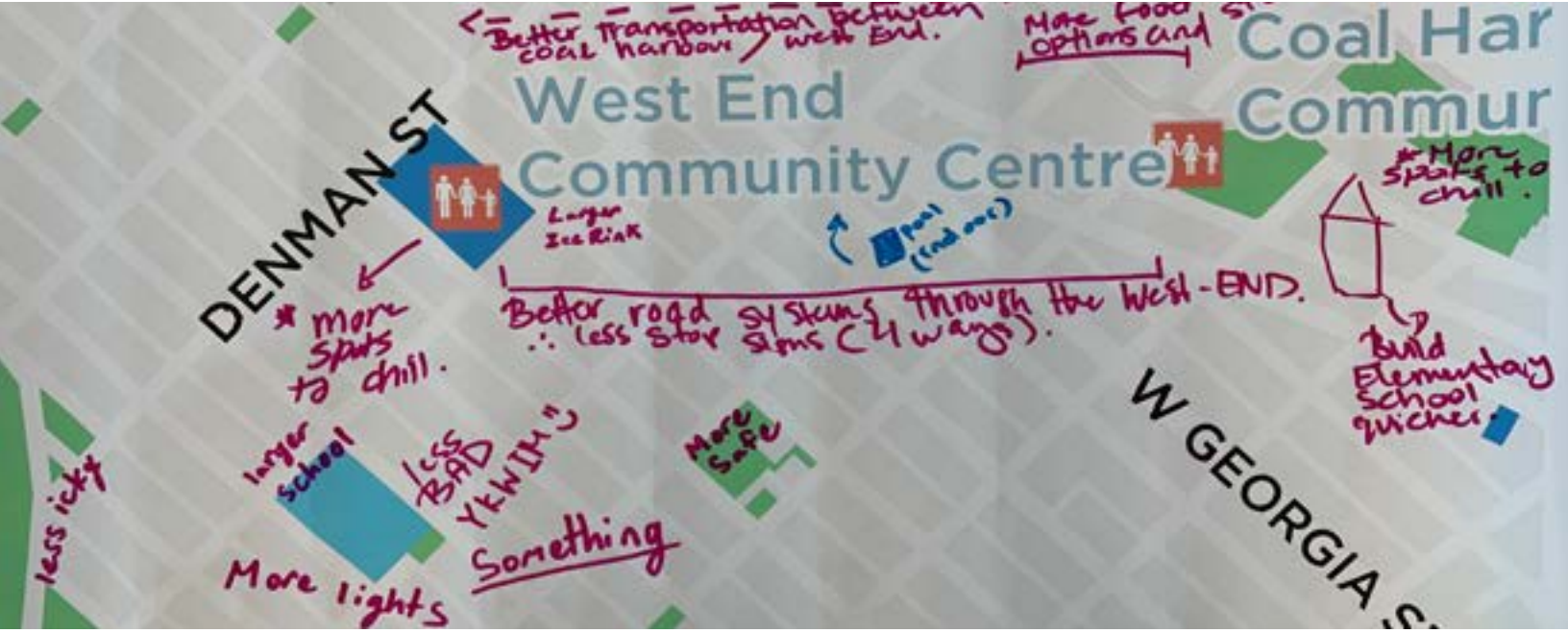
Design Studio participants identified three important considerations for future Neighbourhood Shopping areas:

- The City should enable people to take advantage of the unique opportunities in these areas including activating laneways, adding greenspace to rooftops and developing the basements of buildings;
- Design principles and elements should include varied building heights, streetscapes that feature covered seating, street trees, Indigenous plants and gardens, and public washrooms;
- Commercial spaces should be used to support sustainable, local businesses and new mixed-use buildings should combine retail, office and residential uses.

Areas of Change – Low Density Residential Areas

Youth participants also provided feedback on opportunities for growth and change in low density residential areas.

- 68% of survey respondent agreed that Vancouver needs "more shops, services and amenities in our low-density residential neighbourhoods;"
- 69% of respondents to the survey agreed that "Vancouver needs more housing choices within its low-density residential neighbourhoods." In the youth workshops, this same question received 79% support through the "dotmocracy" poll;
- Survey respondents were invited to select the types of housing they felt would be acceptable in low density neighbourhoods. Of the choices available, Townhouses and Multiplexes (67%), Single Detached Dwellings and Duplexes (63%), and Low-Rise Apartments (59%) were the most popular.



2. Child and Youth Engagement Activities and Results - By Activity Type

2.1 Youth Workshops

Phase 3 included 13 youth-focused workshops with 248 participants. The Vancouver Plan partnered with Community Centres, and Neighbourhood Houses to deliver these in-person sessions[3], with youth staff at partner organizations providing important logistical and operational support. Workshop partners included groups that have been involved in process from the start of Phase 1 and others that were new to the process in Phase 3. Engagement partners were:

- Trout Lake Community Centre Youth Council
- Hastings Community Centre Youth Council
- Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre Youth Council
- Parks Board City-Wide Youth Council
- False Creek Community Centre Youth Council
- Kitsilano Community Centre Youth Council
- West End Community Centre Youth Council
- Douglas Park Community Centre Youth Council
- Mount Pleasant Community Centre Junior and Senior Youth Council
- Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House
- South Vancouver Neighbourhood House

[3] Child and Youth programming is designated as an essential service which has allowed in-person activities to continue throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The workshop included an introduction to the Vancouver Plan and Phase 3, including the three Foundational Principles (Reconciliation, Equity, Resilience), three Big Ideas (Equitable Housing and Complete Neighbourhoods; An Economy that Works for All; Climate Protection and Restored Ecosystems), and the three identified Areas of Change (Rapid Transit Neighbourhoods, Neighbourhood Shopping Areas, Low Density Residential Areas)[4].

Workshop activities included:

- An individual dotmocracy activity on the Areas of Change;
- A group design activity combining the three Big Ideas and the Areas of Change;
- Time for each participant to take the Phase 3 Youth Survey (time-permitting).

The dotmocracy activity allowed workshop participants to use sticky dots to indicate their degree of support for how growth should take place in each Area of Change. For Rapid Transit Neighbourhoods and Neighbourhood Shopping Areas, participants were asked if they supported "focused density" with fewer high-rise buildings located closer to the station or the shopping area, "spread out density" with more spread out low-rise buildings further into the neighbourhood surrounding the station or shopping areas, or a combination of both[5]. For Low Density Residential Areas participants were asked if they agreed with the statement "Vancouver needs more housing choices in its lower-density residential neighbourhoods."

Results of this exercise show:

- For Rapid Transit Neighbourhoods there was no distinction between the top choices with "Mix of both" and "Focused density" each garnering 37% support. "Spread out density" received 26% of the sticky dot votes.
- For Neighbourhood Shopping Areas the most-supported growth option was "Focused density" with 43% followed by "Mix of both" with 34%. "Spread out density" was the least popular option with 23% support.



"Official Urban Design Sketchbook"



Phase 3 Youth Workshops

[4] For organizations new to the Vancouver Plan, the session introduction included additional information about the Vancouver Plan, results from previous phases of engagement and a neighbourhood drawing activity. The drawing activity incorporated the "Official Urban Design Sketchbook", a customized sketchbook that has been part of the Vancouver Plan child and youth engagement program since Phase 1. Over 700 sketchbooks have been distributed to workshop participants so far.

[5] Previous phases of youth engagement identified strong preferences for the co-location of facilities and the combination of a range of housing types in a single area. Given these previous results, the decision was made to give children and youth the option of selecting both types of development for these workshop activities and in the Youth Survey.

- For Low Density Residential Areas, 78% of participants agreed with the statement that Vancouver needs more housing options in low-density residential neighbourhoods.

Note that these figures are cumulative across all workshops, and that there was variation in responses between sessions. See Table 1 for a summary of the dotmocracy results by session.

Session	Rapid Transit Neighbourhoods			Neighbourhood Shopping Areas			Low Density Residential Areas		
	Both	Focused	Spread Out	Both	Focused	Spread Out	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Trout Lake Community Centre	27	12	3	26	13	5	43	1	1
Hastings Sunrise Community Centre	0	11	18	3	15	11	28	1	0
Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre	2	10	12	8	12	3	16	8	0
City-Wide Youth Council	14	7	5	15	0	11	19	7	0
False Creek Community Centre	0	3	6	0	2	8	7	3	0
South Vancouver Neighbourhood House #1	0	7	2	4	5	1	7	3	0
South Vancouver Neighbourhood House #2	4	2	3	6	2	4	9	0	0
Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House	8	2	0	4	5	1	0	9	1
Kitsilano Community Centre*	5	2	2	0	2	4	8	1	0
West End Community Centre	0	9	1	0	9	1	7	3	0
Douglas Park Community Centre	9	5	1	8	3	3	10	4	0
Mount Pleasant Community Centre	13	13	4	8	12	9	25	4	0

Table 1 - Youth Workshop "Dotmocracy" Results









The design activity allowed workshop participants to begin thinking about how the types of growth options for each Area of Change could also support the three Big Ideas. This interactive activity allowed participants to hear the opinions of others and share their own ideas for the future while working collaboratively on neighbourhood designs for the Areas of Change. The activity also provided further context for participants who also took the Youth Survey. See images 1, 2, 3 and 4 for design examples. The variety of approaches taken by different groups provided a range of ideas, of which the following were most prominent:

- A desire for new recreational amenities including pools and ice rinks (participants included amenities within all Areas of Change);

- Expanded park and public space facilities especially in Rapid Transit Neigbourhoods to balance new development;

- Addition of new commercial spaces (retail and restaurants) within each Area of Change.

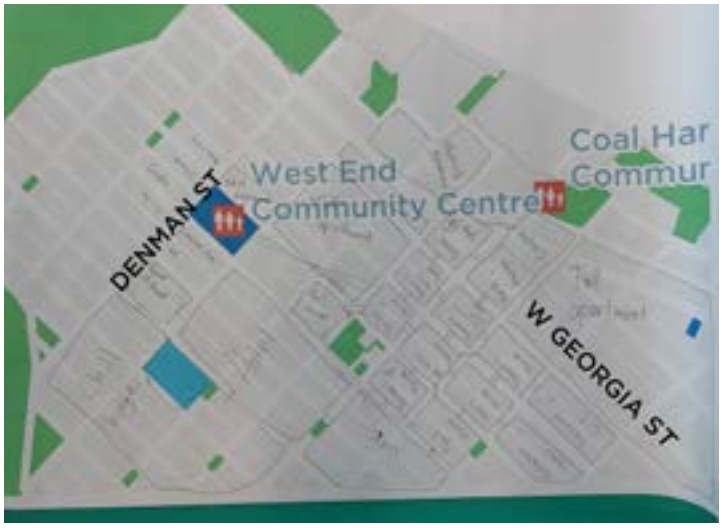


Image 1 - West End Community Centre



Image 2 - False Creek Community Centre



Image 3 - Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre



Image 4 - Kitsilano Community Centre

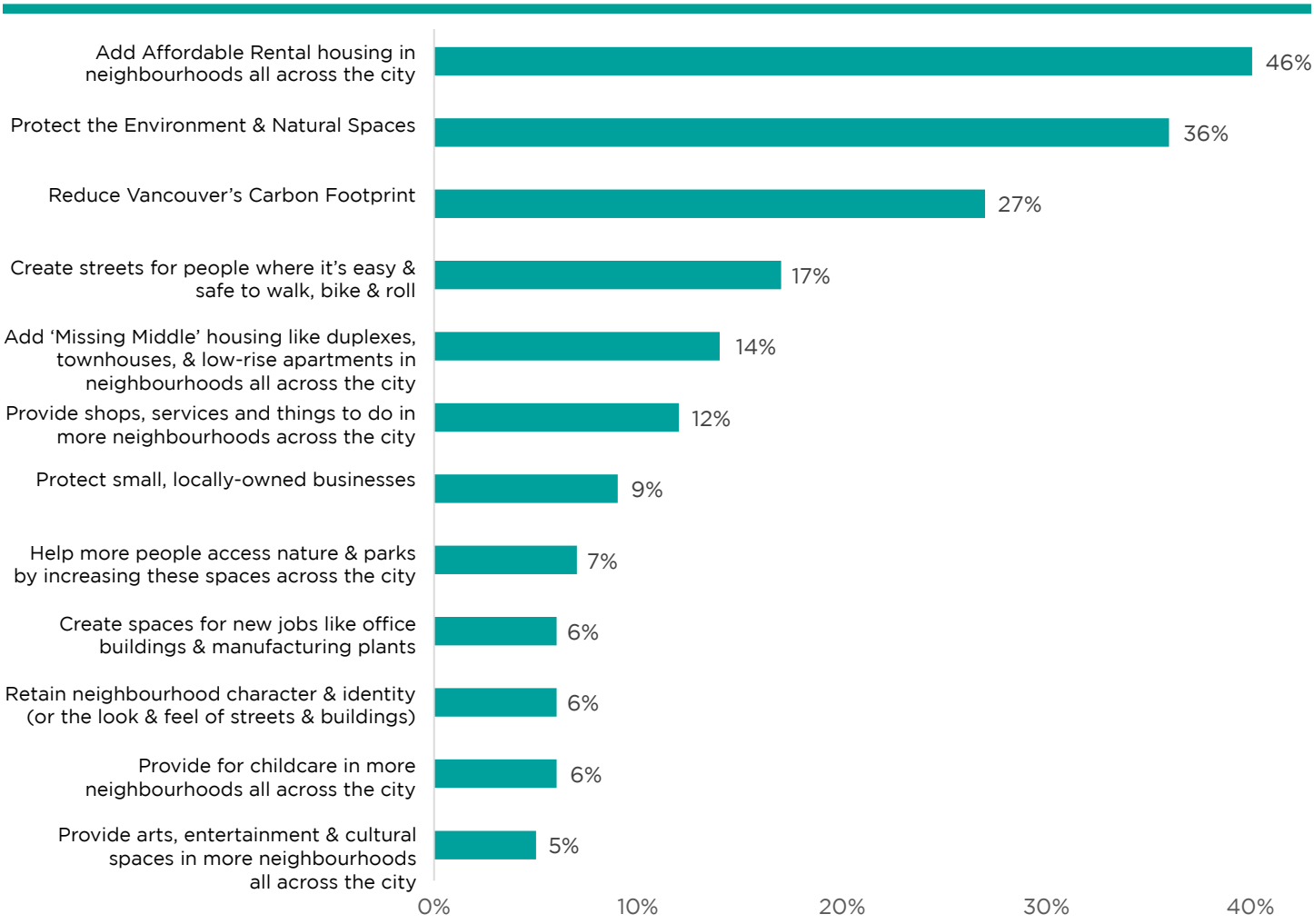
2.2 Phase 3 Youth Survey

The Phase 3 Youth Survey was hosted on the Young Planners website from October 25, 2021 to December 2, 2021. 276 children and youth responded to the survey[6]. The survey invited feedback on Key Priorities, Big Ideas and Areas of Change. The 15 project-specific questions contained in the questionnaire used a variety of formats including ranked priorities, multiple choice, open-ended and likert-scale. The survey's final section included five optional demographic questions. As with other engagement activities, the questions were based on the main survey, but were modified to make them more appropriate for children and youth by simplifying language, adding image choice options to multiple-choice questions and omitting questions that required specific technical knowledge (e.g. knowledge of different road types).

Question 1 - *Priorities*

Drawing on the same list as found in Question 1 of the main survey, the youth survey began by inviting respondents to rank their top five priorities for the Vancouver Plan. Each option related to one of the Big Ideas, and the results illustrate a clear set of priorities with housing affordability and climate protection receiving the highest levels of support. The summary displays the frequency that each action was rated as the most important or the second-most important.

Q1. We want to know which actions are the most important to you: pick your top 5 actions and rank them from 1 to 5:



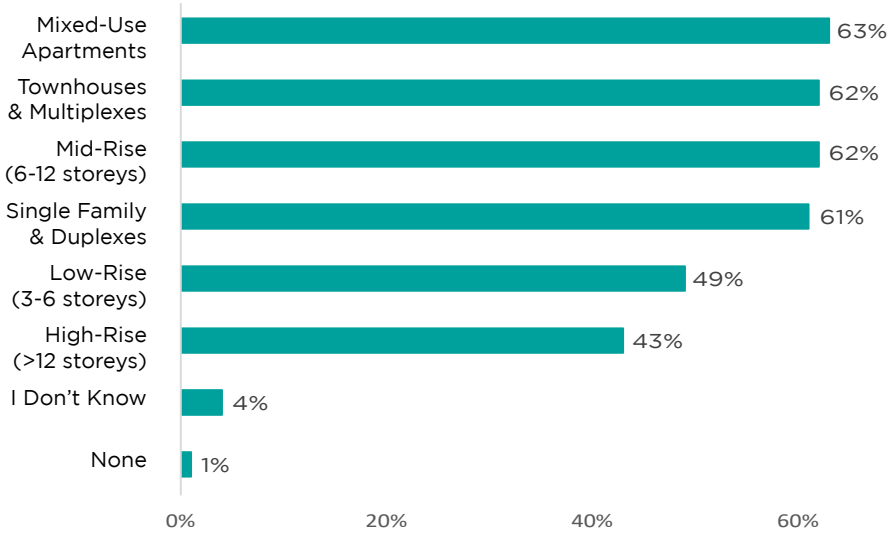
[6] *This analysis considers only the responses from children and youth (those 25 years of age and under). An additional 6 responses were received from older participants that are not included in this summary.*

Questions 2 - 4: Big Idea 1: *Equitable Housing and Complete Neighbourhoods*

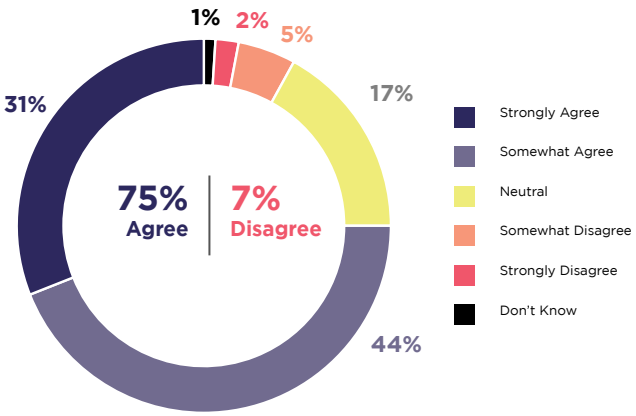
In the next set of questions, respondents were invited to share their perspectives on what types of housing might be appropriate across the city, their level of support for high buildings for rental or non-market housing, and the elements and amenities they felt would make their neighbourhoods more complete. A clear set of priorities and preferences emerged from the responses to each question.

Q2. See the different types of housing below and select the housing types you want to see in all neighbourhoods across the city. Choose as many, or as few, as you want[7]:

Respondents noted roughly equal levels of support (61%-62%) for Townhouses and Multiplexes, Mid-rise Apartments, and Single Detached Dwellings and Duplexes. Similar levels of support were also noted for Mixed-Use Apartments (a choice not available on the main survey) (63%).



Q3. Vancouver should create more affordable housing, like rental and non-market housing units, by allowing for taller buildings with more units in all neighbourhoods across the city:



Survey responses also indicated high levels of agreement (75% combined somewhat agree and strongly agree) with the statement.

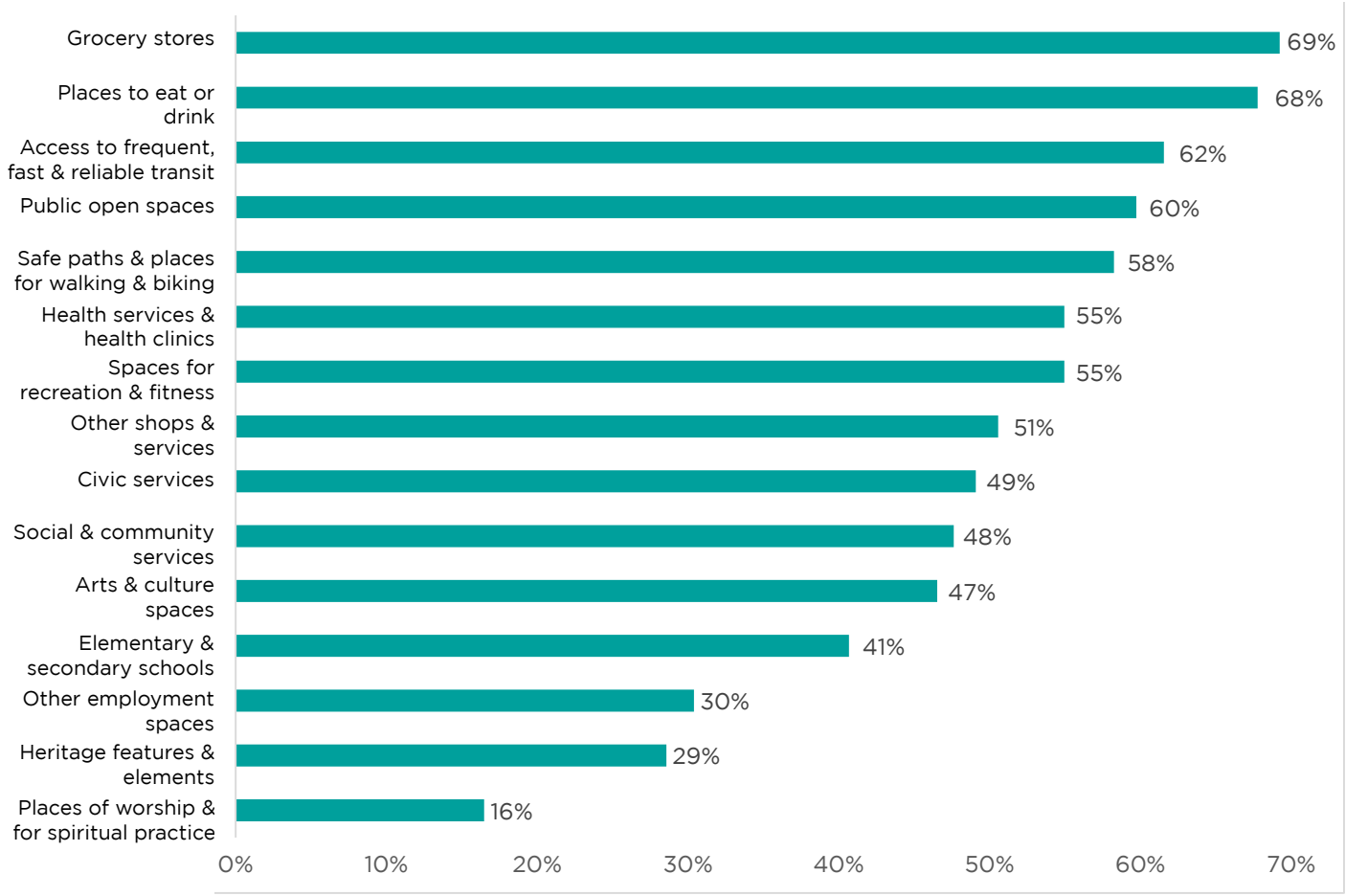
Concerns raised included:

- The ability to secure necessary amenities to accompany these buildings;
- Access to sunlight and shading;
- The aesthetics of high-rise buildings; and,
- Whether or not these building types can actually provide affordable housing.

[7] *"Mixed Use Apartments" was an option not available on the main survey*

Q4. What kinds of activities, shops, services and jobs do you want most in your neighbourhood? Pick as many as you want!

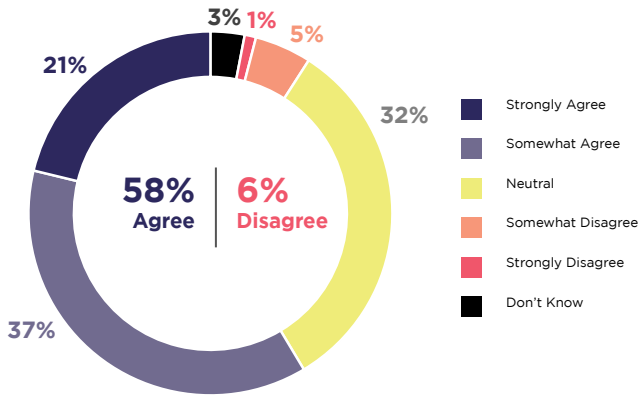
Participants were invited to identify the sorts of shops, services and amenities that they wanted to see in their neighbourhood. The top five most popular responses were Grocery Stores (69%), Places to eat or drink (68%), Access to transit (62%), Public spaces (60%), and Safe paths for walking and biking (58%).



Question 5: Big Idea 2: *An Economy that works for all*

The next survey question asked about the protection and intensification of industrial lands and job-creating uses. 58% of respondents somewhat or strongly agreed with this statement, while approximately a third (32%) of respondents indicated that they were neutral.

Q5. In Vancouver we have lands that are mainly for industry, like manufacturing and the port, should we keep these areas for jobs and try to develop even more kinds of industries and jobs on them?



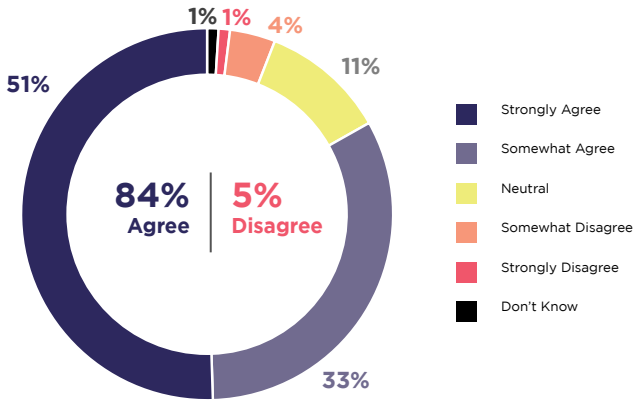
Concerns raised included environmental and air quality impacts of industrial uses; and the need for additional lands for affordable housing and community facilities.

Questions 6 - 8: Big Idea 3: *Climate Protection and Restored Ecosystems*

Survey participants were asked three questions related to the last of the three Big Ideas. These provided respondents an opportunity to weigh in on several topics: how they want to move through their neighbourhoods, the use of environmentally friendly construction materials and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas. The responses to these questions correspond with the priorities identified in Question 1, illustrating strong support for the expansion of active transportation across the city, environmental protection and climate action.

Q6. Vancouver needs to make it easier and safer to walk, bike, roll or take transit in my neighbourhood.

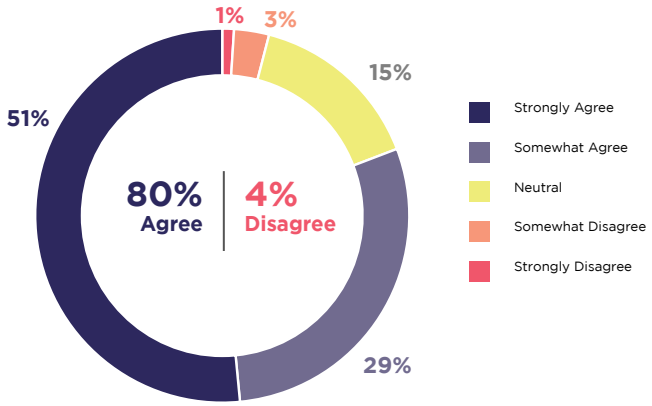
84% of respondents somewhat or strongly agreed that Vancouver needs to make it easier to access active and sustainable transportation options.



Areas of concern mainly reflected that respondents already thought all of these transportation modes were safe and currently available in their neighbourhoods and no further improvements were needed.

Q7. Vancouver should make everyone use environmentally friendly construction methods and materials in new buildings and renovations of older buildings.

80% of participants agreed that Vancouver should make everyone use environmentally-friendly construction methods and materials.

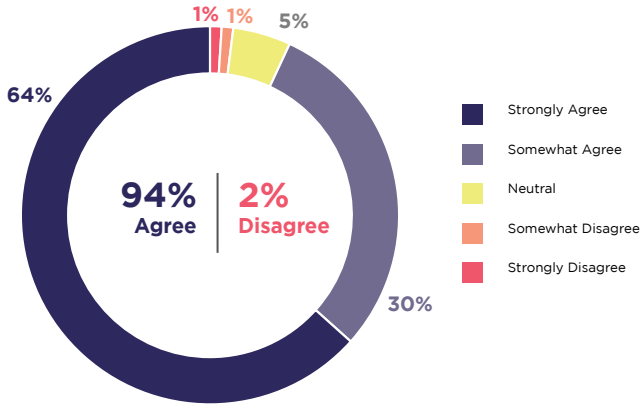


Concerns raised included:

- Questions about the performance ratings and durability of these methods and materials,
- Increased housing costs for buildings that use these methods and materials.

Q8. Vancouver should protect important natural spaces, like shorelines, floodplains and sensitive habitats that support birds, animals and fish, from new development and buildings.

94% of participants agreed that Vancouver should protect important natural spaces.



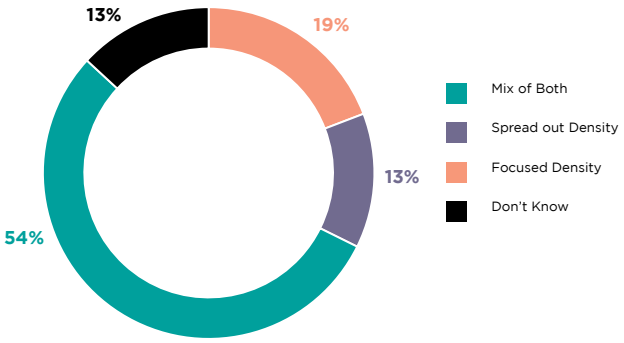
No additional comments were received from respondents who disagreed with the question statement

Questions 9 - 14: Areas of Change

This set of questions allowed respondents to share their perspectives on the three identified Areas of Change (Rapid Transit Neighbourhoods, Neighbourhood Shopping Areas and Low Density Residential Areas) including their preferred growth options and the housing types and amenities they felt were appropriate for each. Key findings include strong support for the combined option of both "Focused density" and "Spread out density" in Rapid Transit Neighbourhoods (areas within a 10 minute walk/roll of a rapid transit station or corridor)[8], support for the addition of different types of housing (from multi-plexes to mid-rise apartments) in Neighbourhood Shopping Areas and support for the addition of 'Missing middle' housing options and new amenities in Low Density Residential Areas.

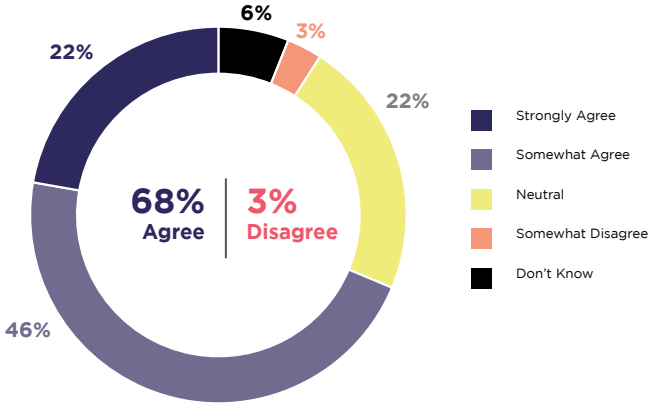
Q9. What type of change do you want to see in our Rapid Transit Areas?

Most participants (55%) preferred a mix of both focused and spread out density.



Q10. Do we need to add more different types of housing to our Neighbourhood Shopping Areas? Pick one.

68% of survey respondents agreed that Vancouver needs to add different housing options to Neighbourhood Shopping Areas.

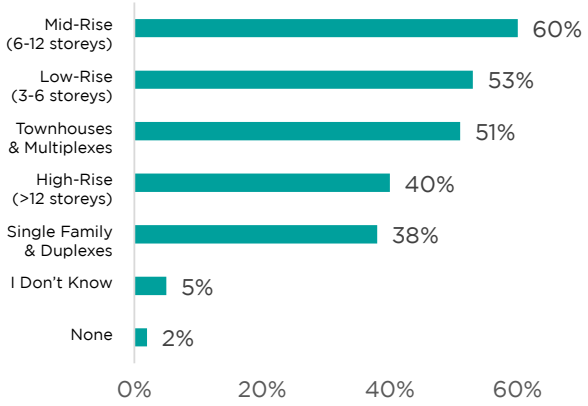


Concerns raised included negative environmental impacts of new buildings and the potential loss of single-family dwellings.

[8] *This approach modified the main survey to offer a middle option.*

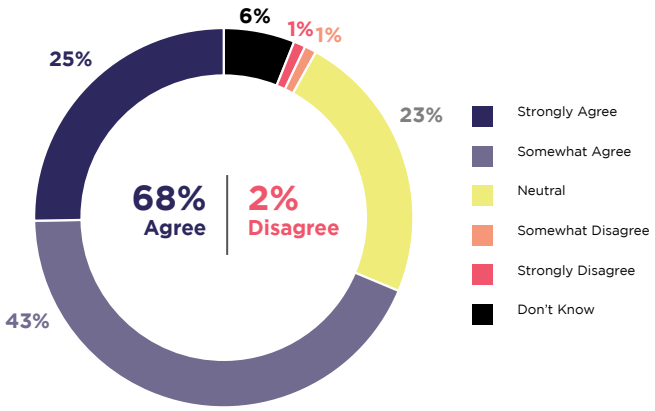
Q11. Which housing types would you like to see in our Neighbourhood Shopping Areas? Choose as many as you want!

Mid-Rise Apartments (60%), Low-Rise Apartments (53%), and Townhouses and Multiplexes (51%) were the most popular choices.



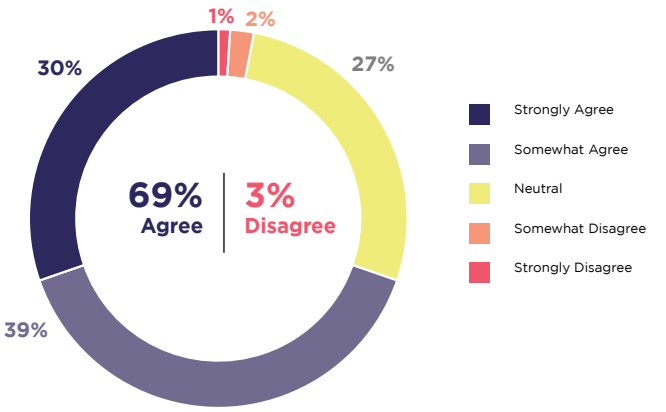
Q12. We need more shops, services and amenities in our Low-Density Residential Neighbourhoods.

68% of survey respondent agreed that Vancouver needs more shops and services in low-density neighbourhoods.



Q13. Vancouver needs more housing choices within its Low-Density Residential Neighbourhoods. Pick one.

69% of respondents to the survey agreed that Vancouver needs more housing choices in low-density neighbourhoods.

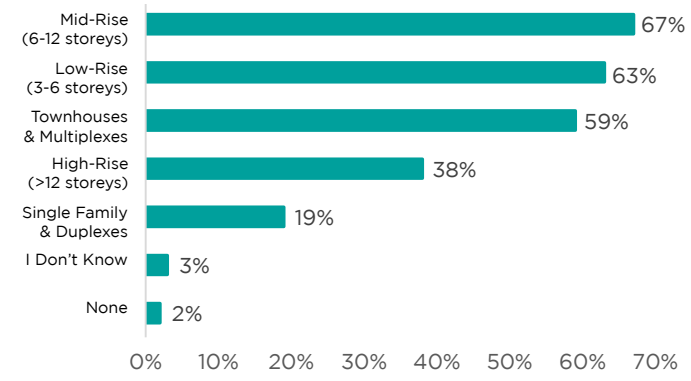


Concerns raised included:

- The potential of price increases on nearby multi-family buildings,
- Changing look and feel of neighbourhoods.

Q14. Which types of housing, if any, do you think are acceptable in these neighbourhoods? Choose as many as you want!

Of the choices available, Townhouses and Multiplexes (67%), Single Detached Dwellings and Duplexes (63%), and Low-Rise Apartments (59%) were the most popular.



Survey Section 3: Demographics

Five demographic questions were asked to better understand who was participating in this stream of Vancouver Plan engagement[9].

- The average age of respondents was 16.2 years of age, with 34 respondents under the age of 13, 160 respondents between 13 and 18 years of age and 76 between 18 and 25 years of age;
- 50% of respondents identified as female, 39% identified as male, 2% identified as non-binary/ gender diverse and 9% preferred not to provide their gender identity;
- Question 17 attempted to determine where respondents live, using postal code information. Only 63% of respondents provided valid postal codes. The neighbourhoods with the most respondents were:
  - South Vancouver
  - Sunset
  - Douglas Park
- Question 18 asked respondents to identify their main place of ethnic origin, or that of their ancestors. Those who identified as Canadian and East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese) were equally represented with 31% of respondents. This was followed by those who identified as Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Thai, Vietnamese) at 7% of respondents, and South Asian (e.g. Punjabi, Indian, Tamil, Pakistani, Bangladeshi) at 6%;
- The majority of respondents spoke English at home (52%), followed by Mandarin (15%), and Cantonese (8%). Additional languages spoken by respondents at home include Vietnamese, Tagalog, French, Punjabi, Korean, Hindi, Portuguese and Russian.

[9] *Owing to the smaller overall survey results, disaggregated data for the main survey questions is not available.*

2.3 Young Planners Design Studio

An online studio session has been part of each phase of Vancouver Plan child and youth engagement. In Phase 3, the session asked participants for their ideas on how growth and transformation should happen in each of the three Areas of Change. The session welcomed 33 young people into the digital studio, including many that had participated in previous events. The session was open to all youth under 25 and gave participants a chance to collaborate with peers from across the city.

The session featured three groups, each led by a team of youth facilitators and paired with an architect or urban designer who provided graphic support to visualize the conversation. Each group was tasked with designing one of the Areas of Change while incorporating and advancing the three Big Ideas. The deliverables from this session are three neighbourhood designs that showcase a range of ways the Big Ideas can be actioned and some of the unique opportunities offered by each Area of Change (see figures 1, 2 and 3). Key findings that emerged from the session included:

Rapid Transit Neighbourhoods:

- Accessibility should be a key organizing principle in this area, including physical access to transit stations, as well as principles of universal design throughout station areas and their surroundings;
- Design must integrate housing (including modular housing), shops and services, and parks and natural spaces within station areas.
- Amenities and public space designs should be youth-friendly.

Neighbourhood Shopping Areas:

- The City should enable people to take advantage of the unique opportunities in these areas including activating laneways, adding greenspace to rooftops and developing the basements of buildings;
- Design principles and elements should include varied building heights, streetscapes that feature covered seating, street trees, Indigenous plants and gardens, and public washrooms;
- Commercial spaces should be used to support sustainable, local businesses and new mixed use buildings should combine retail, office and residential uses.

Low Density Residential Areas:

- Prioritize safer residential streets through improvements to lighting and universal (accessible) street design. Prioritize increasing the number of accessible crosswalks and adding more sidewalks;
- Add affordable housing through the introduction of larger mixed-use buildings;
- Develop new recreation centres that offer affordable programs and childcare and have play facilities;
- Expand the transportation network so there is better access to transit across the city, especially close to where new housing will be located in these residential neighbourhoods.



Figure 1 - Rapid Transit Neighbourhoods

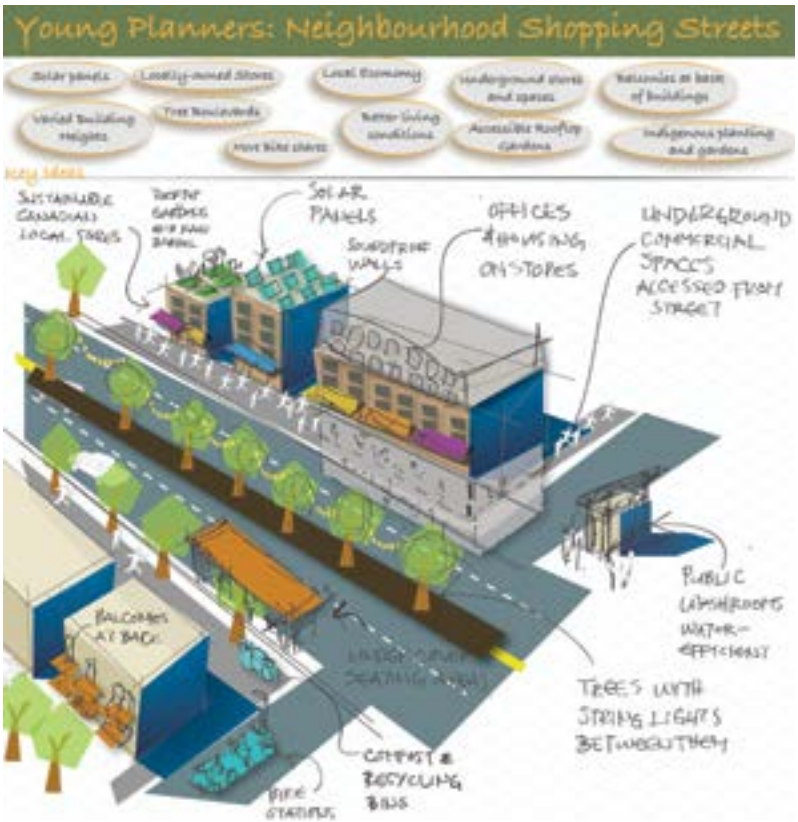


Figure 2 - Neighbourhood Shopping Areas



Figure 3 - Low Density Residential Areas

2.4 Young Planners Education Portal

The Young Planners website and Education Portal, a digital hub for child and youth engagement information and activities, received a complete redesign in Phase 3. The new video-forward program was designed to both support and enable youth engagement in during this phase, while also supporting civic literacy for the city's young planners.

The portal updates were made in response to feedback from Phase 2, with educators requesting options that required less preparation and with delivery options that did not depend on teachers being able to deliver the materials.

The program was divided into two modules, using a format that paired a short informational video with an interactive activity. The Youth Survey was the main engagement opportunity, with the activities serving to introduce students to the Vancouver Plan and the concepts and ideas asked about in the survey. The use of the online survey further reduced the potential burden on educators as they were not required to collate or submit any results.

The updated program included 2 Modules:

"Module 1: Getting to the Starting Line" included five sections, which each contain a video and corresponding activity. The videos included an official welcome to the program provided by the Mayor of Vancouver and an animated segment that explained each of the three Big Ideas. Activities included developing a class land acknowledgement, investigating the history of Vancouver places and drawing out plans for the future of Vancouver.

"Module 2: Have your Say" focused on the Youth Survey and included three sections: a reminder of the three Big Ideas and an introduction to the Areas of Change, the main Vancouver Plan background video and an outline of the next steps in the process. The Youth Survey was the only Module 2 activity.

The new Education Portal launched October 27, 2021 on the Young Planners project page[10]. At the end of Phase 3 the program videos had over 550 views. The Education Portal remains active on the Young Planners website and staff remain available to provide support to interested educators.



[10] The Vancouver School Board supported the Education Portal by promoting it directly to teachers via internal bulletins and notices. Additional promotion by Vancouver Plan staff included upwards of 500 outreach emails, including direct outreach to every public and private school principle in Vancouver, emails to high-school teachers from a range departments including Career Life Education, Social Studies, Mini-Schools, Community School Teams and alternative school programs, and notices to educators who previously indicated interest in the Vancouver Plan. Vancouver Plan staff also reached out to the Vancouver District Students' Council, Student Councils at various high schools and potentially relevant student clubs and organizations. While a number of educators expressed interest in the program, the condensed timeline of Phase 3 and various classroom and curriculum planning considerations again limited program uptake. Vancouver Plan staff collaborated with the Career Life Education Program at Eric Hamber Secondary for an in-classroom session that introduced students to the Vancouver Plan, the education portal and the Youth Survey. A number of educators indicated interest in using the program during the spring 2022 semester, which may create engagement opportunities during Phase 4.

2.5 Other Sessions and Collaborations

The **Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee** remained an active participant in the process during Phase 3. The Vancouver Plan is a standing topic at committee meetings, which allows staff to provide updates on the project and to solicit members' advice and input on the child and youth engagement program and its activities. In Phase 3, committee members participated in the Council Advisory Session and a Committee Working Session. On November 25, 2021, 15 members of the committee provided input on the Vancouver Plan draft policy directions. Key feedback from that session included:

Equity:
- Strong support for including child and youth voices into land use planning activities, through specialized, age-appropriate engagement.

Housing:
- Support the development of additional multi-family options that better meet the diverse needs of households, including families with children. Future policy should reference the need to include play and green space for children and youth;
- Multifamily housing should also include bike rooms and bike storage as family units will require access to additional space;
- Concern over how Plan policy will be implemented. There is a need for clarity about when (and how) actions will be taken.

Natural Areas:
- Vancouver Plan policies need more geographic focus. There is a clear lack of parks on the east-side of the city as opposed to the west-side. This discrepancy needs to be clearly identified in future policy directions.

Transportation:
Vancouver Plan should consider developing policy related to:
- Cycling-focused streets (e.g. a policy that commits that a percentage of street space will be cycling focused);
- The redesign of unsafe intersections to support road safety (and, in particular, to minimize conflict between pedestrians and cyclists); and,
- The development of a safe routes to school network. (On the latter, there are existing programs; however, these need to be expanded into a city-wide network of child-focused routes to school and other community facilities).

The **CityStudio** program remained a key partner in Phase 3, by promoting Vancouver Plan public engagement opportunities to their network of university students and facilitating a class collaboration on the Vancouver Plan with a second year Simon Fraser University geography class (GEO266).

This collaboration enabled a larger class of 83 students to participate in the Vancouver Plan. Students had the opportunity to reflect on the three Big Ideas and three Areas of Change, complete either the main or youth survey, and share further feedback on the engagement materials and process. Key themes provided by the students included:

- Rapid Transit Neighbourhoods and Neighbourhood Shopping Areas represent the best opportunities to advance the three Big Ideas and the Vancouver Plan should prioritize growth in those two Areas of Change;

- Big Idea 1 – Equitable Housing and Complete Neighbourhoods and Big Idea 3 – Climate Protection and Restored Ecosystems received the most ideas and comments for how they could be integrated into growth within the Areas of Change;

- Feedback on the engagement process supported the separate Young Planners program and Youth Survey and noted that in the future additional efforts should be made to ensure materials and questions are age-appropriate and concepts are thoroughly explained.

Another university-related collaboration was a partnership with **UBC CAPACity**, an undergraduate student initiative that brings together students interested in urban planning. The organization hosted a digital session, where 22 participants connected with Vancouver Plan staff about the project, the Phase 3 Youth Survey, and other engagement opportunities. This partnership was a great opportunity to connect a new group of interested students to the Vancouver Plan process that will hopefully continue as the process enters Phase 4.