

## West End commercial streets

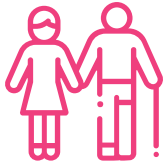
Davie, Robson and Denman

**Davie Village: what we heard**  
spring 2023



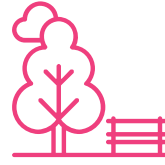
# Davie Village

We heard that transportation and public space improvements could focus on...



## Space to stroll

- Improve the walking experience, including by widening sidewalks.



## Green Infrastructure

- Include new trees, planting and rainwater management features.



## Mid-block crossings

- Integrate mid-block crossing opportunities.
- Consider people with accessibility needs.



## Patios

- Provide space for outdoor dining patios.
- Patios: accessible, comfortable, look good.



## Transit experience

- Improve comfort and journey time reliability.



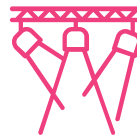
## Unique sense of place

- Retain the existing “community feel”.
- Improve destination appeal.



## Active transportation

- Improve the arrival experience for those cycling and using active transportation.
- Consider bike/pedestrian conflicts.



## 2SLGBTQ+ Character

- Reflect the history of the neighbourhood.
- Emphasize and celebrate 2SLGBTQ+ visibility.

# Davie Village – public life overview

Maintain the “community feel”; improve the resident and visitor experience



## Strong desire for places to sit, socialize and eat out

- Many felt more space to linger and spend time was needed.
- Space for business patios received strong support, as did public seating.

## Davie’s community feel\*\* makes it special, but vehicles can undermine the experience

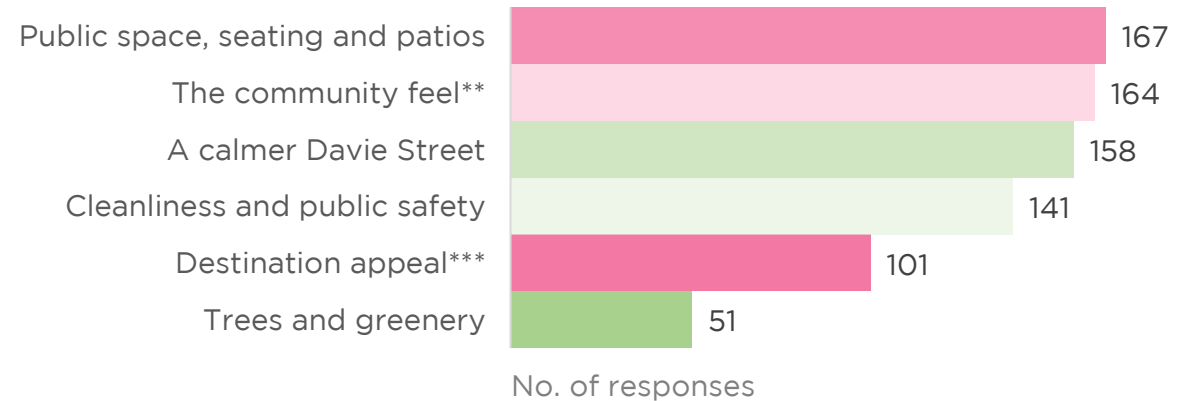
- Davie’s diverse and inclusive feel is much loved by residents.
- Many people described how a street with fewer or slower vehicles – would improve their experience.

## Cleanliness and public safety is a concern

We heard concerns about (and concern for):

- People experiencing homelessness.
- Drug use in public spaces and mental health crises.
- crime, drinking or smoking in public spaces, although these were raised less frequently.

## Improving the Davie Village experience – key themes\*



\*A review of 847 responses to 4 open-ended questions reveals that ‘public space, seating and patios’ was the most commonly raised theme about public life.

\*\*Included sentiments on Davie Village’s unique restaurants, stores and bars; unique vibe; and reputation for inclusivity and diversity.

\*\*\*Includes 2SLGBTQ+ visibility, colours, branding, murals and public art.

# Davie Village – transportation overview

Prioritize walking and make transit more reliable



## Walking improvements were raised most often (45% of responses about transportation)\*\*.

Nuanced feedback included:

- Remove obstructions & fix uneven paving.
- Focus on busy locations near transit or patios.

## Transit (23.5% of responses)\*\*

- Faster and more frequent buses.
- Potential for rapid/mass transit? (tram or SkyTrain).

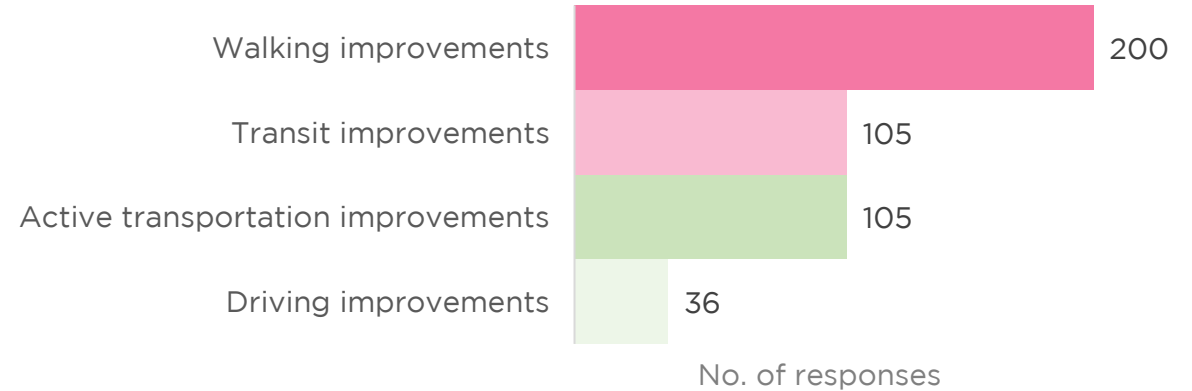
## Active transportation (23.5%)\*\*

- Protected lanes or slower vehicle speeds to make using active mobility devices safer.
- Safe bike parking.

## Driving (8%)\*\*

- More space for vehicles to improve traffic flow.
- More on-street vehicle parking spaces.

## Improving transportation on Davie St – key themes\*



\*A review of 847 responses to 4 open-ended questions reveals that walking improvements, such as wider sidewalks, was the most commonly raised theme about transportation.

\*\*Percentages are calculated based on the 446 transportation sentiments raised across all 847 responses.



# Spending time in Davie Village

How could the experience be improved?



## Strong support for changes that encourage people to spend more time in Davie Village

### Highlights:

- 62% see ‘more space to stroll’ as ‘very important’.
- 48% feel ‘safe crossing opportunities mid-block’ are very important.

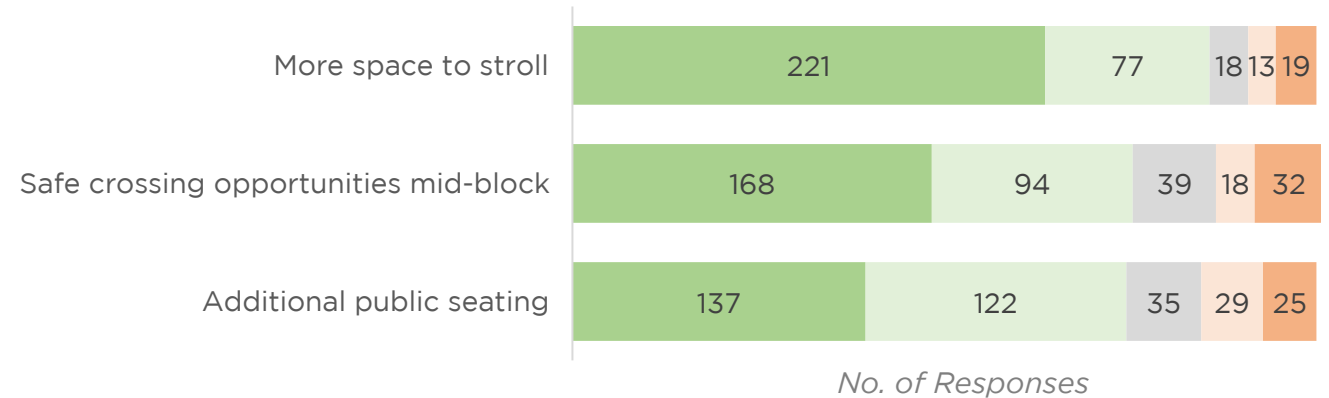
### We Heard:

“Wider sidewalks and mid-block crossings would make the pedestrian experience much more pleasant.”

“I enjoy the shops, but the sidewalks are too narrow and there are too many cars passing through to make it an enjoyable pedestrian experience.”

“More space for people, less fast traffic”

## Importance of opportunities to encourage “spending time”\*



\*We asked people to select the importance of these opportunities.

# Getting to and from Davie Village

How could the experience be improved?



**Almost everyone felt prioritizing transit, walking, biking and rolling was important (86%)**

Only 9% disagreed, and 5% were neutral.

## We heard:

*“More reliable and faster buses, fewer and slower cars with less aggressive drivers when I bike.”*

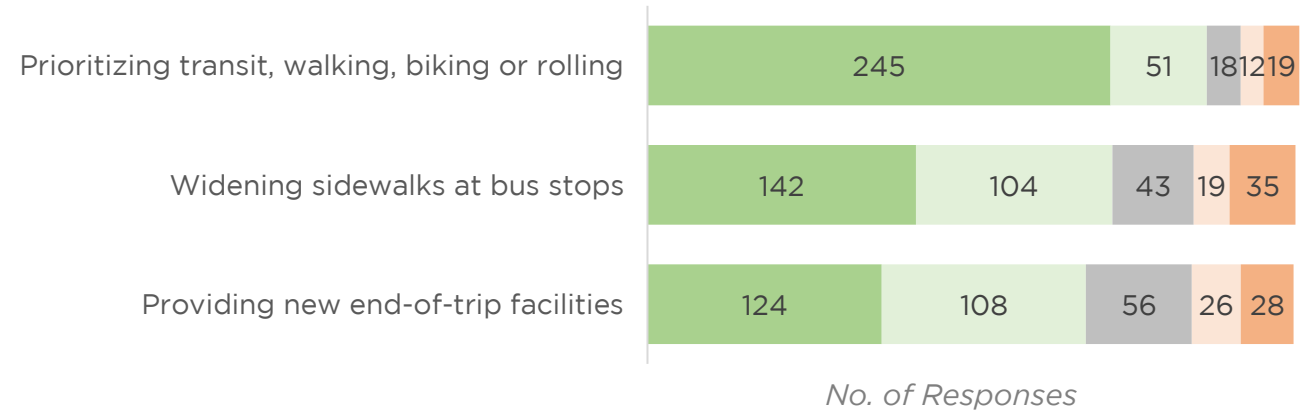
*“Wider sidewalks at bus stops, more enclosed shelters at bus stops.”*

*“Secure bike parking (for expensive e-bikes for example!) would be a great asset.”*

*“Bike lock up stations that are easy to use.”*

*A need for electric vehicle charging stations and parking for Evo carshare vehicles was also suggested.*

## Importance of opportunities to improve transportation\*



- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Neutral
- Somewhat unimportant
- Very unimportant

\*We asked people to select the importance of these opportunities.

# Supporting businesses in Davie Village

Accessible outdoor dining space is the best way to support businesses



## Accessible patios were considered important by most (80%)

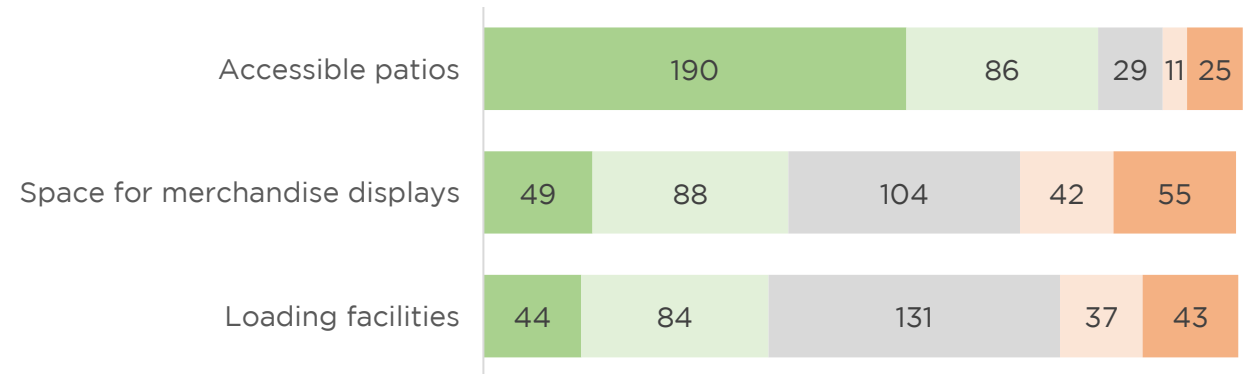
- Patios could be expanded and should be comfortable/

*“Increased outdoor seating so we can rest/eat lunch/snacks, or even have coffee.”*

## Sentiments on merchandise displays and loading facilities varied.

*“Less parking and arranging deliveries in the early mornings can make for more space for patios and people.”*

## How can street design changes help support businesses in Davie Village?\*



No. of Responses

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Neutral
- Somewhat unimportant
- Very unimportant

\*We asked people to select the importance of these opportunities.

# Celebrating Davie Village

Davie Village's significance to the 2SLGBTQ+ community is central to its unique character



## Written feedback highlighted Davie Village as a safe space for 2SLGBTQ+ communities

*"...the visibility of the [queer] community and visual signs of support enhance my comfort and make Davie Village a pleasant and safe place to be myself."*

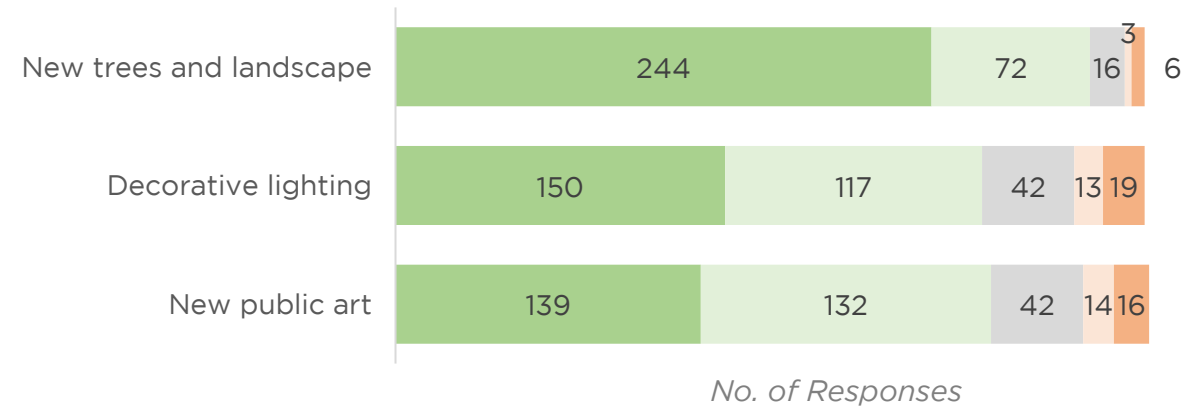
*"Vibrant character and people. The public realm should reflect this, highlighting the Queer Community."*

## Decorative lighting and public art received some support

*"Warm yellow lighting (no purple or white LEDs), fun hanging displays that don't take up room."*

## 93% felt that Davie Village character could be enhanced with new trees and landscape

## How might we enhance Davie Village's character?



- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Neutral
- Somewhat unimportant
- Very unimportant

*\*We asked people to select the importance of these opportunities.*



# Davie Village

## Other feedback



## Not all responses related to permanent public space or transportation changes\*

### Other suggestions included:

- More indigenous art.
- Discounts in stores for local residents.
- Food trucks, to add to its “food offer”.
- More public washrooms.
- Banning e-scooters and better enforcement for sidewalk riding.

### Other concerns included:

- Potential impacts on businesses of St Paul’s Hospital relocating.
- Poorly placed, “bad” or uninteresting public art.
- Smoking and second-hand smoke.
- Financial hardship for independent businesses.

*\*115 sentiments raised in the 847 responses to open-ended questions on Davie Village related to other issues. This means they could not be accurately attributed to a transportation or public life code. This feedback will be considered in the design process for each street.*

# Davie Village

Part of West End commercial streets



Thank you for reading what we heard about Davie Village.

For a full breakdown of the findings for the other streets, and details of who we heard from, please review the full report at [shapeyourcity.ca/west-end-streets](https://shapeyourcity.ca/west-end-streets) (external link).