

WHAT WE HEARD #1

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

What's Working

- Business vitality of Main St core commercial area viewed as reasonably strong
- Front St development has been positive
- Growth of micro-retail options and food trucks
- Growth of Made-in-Yukon movement and products
- Waterfront development a big improvement
- Redevelopment of old Canadian Tire building
- Good mix of shopping options – specialty and “big box”

What's Not Working

- High land costs impeding development redevelopment; lack of readily developable sites
- Growing vacancy rates in 2nd floor older Downtown core stock with government office consolidation
- Vandalism/loitering/substance use/panhandling viewed as problem by businesses, particularly around Main St
- Whitehorse lacking infrastructure needed to support and facilitate innovation, technology, entrepreneurship
- Lack of restaurant/patio space along both Main and Front St
- Walmart and “big box” area keeps visitors from exploring Downtown

HOW WE MOVE (Roads, Traffic, Parking)

What's Working

- Active transportation and transit options have improved i.e. waterfront and escarpment trails, Black Street stairs
- Traffic congestion is not too big an issue

What's Not Working

- Speed of traffic along 2nd Ave a major issue; some concerns re 4th Ave too
- Lack of road improvements in Old Town, esp. 6th and 7th Ave
- Poor cycling connections east-west and into Downtown from Two Mile Hill
- Dangerous east-west pedestrian crossings, particularly 2nd Ave

What's Not Working cont'd

- Parking in Downtown core seen as a major issue by businesses and some residents:
 - All-day parking by government employees in Main St area
 - Meters inconvenient
 - Parkade needed
- Some pedestrian/cyclist conflict on waterfront trail with high usage
- Issues with bike lanes/safety on 4th Avenue
- Transit schedule still limited and some stops not comfortable
- Wayfinding around Downtown is poor, particularly for visitors
- Maintenance of roads and sidewalks an issue – particularly in winter
- Parts of Main St should be closed to automobile traffic
- Poor circulation for cyclists/pedestrians in north part of Downtown
- Only one connection to east side of Yukon River



ARE WE MISSING ANYTHING IMPORTANT?

WHAT WE HEARD #2

HOW WE LIVE (Residential Uses)

What's Working

- Convenience and proximity to services
- Access to wilderness and recreation
- More density = more housing options

What's Not Working

- Presence of offsales/liquor near residential areas
- Housing is unaffordable
- More smaller, affordable housing options and live-work options needed
- More density changing the character of neighbourhoods, particularly Old Town
- Need to better accommodate seniors and families
- Aging housing stock in Downtown South
- Lack of multi-family housing options closer to the waterfront
- Overall lack of residential near the waterfront; could help to animate and improve safety

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

What's Working

- Arts in the Park programming
- Waterfront revitalization has been positive
- Preservation of heritage buildings
- Whitehorse Waterfront Heritage Project
- Trolley
- Many venues and a lot of programming/events
- Whitehorse Waterfront Heritage Project

What's Not Working

- Parking capacity in the library, Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre area
- Movie theatres are in poor condition
- No public washrooms in the Main Street/waterfront area
- Shipyards Park seen by some as "forced" for festivals; more activity desired near Main St.
- Universal accessibility lacking
- Poor connection between Arts Centre and Downtown
- Poor aesthetics of "big box"/"wedding cake" buildings
- Many under-utilized/empty sites
- Lack of trees, greenery, landscaping in the north end
- Poor public realm with many newer buildings
- Light pollution
- Limited/outdated view of heritage in City policy and lack of public appreciation for importance of built heritage

What's Not Working

- Organization/coordination of visitor sites throughout Whitehorse lacking
- First Nation people need to feel "at home", especially on the waterfront



ARE WE MISSING ANYTHING IMPORTANT?



WHAT WE HEARD #3

HOW WE PLAY (Parks, Recreation, Environment)

What's Working

- Lower/upper escarpment trail and parks
- Millennium/Waterfront trail
- Shipyards and Rotary parks and programming
- Flower plantings ("Communities in Bloom")
- Christmas lights
- New dog park
- Downtown community garden
- Farmer's market

What's Not Working

- Escarpment trail not complete and doesn't connect to waterfront trail/Millennium Trail
- No connection between lower/upper (airport) escarpment trail in Downtown South (can't make a "loop")
- Not enough good playgrounds in residential areas
- Only one connection to east side of Yukon River despite greenspace and recreation opportunities there
- Limited greenways and land for gardens, etc.
- Waterfront trail ends at Marwell; can't connect further
- Need more family-friendly spaces
- No public washrooms
- Waterfront can be cold/windy; not very animated

HOW WE THRIVE (Health, Social, Safety Issues)

What's Working

- Many excellent and innovative NGOs operating in the Downtown working on social and inclusiveness issues
- A spirit of caring and concern for marginalized and vulnerable people: "it's everyone's problem"
- New Salvation Army building
- Innovative programs like Lumel Studio's Riverwalker outreach and Challenge
- Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre has become a focal point for First Nation belonging, pride and culture on the water

What's Not Working

- Waterfront doesn't feel safe to some groups: visitors receive negative impressions
- Many concerns about public intoxication, substance use, loitering, panhandling
- Concerns about potential "ghetto"-ization of Downtown South with too much social housing – more even distribution desired
- Location of Ecole Whitehorse Elementary School near the Salvation Army-liquor store
- High concentration of marginalized/vulnerable people around Salvation Army can lead to undesirable activity (drugs, violence)
- Lack of safe spaces for marginalized people to hang out
- Increasing gentrification potentially displaces people
- Loss of free stores/Salvation Army



ARE WE MISSING ANYTHING IMPORTANT?