

DOWNTOWN PLAN-A-THON WORKSHOP

Summary of Key Planning Directions

HOW WE WORK/SHOP (Business, Commerce & Development)

- Create a Downtown Whitehorse website with “Made in Yukon” section
- Create a pop-up patio program for Main St and explore more temporary street closures for festivals, pop-ups, etc.
- Explore mechanisms for developers and government to fund desired public realm improvements in key areas
- Continue to support mixed residential-commercial development
- Facilitate temporal/seasonal pop-up business hubs and expanded food truck options
- Promote non-profit centralized hub
- Explore communications/power infrastructure upgrades to support technological innovation and entrepreneurship.

HOW WE MOVE (Roads, Traffic, Parking)

- Reduce traffic speeds along 2nd Ave (and possibly 4th Ave)
- Continue road/sidewalk improvements in Old Town
- Consider programs/incentives to reduce on-street all-day parking by government employees
- Improve east-west crossings of 4th and 2nd Ave for pedestrians/cyclists
- Create more comfortable transit stations and consider relocating some stop locations
- Design and implement a comprehensive wayfinding system
- Examine Downtown cycling infrastructure as part of city-wide strategy
- Improve maintenance of active transportation network year-round
- Explore the viability of a Downtown parkade, preferably one including mixed commercial uses at-grade
- Consider “flex” lots that allow for spillover parking in select locations along the riverfront
- Consider potential for a pedestrian bridge(s) to connect to the east side of Yukon River
- Create a Black St greenway corridor for active transportation

HOW WE LIVE (Residential Uses)

- Support more affordable housing in a range of different housing types, including rental, seniors, etc. housing
- Develop criteria for density/development intensification relating to the different parts of Downtown
- Look at innovative affordable housing solutions that have worked elsewhere
- Consider design guidelines for Old Town to balance increased density with desired form/character; further explore issues of density, etc.
- Ensure that density is accompanied by amenities – streetscape improvements, setbacks, landscaping, etc.
- Establish a strategy for redevelopment of aging social housing in Downtown South
- Focus seniors housing in accessible, amenity-rich locations

HOW WE PLAY (Parks, Recreation)

- Complete the lower escarpment trail and connect to the Millennium/waterfront trail
- Connect the lower escarpment trail to airport escarpment trail via a staircase in Downtown South
- Look at establishing a Spook Creek greenway corridor (and possible name change)
- Improve trail lighting and viewpoints
- Create wind-sheltered “comfort stations” along waterfront
- Build public washroom facility (near Front/Main Street)
- Consider a pedestrian bridge(s) to connect to east side of Yukon River
- Complete the Hoge St. playground
- Improve trail lighting (esp. under Robert Campbell bridge) and viewpoints
- Implement Pioneer Cemetery improvements
- Ensure preservation of some natural surface trails in Downtown
- Explore temporary use of vacant properties for gardens, etc.

HOW WE EXPRESS OUR IDENTITY (Arts, Culture, Heritage, Urban Design)

Arts/Culture/Heritage

- Better integrate First Nation place names/language into Downtown
- Explore an Arts and Heritage district along Front St
- Establish a Wood St heritage district
- Update the City’s Heritage Registry and Heritage Management Plan to better reflect First Nation, tangible/intangible heritage, mid-century buildings, etc.
- Facilitate increased use of Front Street for smaller public events and festivals
- Explore increased schedule of events and races around/through Downtown
- Re-establish a City tourism function
- Promote more public art
- Support the efforts of Kwanlin Dün First Nation on the Whitehorse Waterfront Heritage Project

Urban Design

- Create flexible public spaces to provide more opportunities for outdoor gatherings, festivals, events
- Retain and enhance views and vistas (i.e. more viewpoints, interpretation, rest areas)
- Continue waterfront placemaking efforts, including wayfinding signage and interpretation of culture/history
- Create gateway features at north and south entrances
- Consider creating/naming distinct neighbourhoods within the Downtown (using 2007 areas as basis)
- Review site and upper level building setback requirements in Zoning Bylaw to improve the quality of public realm and building aesthetics
- Establish design guidelines for key character areas (i.e. Main Street, riverfront, Old Town)
- Initiate a tree adoption/stewardship program
- Encourage more rooftop activity – gardens, patios, etc.
- Explore/experiment with “Wilderness City” design and spaces – winterscapes, night sky viewing, lighting, parks, etc.

HOW WE THRIVE (Health, Social, Safety Issues)

- Foster an inclusive Downtown that enables service organizations to serve their clients effectively
- Try to ensure that gentrification/urbanization doesn’t further displace vulnerable residents
- Create an optimum physical environment to positively influence health outcomes for all residents
- Explore ways existing public spaces can promote people from different populations coming together more often
- Look at ways the City can both lead and support on issues of homelessness and marginalization