

CITY OF WHITEHORSE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN UPDATE SUMMARY OF PHASE 4 ENGAGEMENT



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1. BACKGROUND

The purpose of Whitehorse's Strategic Sustainability Plan is to provide long-term direction for the City on key environmental, social and economic issues. Since its adoption in 2008, the Strategic Sustainability Plan has guided City progress on transportation, solid waste, climate change, the OCP update, and other work. Building on this success, the City is now updating its sustainability plan with goals and targets for the whole community as well as a strategy for City action that will make sustainability even more central to what the City does.

The plan is intended to be comprehensive but the emphasis is on policies and initiatives that are within the City's jurisdiction (i.e., areas where the City has at least some influence). The plan will provide a framework to help the City manage its assets and help to guide City decision-making, monitoring and reporting on sustainability issues, and prioritization of major projects.

The updated plan is being created through public, stakeholder, First Nations, City staff, and Council contributions and is being developed in 4 key phases:



Phase 1 (summer 2014): a technical review of existing City plans, development of a framework for the new Sustainability Plan, and planning for community engagement throughout the project.

Phase 2 (fall 2014): engagement activities to collect community and stakeholder ideas and feedback on the plan's overall vision and preliminary goals.

Phase 3 (winter 2014-15): development of the details of the plan and methods for implementation, combining the results from Phase 2 engagement with technical information and staff expertise.

Phase 4 (spring 2015): consultation with stakeholders and the community to review the draft plan content developed in Phase 3, followed by final revisions to the plan to respond to the input received. ***This report comes midway through this phase and provides a summary of the community and stakeholder feedback received in Phase 4. This feedback will be used to guide the development of the final draft plan.***

2. ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Between February 18 and March 15, the City engaged the community to review key components of the draft plan and provide input and feedback. Engagement activities included:

- **A multi-stakeholder workshop** was held on February 24 with a broad range of representatives from community organizations, sector representatives, and governments.
- **Meetings** were held with the following organizations:
 - Energy & Climate Change Group (Climate Change Secretariat, Yukon Energy Corp, Northern Climate Exchange)
 - Kwanlin Dun First Nation
 - Yukon Food Network
 - Yukon Historical and Museums Association
 - Yukon Conservation Society and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Yukon
- **An online public survey** was available from February 18 – March 15 to review the draft plan components to date and collect ideas and feedback from the public. The survey was advertised on the City's website, in the online Whitehorse Star and Yukon News, and via the City's consultation e-notification and emails to stakeholder groups. The online survey was viewed by 98 people and 19 provided comments on the draft materials.
- **A public interactive display** was set up at the Canada Games Centre for two weeks, attended by project staff for part of that time. Staff shared information about the draft plan and collected community feedback with the online survey and interactive displays. While it was difficult to measure the number of people engaged, more than 275 comments were received.

3. ENGAGEMENT TOPICS

Phase 4 engagement activities focused on key components of the draft plan including:

- Guiding vision and key themes
- Principles
- Key goals

These are described below as context for the engagement results.

VISION AND KEY THEMES

The draft Vision statement is a slight refinement of the original 2008 vision, adjusted based on input from staff, stakeholders, and the public during Phase 2.

“Whitehorse will be a well planned, self-sustaining, innovative community that leads in management and conservation of wilderness, energy and resources for the future. Whitehorse will strive for quality of life for all, a stable economy, and a socially diverse community.”

Whitehorse Residents Value:

- *Sense of community*
- *Quality of life*
- *The beauty and closeness of nature*
- *Leadership*
- *Contributions of First Nations*
- *A vibrant and diverse arts and cultural community*
- *Local businesses*

The Strategic Sustainability Plan (SSP) is an update of the 2008 plan. While its overall direction has not changed, six themes describe the emphasis in the 2008 plan:

- 1. Leadership through partnership.** This plan shifts from the City as leader to the City leading by partnering with other organizations, governments, and citizens.
- 2. Building on success:** The updated Sustainability Plan builds on and synthesizes extensive work done since the 2008 plan.
- 3. Continuous learning, more ambition.** The updated Plan is considering clear, ambitious, long-term targets, so that the City and its partners can monitor progress and adjust action accordingly
- 4. Citizen stewardship.** For the City to move to new levels of sustainability, citizens must be engaged like never before, as active partners in stewardship of public infrastructure and natural resources.
- 5. Integration into City business.** The City is integrating sustainability into its daily business, helping staff and Council apply the broad concept of sustainability in practical, effective ways.

- 6. Focus on our existing assets.** The Plan attempts to focus on doing more and better with the resources the City already has, such as downtown, existing neighbourhoods, the trail system, roads, and infrastructure.

PRINCIPLES

A principle describes a fundamental norm, rule, or value that represents what is desirable. It provides guidance that remains constant through changes in goals, priorities and action. The draft principles below were drawn from common sustainability principles:

- **Integration:** Social equity, economic vitality and environmental health are interrelated and mutually interdependent. Decisions should seek to maximize net benefits in each of these areas.
- **Mutual Dependence:** Land, water, air and all living organisms including humans are integral parts of the ecosystem. Each community is linked with the (ecological, social and economic) well-being of the Yukon, Canada, and the world.
- **Adaptive Approach:** Plans and activities must be adaptable and able to respond to external pressures and changing social values. Plans should work toward maintaining the capacity to recover from adversity, and infrastructure and systems should be durable and minimize risks.
- **Equity:** All individuals, communities, regions must be able to meet their social, economic and environmental needs. In particular, all people should be able to participate fully in the life of their community.
- **Leadership:** Leadership is a necessary element of sustainability, acting by encouraging and enabling others to adapt leading practice.
- **Learning & Evolution:** Sustainability is a long journey. In the short-term, the elements of sustainability may not always be in balance. Regular feedback provides a basis for learning what works and adjusting what does not, leading to more effective action and faster improvement.
- **Collaboration & Coordination:** Sustainability is a shared responsibility, because everyone has social, environmental and economic impacts. Coordinated, collaborative action is essential to effectively address issues that are affected by many jurisdictions, individuals, and organizations.
- **Long-Term Thinking:** Recognizing that sustainability involves responsibility for future generations and that the future is essentially unpredictable, decision-making should acknowledge and respond to uncertainty and associated risk.
- **Engagement:** Recognizing that sustainability involves changes to complex systems that affect all members of the community, decision-making processes should engage people across the diversity represented in the community through credible, open methods, and should ensure participants are fully informed and able to engage effectively.

- Stewardship:** A healthy environment is necessary for our communities to survive and thrive. Global resources are limited, as are local and regional resources. Sustainable lifestyles are those that do not reduce the amount of non-renewable resources nor increase the levels of toxins in the environment.

DRAFT GOALS

These 12 draft goals were developed based on input from City staff, stakeholders and the public. The goals describe what the community wants to achieve in the long term. They are relevant to everyone, and everyone has a role to play in achieving them.



4. WHAT WE HEARD

OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Public and stakeholder feedback from the stakeholder workshop, individual stakeholder meetings, interactive display, and online survey included a diverse range of input and ideas. The following provides a general overview of feedback. A detailed summary of quantitative and qualitative comments is provided in Appendix A.

Vision and Principles:

A few stakeholder comments addressed specific language used for the vision, themes and principles; some commended the City on a good narrative and strong language while others made suggestions to improve wording – particularly surrounding City leadership and partnerships/collaborations with other organizations. These comments are detailed in the Appendix. No public comments were received regarding the vision, themes or principles.

Goals:

A wide range of input was received on the goals from stakeholders and the public. The goals that received the most feedback were social equity/affordable housing/poverty reduction, zero waste, and efficient/low-impact transportation followed by green buildings/infrastructure and resilient local food systems. The majority of respondents showed support for the goals with a few positive and negative comments, some suggesting that the targets don't go far enough while others that they are too intense and that the City should focus more on other things such as basic services and infrastructure.

A few respondents mentioned that some goals were in conflict, for example energy efficiency and zero waste goals conflict with affordability (especially for businesses). One survey respondent was particularly concerned about a lack of consultation for local businesses, which are often greatly impacted by new regulations; they felt there should have been more business representation in the stakeholder meetings/workshop.

One stakeholder group mentioned that the draft plan is missing important elements raised by stakeholders in the fall (e.g., strengthen language around inclusiveness) and suggested that greater investment in and commitment to engagement is needed in order to improve its effectiveness. Another stakeholder group suggested targeted education and consultation would be needed to implement some of these goals, for example, working with tenants and businesses on zero waste. Working with businesses is especially important to ensure successful implementation and to keep costs down for business owners. This could include working with the Chamber of Commerce and hosting industry-specific meetings to identify barriers and solutions and let business owners know what's coming and when.

The following provides a brief summary of feedback for each goal, in order from most to least number of responses. Detailed summaries of public and stakeholder comments are provided in the Appendix.

- **Social equity: affordable housing and poverty reduction:** Strong support was shown for social equity and affordable housing although a few people suggested the targets were too low. Participants stressed the need for more affordable housing (including rentals) and seniors housing. Participants generally supported denser housing/smaller lots and more compact, walkable development in urban areas (with appropriate tax incentives and city support/encouragement for infill). Comments suggested that active transportation routes are a great support for low-income people. A few participants suggested that other goals (such as energy efficiency, green buildings and zero waste) increase housing costs and are in conflict with this goal. Numerous participants called for the provision of more social services, eliminating homelessness and addressing vacant properties downtown.

Several participants and stakeholders suggested the City's jurisdiction was more in the medium range (rather than low) and that they could do more to influence affordable housing and poverty reduction (such as implementing a Housing First program and social housing initiatives, and setting a livable minimum wage). Stakeholders suggested the City talk directly to marginalized people to better understand and respond to their concerns and issues.

- **Zero waste:** Strong support was shown for zero waste initiatives although several participants suggested the targets were too low. The greatest emphasis was on bringing back Raven Recycling and providing funding (from all levels of government) to ensure long term feasibility. Strong support was also shown for free curbside collection of recycling. A number of participants were concerned the City has taken a step backwards in terms of recycling and composting in recent years and needs to focus on bringing back services and re-educating people about recycling, composting, and dumping. One participant suggested a new/improved green guide would help residents understand where to take certain items and find information on reuse and other waste-related topics.

Stakeholders suggested industry-specific education/meetings to help businesses and tenants prepare for upcoming changes and keep costs down.

Other key themes included packaging (extended producer responsibility, bring your own containers, bulk options), enforcement for dumping, litter cleanup, and promotion/support for reuse (including 'free stores' and safe/managed landfill scavenging), and internal City targets (i.e. Is there a City target for zero waste?).

- **Efficient, low-impact transportation:** General support was shown for increasing density (in urban areas) and creating mixed-use neighbourhoods. Participants stressed the importance of trails and walking/cycling connections for active, healthy and sustainable communities and emphasized the need for a range of

- housing options, safe streets and convenient transit service (including smaller, more frequent buses with more routes).
- **Green infrastructure and buildings:** General agreement/support was shown for water conservation, green building codes and sustainable design although a few participants had concerns about the costs associated with these initiatives. Mixed support was shown for water metering.
 - **Resilient food systems:** Strong support was shown for community gardens; participants suggested involving community associations and schools and having contests between neighbourhoods. Participants called for more support for local farmers and food producers including tax incentives, provision of affordable agricultural lands, and promotion of local food in local stores. Several participants suggested the City needs to make better use of its compost while a few people had concerns about wildlife conflicts with compost as well as community gardens. A few participants suggested the targets were too low and should include other measures such as % of edible plants and revenue from local food production.

Stakeholders suggested the creation of a local food hub and/or local food consortium including all levels of government, First Nations, Chambers of Commerce, and local food producers, processors and retailers. Other ideas included subsidies for low income people to shop at local farmers markets, joint funding for local food production, shared facilities, and the creation of a production/processing institute in partnership with Yukon College, First Nations and other local educational organizations.

- **Energy and greenhouse gas reduction:** Participants suggested incentives and education are essential for water and energy conservation initiatives as well as alternative energy. Support was shown for alternative energy, particularly solar and wind power and participants suggested the City show leadership by having 'green' buildings and vehicles.
- **Safe and healthy community:** Mixed support was shown for non-motorized trails; some participants stressed the importance of having trails that are pedestrian only while others suggested trails should be available/accessible to everyone and serve a wide range of users, including motorized recreational vehicles and bikes. Participants emphasized the importance of pedestrian and cyclist safety, including the addition of lighting on trails and walkways and addressing traffic concerns (i.e., traffic calming, separated bike lanes). Comments also suggested the need for greater public education (for all ages but especially for youth) with regards to healthy living as well as safety in the wilderness.
- **Healthy environment and wilderness:** General support was shown for preserving wildlife and greenspaces although a few participants had concerns about conflicts with bears and other wildlife. Participants suggested the need for public education surrounding habitat and wilderness values, wildlife conflicts and wildlife behaviours. A number of participants suggested better access to trails and

wilderness areas for motorized vehicles (while other participants noted this as a concern in other goal areas).

Stakeholders suggested a clearer definition of wilderness is needed (i.e., as defined in the City's Official Community Plan) and that wildland fire management be included/addressed in the plan as well as the impacts of development/intensification outside the City.

- **Strong downtown and livable neighbourhoods:** General support was shown for increasing density and creating more livable, walkable, well-connected neighbourhoods with a range of housing options and local businesses.
- **Vibrant and diverse arts, culture and heritage:** Participants noted their appreciation for local arts and culture and suggested an even greater emphasis on First Nations arts and events (particularly in tourism materials) as well as opportunities for youth (such as a graffiti art wall), and more public events.

Stakeholders noted the great progress that has been made bringing together First Nations and other community members with events like the Adaka festival but suggested that even more cross-cultural understanding and inclusivity is needed for all cultures (i.e., new immigrants). Participants suggested the City strengthen its role/leadership in heritage conservation/restoration, place a greater emphasis on all aspects of heritage (including cultural landscapes and other non-building elements of our history) and create a Heritage Committee.

- **Strong local economy:** Support was shown for local businesses and economic diversification, particularly with regards to local food production. Two respondents suggested the City is somewhat 'anti-business' with high taxes and fees and new codes and regulations that increase costs for business owners (such as zero waste). A few comments addressed government staffing and services suggesting a need for fewer staff and greater efficiency/accountability as well as a focus on basic services.

Stakeholders emphasized the need for partnerships and collaboration to improve efficiency and reduce redundancy among the multiple organizations working on similar initiatives. They noted a significant opportunity to form a joint economic development commission or local economy roundtable with representatives from all levels of government, First Nations and business related organizations.

- **Strong, engaged, participatory community:** Engagement in City processes is mixed: some processes are great while others are not. Specific issues were raised surrounding the representativeness of community associations. It is important that community engagement processes are inclusive and that feedback is heard and considered in plans and decisions. Participants suggested there should be a greater focus on intergenerational activities as well as activities specifically for seniors. One participant noted that civic participation (i.e., volunteering) is a luxury and if we address poverty, people will have more time to give back to the community.

Community Actions:

In addition to feedback on the draft plan, participants were asked what actions they would take over the next year to be more sustainable. The most popular ideas were:

- conserving energy
- eating local
- driving less
- conserving resources by consuming less
- repairing or reusing items

APPENDIX A: DETAILED ENGAGEMENT RESULTS



STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

Participants:

The following organizations and departments were represented at the stakeholder workshop (listed alphabetically):

- City of Whitehorse Economic Development
- City of Whitehorse Parks
- City of Whitehorse Recreation and Facility Services
- City of Whitehorse Fire Department
- Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
- Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce
- Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition
- Yukon Human Rights Commission
- Government of Yukon Aboriginal Relations
- Government of Yukon Agriculture Branch
- Government of Yukon Lands Branch
- Government of Yukon Environment
- Yukon Housing Corporation

A number of additional stakeholder meetings were held with the following organizations (again, listed alphabetically):

- Climate Change Secretariat
- Kwanlin Dün First Nation
- Northern Climate Exchange
- Yukon Conservation Society
- Yukon Energy Corporation.
- Yukon Food Network
- Yukon Historical and Museums Association

At the stakeholder workshop and meetings, the City reviewed progress to date and requested input on the draft plan, with a focus on the draft targets, approaches and strategies for each of the 12 key goal areas and opportunities for collaboration. The following summarizes their input.

General Feedback:

- Commend the City on a good narrative.
- Impressed that this language (in this goal and related content) is in a City document.
- Language in the Vision should be improved: qualify "quality of life" e.g. with "good; add "for all" or similar to capture essence of equity – i.e. "a good quality of life for all".
- Strengthen Themes/Principles relating to leadership:

- Should be leadership and partnership, not leadership through partnership. City leadership is still really important and the language needs to affirm City's commitment to leading.
- Recognize the ongoing action being taken by many organizations in Whitehorse, the potential and reality of duplication and uncoordinated action, and the importance of coordination in order to make service delivery more efficient.
- Acknowledge and affirm the "return on relationship" – that is that there is a significant return on investing in relationship building at all levels.
- Leadership is about (1) action; (2) engagement; and (3) enforcement. Be strong enough to follow through despite public or stakeholder resistance, when it matters.
- Be honest about what is working, what is not, and why.
- Collaboration:
 - Recognize an on-going need for collaboration in multi-jurisdictional, multi-party environments.
 - A key role for the City is to convene collaborative groups around each of the goal areas, e.g. through Round Tables, Working Groups, or similar approaches. An overarching Round Table or other mechanism for cross-goal work would be an important element of such an approach.
 - Roles and relationships could be relatively less formal in early days, and formalized when appropriate through partnership agreements or memoranda of understanding.
 - Provides a consistent approach to collaboration, which can be flexible enough to match needs of groups with different capacities, but maintains direction and sets expectations. Importance is investing in relationships, and building joint efforts on the basis of trust.
- Local Employment & Livability:
 - Whitehorse has better employment opportunities than most other Canadian cities because there are more jobs relative to the number of people seeking them. It is also easier to establish a business because there is less competition from other businesses.
 - Whitehorse also has very good infrastructure to attract and retain residents. Even cities four times the size of Whitehorse, typically do not have the caliber of amenities such as Canada Games Centre, the waterfront parks, the amount of green space and the extent of bicycle paths and trails. Access to funding for capital projects is less difficult in Whitehorse compared with other Canadian cities.

Feedback on Draft Goals:

Goal Area	Community Targets	Strategies	Opportunities for Collaboration
<p>Energy and greenhouse gas reduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confused between energy production and energy use in target 1 • Good that they're measurable • LNG might help bring down GHG • Seem realistic • So dependent on oil prices, which we can't predict • need to be clear beforehand where we will get the data from. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ per capita data will be difficult. Could extrapolate from CCS Yukon-wide data but lots of factors that make it inaccurate ○ National Inventory Report (NIR) could be the source for target data • Climate Registry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ refer to this for common language and baselines ○ They have protocols for local govts, etc, helps identify opportunities, helps with progress reporting ○ Might consider registering in the future, phrase it as " explore options for monitoring regimes" • Anti-idling campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Might still have the resources at Northern Climate Exchange? 	<p>Proposed improvements to existing strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require vehicles to meet a certain standard • Lead by example <p>Possible new strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric heat with forced air—more electric heat; incentive program (for pricing); City to research shifting energy mix with another dam could encourage or require electric heat to move away from oil fired heat • Look into streetlight conversion to LED lights • NISI—Northern Infrastructure Standards • CSA standards for drainage, snow loading (overlap with safety, etc?) • Adaptation • Should include something about understanding vulnerabilities associated with climate change • Flood, fire, extreme weather events • Budget implications for infrastructure operation and replacement • Don't let energy efficiency program at new Municipal Services Building get cut in the capital plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenant communication on energy efficiency • Upgrade housing stock, install energy efficient appliances • YG could have better legislation • Yukon Housing Corp (YHC) could work with public to teach about energy efficiency; could lead by example in its buildings • Wherever possible, YHC builds to EnerGuide 85, which lowers energy and GHG • Chamber of Commerce is voice of business community; gauge business input; communicate back to businesses • Make doing business easier, measured response from City, counterbalance. Role: 2-way communication, broad reach • Continue to build on building requirements—could be improved • Chamber needs a good sell and explanation to explain impacts, benefits to the business community • Yukon Energy Corp researching viability of electric vehicles, will provide results and potential partnerships, possible pilot/showcase as a part of the City's fleet
<p>Healthy environment and wilderness</p>	<p>Comments on targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like more clarity on the definition of Wilderness. This definition and group of targets doesn't address all wilderness components, such as habitat quality and diversity, wildlife diversity, populations, unique species, and connectivity. • Might need to specify "wilderness areas as defined in the OCP" • Big issue is how does development outside of Whitehorse affect Whitehorse. For example, 	<p>Proposed improvements to existing strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Partner with Yukon government to accelerate conversions to clean-burning wood stoves"—not sure where this came from, but could make more broad to say "partner on programs and education on wood burning practices and conversion programs" <p>Possible new strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop approach to wildland fire management for both safety and wilderness protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildland Fire Management Branch • Parks Canada—on special events and education • Collaborate with First Nations on wilderness management • Incorporate community-based mapping data into decision-making, especially for regional parks and adjacent First Nations areas

Goal Area	Community Targets	Strategies	Opportunities for Collaboration
	<p>intensification of uses impacts wilderness and environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the term “maintain” mean in terms of fire management—again, Whitehorse is affected by activities on the periphery, such as open burning outside of City limits <p>Possible new targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce number of human-wildlife conflicts attended to by Conservation Officers • Permanent designation of regional parks desirable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce bear attractants from residential and commercial sites through education, regulation, and other controls • Educate the public on wildlife conflict and wilderness values—e.g., habitat, wilderness values, conflict avoidance, wildlife behaviours 	
<p>Green infrastructure and buildings</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the “greenest building is the one already standing” – use existing bylaws, funds and other processes to support built heritage as an integral component of a safe and healthy community, green infrastructure and a vibrant arts and culture scene 	
<p>Strong local economy</p>	<p>Possible new targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster an inclusive economy with a lower percentage of residents falling below the poverty line. 	<p>Proposed improvements to existing strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be more explicit with the fifth strategy by changing the wording to read “Coordinate and align with key partners, including other levels of government, First Nations and business organizations.” <p>Possible new strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a pre-cursor to determining the level of diversity, classify all businesses in Whitehorse according to their NAICS industry classification code (currently there is inconsistency in the way businesses are classified). • To increase the number of business licenses, provide greater support for entrepreneurs through mentorship programs, incubators, co-working spaces, encouragement of mobile food vendors, pop-up retail, and home based businesses. Establish entrepreneurship programs in the high schools and Yukon College. • Target entrepreneurs through the residency attraction program. • Provide greater economic infrastructure support for low income residents through affordable housing, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many different organizations are working on economic development but they are often not well coordinated. Very strong overlap exists between YG and City on local food and tourism. • Significant opportunity exists to create a joint economic development commission or local economy roundtable including all levels of government, First Nations, and business related organizations that would meet regularly to coordinate economic development efforts and ensure that economic development policies, regulations and legislation are aligned and mutually reinforcing. • Pursue joint economic enhancement initiatives with YG and First Nations (many First Nations are creating economic development departments) • Enhance the capacity of First Nations to work with City and other organizations, so that they can meaningfully participate in and contribute to joint economic development initiatives. • Renew and/or enhance the tourism agreement between City and YG. • Collaborate with Yukon College to create/expand entrepreneurship programs.

Goal Area	Community Targets	Strategies	Opportunities for Collaboration
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> food subsidies, subsidized day care, zoning for a used building material reuse outlet. Maintain the value of tourism by promoting cultural experiences, heritage organizations and interpretation of Whitehorse history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with the Council of Northern Economic Development officers to create a northern economic development strategy toolkit. Foster opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs to collaborate with and support one another through office sharing, equipment sharing, knowledge sharing (mentoring), networking events, etc. Collaborate with YG to align economic development legislation.
Safe and healthy community	<p>Comments on targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise chronic illness target downward. With an aging population, this target is not likely to decrease. Keep 2020 at 0% <p>Possible new targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce Human-wildlife conflicts while maintaining healthy wildlife populations (cross reference with Healthy Environment and Wilderness) Increase participation rates in programs 	<p>Possible new strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate on safety in wilderness Action—better coordination of traffic monitoring between bylaw and safety services Action—hire a public education officer at the City Better address the integration of motorized access to trails for the purpose of human safety protection and access for wildland fire management Action—improve collaboration between CGC and public parks on safety issues (e.g. youth, perceptions of safety, etc). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCMP on education and relationships Partner/collaborate with First Nations on programming, with KDFN on social issues on the waterfront YG Health Services—as provider of health services, they need to focus more on preventative health
Social equity: affordable housing and poverty reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commend the City for including targets – recognized as a big step Align the targets with those in the Housing Action Plan being developed through a joint effort Increasing the number of City programs/initiatives: target is completely within jurisdiction and should be set much higher than 5% Align measure and target for affordable housing (% spending more than 30% income) with the Housing Action Plan 	<p>Proposed improvements to existing strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jurisdiction is Medium, not Low. The City has a lot of influence over access to its programs and services, including transportation, recreation; and can use inclusionary zoning to affect development. Proposed improvements to existing strategies: Improve strategy to increase access: “programs and facilities”; “transportation”; “nutritious food”. Make sure to cross-reference with food and transportation and recreation goals. Action: provide free dedicated bus access downtown to/from CGC <p>Possible new strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen policies and regulations to assure accessible buildings and sidewalks through 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk directly with homeless and other commonly marginalized people, to hear and understand their concerns and issues, and learn how to address them – e.g. around barriers to accessing facilities or programs. Align with and support the Housing Action Plan, including emphasis on providing housing across the full spectrum of housing

Goal Area	Community Targets	Strategies	Opportunities for Collaboration
		<p>improved standards and repairs, and affordable housing through inclusionary zoning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize direct engagement with hard-to-reach audiences when engaging with the community, and work with partners to develop and implement effective ways to engage with them. • Work to shift the prevailing culture from one that relies on charity, e.g. food banks, to meet peoples' needs, to one that affirms the importance of meeting the needs of individuals and supporting the dignity of all people. 	
Strong downtown and livable neighbourhoods			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint planning of KDFN development land as a way of meeting development needs, make sure they meet best standards for livability, compactness, completeness
Strong, engaged, participatory community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft plan misses important elements raised at the stakeholder session in the fall. Review meeting notes to capture this input and strengthen language around inclusiveness • Investment in inclusive engagement is needed in order to make progress 		
Resilient food systems	<p>Possible new targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly increase the amount of annual revenues generated by local food producers and processors (this target acknowledges that some of those revenues might be exported outside the City of Whitehorse to other parts of the Yukon. • Increase locally available options in local food stores (you cannot increase consumption until you first increase availability) • Make local food more accessible to lower income residents (e.g. subsidies for low income residents to shop at the farmers market) 	<p>Proposed improvements to existing strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the proposed Agriculture plan into a broader local food plan that includes local food processing, distribution, and retail • Adjust wording of second bullet to read "Build skills and knowledge to support food production and processing in a northern climate" • Adjust wording of fourth bullet to read, "Expand compost feedstock and finished compost, maintain compost quality, and improve compost." <p>Possible new strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the potential to create a local food hub that includes direct to consumer retail (farmer's market, a market to serve local chefs, a farmer's diner), distribution (a food aggregation, cross-docking facility to all food producers and processors to aggregate their production to serve larger customers), storage (temporary dry, cold, and frozen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very strong alignment exists between YG and CoW on local food. YG prepared a Yukon Local Food Strategy discussion document in 2014. Alignment could be improved by expanding the CoW Agriculture Plan into a Whitehorse Local Food plan and in aligning the targets of both plans (YG has not developed any targets yet for its plan). Currently less than 2% of food consumed in the Yukon is locally sourced. • Jointly funding a local food production and processing institute in conjunction with Yukon College, other educational institutions, and first nations. • Jointly funding the development of a local food hub in Whitehorse • Jointly funding the development of a cold climate commercial greenhouse and/or a community kitchen, shared processing facility, food storage/cross-docking facility, etc. • Jointly contribute food production land or land subsidies to make local food production more economic. • Harmonize policies and legislation so that they are not in conflict. For example, YG wants to supply organic waste from

Goal Area	Community Targets	Strategies	Opportunities for Collaboration
		<p>storage) meeting space (for local food events), office space (for food-related organizations), and shared food processing facilities (e.g. commercial kitchen, shared food processing facility).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a demonstration cold climate greenhouse made from cost effective locally available materials, energy supplies (e.g. biomass) and established technologies. • Create federally approved facilities for meat, dairy and egg production (e.g. federal egg grading) • Expand direct to retail food enterprises (e.g. community supported agriculture, community supported fishery, consumer-direct chicken and meat enterprises). 	<p>its mobile abattoir but current Whitehorse regulations prohibit this (this could be potentially solved through changes to the Waste Management Bylaw).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create zoning for commercial greenhouses in Whitehorse • YG could promote the food products produced in Whitehorse to other communities in the Yukon. • To facilitate all of the above, it would be worthwhile to create a multi-stakeholder local food consortium made up of all levels of government and first nations as well as food producers, food processors, food retailers and the Chambers of Commerce. • Yukon Food Network will provide ideas about food supply preparedness in the case of climate change or extreme-weather severing of highway food supply. • Growers and rest of group are encouraged to bring specific regulatory issues to the City
Efficient, low-impact transportation			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality – work with YG and Medical Officer of Health
Vibrant and diverse arts, culture and heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language is understated – could strengthen it • Good language because it speaks to inclusivity and health if we can all feel comfortable going to one another’s events. • More emphasis on small ‘c’ culture is needed – building cross-cultural understanding so we all feel comfortable with one another’s cultures • Need broader definition of heritage – not just buildings, includes cultural landscapes 	<p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaps and bounds of progress with First Nations and the rest of the community coming together • In comparison to other communities, Whitehorse has First Nations culture that is very accessible, with First Nations more integral to the culture of the whole community • Increased presence of First Nations through partnerships on festivals, e.g. Adaka festival <p>Possible new strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen City leadership in protecting and restoring built heritage • Build and celebrate a sense of identity and sense of place that is shared across the whole community and/or celebrate and build on recent success in cultural inclusion, extending from First Nations to recent immigrant communities • Make First Nations culture permeate the city more, e.g. through • adding First Nations names to street signs and place names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to see reference to specific First Nations projects and actions in the plan, rather than just a cursory mention of it • What are KDFN priorities and projects that could overlap? • Use list from fall joint meeting between City and KDFN and find actions identified in there and include on action list • Work with the heritage community as well as First Nations and the arts community

Goal Area	Community Targets	Strategies	Opportunities for Collaboration
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> expressing First Nations cultural norms in physical elements of the city (could be in urban design, street network and building siting patterns, ...) re-establish Heritage Committee Encourage the conservation of existing heritage buildings (including restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive reuse) through incentives and recognition (i.e., the Yukon Heritage Awards) 	
Zero waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could we be more aggressive with the 2020 target? Do we have an internal City target (i.e. for internal waste diversion) 	<p>Proposed improvements to existing strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include tenant education under education, specify good marketing Reference new development—design 3 stream waste at the beginning Ban garbage chutes Possible new strategies include: Are there any plans to provide options for country residential neighbourhoods? Focus on downtown restaurants, etc. Most waste comes from businesses How to make it cost effective? Secure waste so that people aren't charged for unsorted waste Increase the number of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) days Sharing economy as part of waste reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yukon Housing Corp (YHC) —educate tenants. Implement something as a corporation to make sure tenants follow Enforce with tenants after plan is developed, help implement Chamber of Commerce—education and provide input on strategies—realizes it has to be done—let businesses know the most cost effective way to implement and bring costs down Come up with waste strategies Tenant info sessions with representatives from the City. Develop implementation plans prior to info sessions Set up industry specific meetings to the City and businesses. Food, office, transportation. Get feedback, take questions, let them know what's coming Strategy for businesses. Show them what others have done. Give opportunity to provide input, give examples from other areas

PUBLIC SURVEY & COMMUNITY EVENTS

The following provides a summary of the feedback received from the online public survey and community champion events.

DRAFT GOALS

Social equity: affordable housing and poverty reduction (76 comments)

- **housing/affordability** – more affordable homes (including rental housing), rehabilitate existing homes – many ‘affordable’ homes in disrepair, smaller lots/homes, co-op housing, sound barriers (trees) between major roads/highway and neighbourhoods, require/incentivize new developments to include affordable units, support a Housing First program, more accessible homes (i.e., universal design), more seniors housing (especially downtown), support the Vimy seniors housing project, where will affordable housing go? how is affordability defined (rents scaled to earnings)? **(20 comments)**
- **social support** – eliminate homelessness, need a new emergency shelter, safe injection sites move frequently, more drug/alcohol treatment programs, more positive social programs for those in need (especially in summer), more support for social housing initiatives, strong community support proven to reduce risky behaviour **(13 comments)**
- **supporting density** – small lots for green buildings, reduce parking (especially for compact development and seniors housing), more density downtown to support active living, encourage densification on larger lots and infill (granny suites, secondary suites) with tax incentives, create denser, walkable communities (shops and services within a ¼ mile of homes), reduce the size of the city boundary to the developed area **(11 comments)**
- **City jurisdiction** – disagree with level of influence? City can be more proactive, get more involved, push for a partnership with YG to support affordable housing, City’s job to supply lots (leave building to developers), set the bar on minimum wage (\$15/hr) **(8 comments)**
- **active transportation** – less roads/traffic, no vehicles on Main St, more safe bike lanes and walking/hiking/ski trails, restrict motorize vehicles on trails, active transportation routes/access to nature are a great support to low income households (i.e., natural foods/medicines and affordable transportation) **(7 comments)**
- **vacant properties** – address empty/abandoned houses downtown be creative with brownfield sites, temporary uses like community gardens, use existing lands instead of increasing density, make land available, increase taxes for vacant urban properties, **(5 comments)**

- **development cost** – land prices to high for new development, charge for development fees instead of land value, decrease cost of building permits within City limits, reduce development fees **(4 comments)**
- **roads** – improve vehicle access to Riverdale **(2 comments)**
- **limit growth** – consider population reduction/maintenance to make things more affordable **(1 comment)**
- **entertainment** – more social/entertainment spaces (i.e., a new bowling alley) **(1 comment)**
- **support/all sounds good** **(1 comment)**
- **open litter pick-up to citizens** **(1 comment)**
- **nothing new here, has all been said before** **(1 comment)**
- **don't allow a huge seniors complex in Whistle Bend** **(1 comment)**

Zero waste **(68 comments)**

- **support recycling** – bring back/fund Raven Recycling so its economically feasible (pressure for all levels of government to fund), current options not convenient, concerned the City has taken a step backwards in past year, provide free recycling pickup, support recyclers so they have safe routes, recycle everything (i.e., all plastics), buy a plastic conversion machine, full refunds for all recyclable bottles (i.e., milk), view recycling as wealth – not waste, public education for all ages, provide recycling for everyone (including apartments), promote/incentivize local businesses to recycle, process recycling locally **(33 comments)**
- **garbage** – charge for collection of landfill garbage, keep it 100% user pay system, landfill should only take garbage, charge more for un-separated garbage, improve curbside collection, use tax breaks or other incentives to get people on board (i.e., opt-in for once a month collection or less to save money) **(7 comments)**
- **re-use** – clean up the 'free store' at the garbage facility and or move to a more accessible location (more organized and user friendly), improve landfill scavenging (allow for free, offer a safety course, sign a waiver), promote/incentivize local reuse for individuals and businesses (connect local businesses with used/recycled/landfill items), loans for entrepreneurs to process reused materials **(6 comments)**
- **compost** – compost program inefficient, program has taken a step backwards and lost organic certification, implement composting in apartments, trailer parks and businesses, develop a system that is less attractive to wildlife (avoid conflicts with humans and protect bears) **(6 comments)**
- **support/increase targets** – targets too low, why wait until 2020/2040, let's do it now! bring it on! good work, keep it up **(5 comments)**

- **reduce packaging** – provide alternatives to packaging (bulk options, bring your own container), tired of paying/being penalized for garbage when we can't control packaging, more point-of-purchase fees, requirements for stores to take back packaging, extended producer responsibility **(4 comments)**
- **education** – public education for all ages on dumping, re-educate people on recycling and get them excited about it again, need a better green guide on waste reduction (where to take certain items and info on growing your own food, reuse, etc. **(3 comments)**)
- **dumping/litter** – avoid dumping around the outskirts (i.e., mattresses), clean-up waste and debris on streets **(2 comments)**
- **Do not support** – why are we doing this? will increase the cost of business and make things more inconvenient **(2 comments)**

Efficient, low-impact transportation **(58 comments)**

- **transit** – bus system has really improved in last few years, need smaller/more frequent buses, we need to get people out of cars and onto transit, post bus schedules at all stops, invest in more bus shelters, need more transit links in and out of town, need service between Whistle Bend-downtown-Canada Games Center, need service to Whitehorse South, difficult to find routes between neighbourhoods, park and ride programs, free bus passes for low-income families and/or youth (under 25), more night/weekend buses, privatize transit, hybrid buses **(21 comments)**
- **bike lanes** – generally a good bike network, address gaps and problem areas, bike lane along Alaska Hwy unsafe and polluted – need a separated lane along the ditch or old railway track, adopt an “Idaho Stop Law” (cyclists treat stop signs as yield and red lights as stop signs), look into a cycling co-op/community bike shop to help people get started, plow bike lanes in winter, link existing bike paths, improve/expand off-road bike lanes or consider separated on-road bike lanes, downtown bike-sharing program, make 3rd Ave the main bike access route to downtown **(11 comments)**
- **paths, trails and sidewalks** – love the paved paths between neighbourhoods, some are well maintained in winter and others aren't, add more non-motorized trails around neighbourhoods, maintain and upgrade existing trails (i.e., Black Street stairs, trails in Riverdale), increase awareness of our great trail networks, review/update the 2007 Trail Plan, love the winter ski trails – add even more, improve walking routes downtown, safe walking commuter routes, consider closing some downtown streets (i.e., Main Street) for pedestrian use **(11 comments)**
- **alternate transportation options** - remove barriers for things like UberTaxi and car co-ops, encourage car-pooling, does the City have a policy on vehicle sharing? consider a circular rail transit system downtown or monorail system, electric vehicles/charging stations **(7 comments)**

- **roads and parking** – concerned about reducing intersection signals, lack of left turn lanes and signalling (i.e., Second Ave & Main St), don't sacrifice the smooth flow of traffic and availability of parking (especially downtown), more roundabouts, traffic coming from S Alaska Hwy in the morning is an issue, reduce truck traffic and idling, traffic calming in neighbourhoods **(7 comments)**
- **funding** – not happy that federal funds to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions were used to build the Rotary Centennial Bridge **(1 comment)**

Green infrastructure and buildings **(49 comments)**

- **water** – education surrounding watersheds is a good idea (i.e., pesticide use and water table), provide public/school tours of water treatment facilities, sign up as a Blue Dot community with the David Suzuki Foundation, composting toilets, pull rope showers, water collection and storage, ensure existing infrastructure is maintained/replaced to minimize water loss **(10 comments)**
 - **support water metering** **(4 comments)**
 - **don't support water metering** **(3 comments)**
- **building design** – apply passive house building principles to larger city buildings, encourage private passive house development, encourage solar panels, skylights/natural light, promote permaculture principles, stormwater management on site – make builders accountable, maintain trees in new developments, promote restoration of existing buildings over new construction, ensure building standards are appropriate with our colder temperatures **(9 comments)**
- **incentives** – promote/provide incentives for low-flow appliances or grey water systems, mason stoves, energy efficiency (especially in older homes), passive house development, garden suites, infill development **(7 comments)**
- **support for green buildings and infrastructure** – policies sound great, national standards are outdated and we should be exceeding these building codes **(5 comments)**
- **density** – smaller houses will reduce energy/water needs, zone for smaller lots downtown, encourage infill and densification on large lots (make it easy and attractive) **(4 comments)**
- **don't support** – don't legislate more than what national building codes require, City is overbuilding, other infrastructure may be more important **(2 comments)**
- **affordability** – increased building codes mean more expensive development costs which leads to higher housing costs and rents **(2 comments)**
- **alternative energy** – windmills, modern wood fuels **(2 comments)**
- **natural assets** – more emphasis needed on natural asset management (i.e., value of watersheds for water purification, strategic landscaping for heating/cooling) **(1 comment)**

Resilient food systems (42 comments)

- **community gardens** – support community gardens, less charity - allow people to be more self-sufficient, more gardens in schools, community gardens in vacant lots, parks, rooftops, and in every neighbourhood, give each community association a challenge and a budget related to community gardens, contests between neighbourhoods (annual awards for food produced, beauty, number of participants, etc.), build gardens to keep wildlife out and carefully assess locations, evaluate soils to find most productive sites, get involved with DUGS (Downtown Urban Gardeners Society) **(12 comments)**
- **support local farming and food organizations** – encourage/support local farmers and small-scale growers so that local food is affordable, support Potluck Food Corp – provide a year-round space for them, subsidize local farmers and food growers, more farms, more community greenhouses, open up land for agriculture (make it economically feasible), support tax breaks for farmers through YG, support vertical farming or other artificial agriculture, provide a storage area for local produce **(11 comments)**
- **use/sell local compost** – we create great compost that nobody uses, City should use its own compost for public gardens/landscaping – not fertilizers! hard to access/buy - allow local retailers to sell it, more available for bulk purchase, educate the community to use City compost **(4 comments)**
- **compost concerns** – was not happy last time City managed compost - preferred when Boreal Compost ran the operation, don't like the idea of paying the City to collect compost and then having to pay for composted soil, should have planned better compost collection carts – need to be retrofitted to avoid wildlife getting in **(3 comments)**
- **targets** – targets too low, replace all public gardens with 50% edible flower/plants by 2017 and 100% by 2020, compost targets should be 50% **(3 comments)**
- **chickens** - what about backyard chickens? Allow for a higher number of chickens seasonally (i.e., 6 year-round, 12 from May-Sept), remove restrictions for selling chickens/by-products to support local food culture **(2 comments)**
- **options** – co-ops and alternatives, bulk food options, why have no large grocery retailers established in Whitehorse? **(2 comments)**
- **great!** - City should play a role in education and facilitation to support local food culture **(2 comments)**
- **local farming a challenge** - short growing season, poor soil, rugged terrain **(1 comment)**
- **profile local gardens in City advertising** **(1 comment)**
- **stick to municipal actions, leave gardens to gardeners** **(1 comment)**

Energy and greenhouse gas reduction (37 comments)

- **alternative energy** – consider landfill methane collected on site, hydro-electric, solar, more small-scale wind power, partner with Yukon Energy to develop local wind power, reduce use of natural gas initiatives, clean-burning wood fuels (6 comments)
- **incentives** - provide incentives/tax breaks for citizens to implement solar/wind power or energy efficiency (i.e., insulation, mason stoves), incentives for residential/commercial “super green” buildings, improve building insulation (6 comments)
- **transportation emissions** – bylaw enforcement to reduce idling, more roundabouts to reduce idling (more efficient than traffic lights), are electric/methane buses feasible? (6 comments)
- **targets and measures** – community targets not ambitious enough, why are you measuring GHG emissions from 2014 standards instead of something more meaningful like the lowest recorded levels in the Yukon in recent years? we should be striving for Kyoto Protocol standards which use 1990 levels as a baseline, more meaningful target for non-fuel energy production (i.e., if we produce none/little now then it will be the same by 2050) (4 comments)
- **big picture** – without federal subsidies for alternative energy there will be little accomplished, encourage GHG reductions through density, active transportation, community gardening, local agriculture/farmers markets, composting, and prioritizing redevelopment over new construction (especially for housing) (4 comments)
- **cost concerns** – this will result in higher capital expenditures/taxes, controlling cost of infrastructure and services is more important, anti-idling isn’t feasible in cold climates, don’t require energy efficiency for private sector, let’s live within our means (3 comments)
- **City facilities and vehicles design** – will new City buildings/vehicles be energy efficient (automatic lights/thermostats)? All City buildings should have solar hot water, City should showcase alternative energy (3 comments)
- **public education** – information on anti-idling (i.e., cold climate requires running cars long enough to warm up, when is it okay and when is it not okay?), education on energy consumption (2 comments)
- **anti-idling isn’t feasible in a cold climate** (1 comment)
- **more natural gas initiatives** (1 comment)
- **use coal, oil and gas** (1 comment)

Safe and healthy community (36 comments)

- **trail use/active transportation** – more non-motorized trails to promote active transportation, keep Millennium Trail bridge and Rotary/Centennial bridges as pedestrian/non-motorized **(7 comments)**
- **pedestrian safety** – provide lighting on trails/walkways and crosswalks, snow removal on sidewalks (either enforce bylaws for residents or provide as a City service), icy sidewalks especially dangerous for seniors **(5 comments)**
- **recreation** – provide more recreation facilities (especially for kids/youth), provide more opportunities for kids to get involved in sports without high costs **(4 comments)**
- **social services/support** – more support for low-income/people at risk, keep working to reduce poverty, provide supported living in every subdivision, **(4 comments)**
- **education** – promotion/education about healthy family programs, active/healthy living (in schools and for the general public), provide a broader range of teaching methods to reach kids and prevent social issues later in life, provide skills training so unemployed people can find work **(4 comments)**
- **traffic/bike safety** – keep bike lanes separated from vehicle traffic, 4th Ave bike lane especially dangerous during rush hour (consider alternatives or additional signage), more traffic calming by TAGS and Yukon Inn **(3 comments)**
- **police/enforcement** – more police, check recreational vehicles for impaired driving (ATVs, skidoos, trail bikes, etc.) **(2 comments)**
- **food** – reduce unhealthy food options at public facilities (arena, Canada Games Center) **(1 comment)**
- **trail use/motorized** – remember where we live, don't ban motorized recreational vehicles from trails **(1 comment)**
- **healthcare services** – more local doctors (or accept more patients at existing clinics) **(1 comment)**
- **do not allow a seniors' mega-complex** in Whistle Bend **(1 comment)**
- **do not build a big new sports complex** – build upon what we already have, add to communities without recreation **(1 comment)**
- **do not privatize sports facilities** (soccer/track complex) **(1 comment)**
- **dogs** – do something about the number of off-leash dogs on public trails/walkways **(1 comment)**

Healthy environment and wilderness (32 comments)

- **recreation/access** – promote access for all users (motorized and non-motorized), don't discriminate against motorized vehicles – provide places for them to enjoy the wilderness too, more mapping and signage of local parks and trails, promote active transportation and trail systems – provide something for everyone, preserve trails between Takhini and Porter Creek **(6 comments)**
- **targets and measures** – don't understand park targets, is there a brownfield strategy to increase density in developed areas and conserve wilderness? do we currently meet drinking water standards? maintaining current wilderness doesn't go far enough – we need to rebuild and compensate for loss of habitat, reduce City boundary further **(5 comments)**
- **implementation** – partner with WildWise and Environment Yukon to find solutions to wildlife/human conflicts (i.e., bears and garbage/compost), implement the Trail Plan and OCP policies, partner with outdoor organizations for park and trail mapping/signage and park management (i.e., Trails Only, KSA, CMBC, Renewable Resource Councils) **(4 comments)**
- **support** – preserving urban wilderness is important, recent regional park planning process was very good, good to see a process in place for park management **(4 comments)**
- **green neighbourhoods** – keep neighbourhoods as close to "natural" as possible, don't need more parks if we have green neighbourhoods **(2 comments)**
- **don't support/concerns** – concern about wildlife corridors through town (i.e., bears and other wildlife conflicts with urban areas), concern about illegal use/destruction of greenspaces and continual trail development (we have enough), focus on other priorities **(2 comments)**
- **use of resources** – maintain a balance between protection and use of renewable (wood) resources, use wood energy **(2 comments)**
- **limit use/access** – limit motorized recreational vehicles in wilderness areas **(2 comments)**
- **park maintenance** – more maintenance to keep existing parks/greenspaces pristine, higher penalties/enforcement for littering **(1 comments)**
- **energy** – is it possible to incorporate solar/wind power in parks/greenspaces? **(1 comment)**
- **social issues** – provide better social services in town for drug/alcohol users to improve park safety **(1 comment)**
- **more public education** **(1 comment)**
- **ensure proper buffers** between industrial lands and protected areas/parks **(1 comment)**

Strong downtown and livable neighbourhoods (29 comments)

- **density** – density and mixed use neighbourhoods is a good approach - allows us to protect wilderness areas, reduces the need for cars, improve transportation options before increasing density, neighbourhood livability is more important than density **(5 comments)**
- **housing** – provide a range of options, ensure there are still lots for single-family homes, more affordable options, why more housing downtown? rethink caretaker living regulations and multiple living spaces in industrial areas – allow people to live where they work, provide incentives for neighbourhood infill housing, semi-assisted living for seniors in neighbourhoods **(5 comments)**
- **local businesses** – involve businesses in the process – their tax rates are higher and they should have a say about the future/rising costs, encourage business diversification with zoning amendments/incentives, more small shops downtown and expand from Main Street – provide more shops on Centennial St, more service shops in neighbourhoods (i.e., hairdressers, dentists) **(5 comments)**
- **neighbourhood connections/trails** – bike and pedestrian linkages are important, we have a good existing trail network but there are gaps, improve linkages between neighbourhoods and downtown, love the waterfront trail near downtown, maximize quality of life through active transportation **(4 comments)**
- **safety** – improve safety downtown, ensure safe streets for drivers/pedestrians/cyclists (especially 2nd Ave and 4th Ave), add lighting to make trails safer **(3 comments)**
- **congestion** – traffic downtown and in Riverdale is an issue, parking/further traffic will be an issue if we don't encourage walking/cycling/transit **(3 comments)**
- **vacant properties** – consider using city-owned properties for community gardens or public markets, address vacant properties (i.e., Marwell area) **(2 comments)**
- **green buildings** – encourage environmentally friendly buildings when rebuilding downtown **(1 comment)**
- **social/amenities** – indoor gathering places in neighbourhoods (i.e., community centre) **(1 comment)**

Vibrant and diverse arts, culture and heritage (25 comments)

- **love local art, keep up the good work** – the City is doing well, many murals, statues and public art works downtown, love the fun bike racks downtown and new artistic transit stops in McIntyre/Range Road (hope more shelters are upgraded soon), this is a good plan, we have an amazing artistic community, beautiful/interesting downtown **(8 comments)**
- **First Nations & culture/heritage** – we are proud of our First Nations citizens/art/heritage and should be more present in tourism (airport jobs, art for

tourism magazines), partner with various cultural groups to recognize and celebrate their cultures, First Nations art workshops (for the public and in schools) **(7 comments)**

- **events** – bring more Rendezvous events back to Main Street, more Yukon Quest events, not sure about integrating events into a festival – better to spread out over time (works better for residents and visitors) **(3 comments)**
- **youth** – more opportunities for youth to participate positively (i.e., graffiti art on public buildings), integrate First Nations arts into schools **(3 comments)**
- **more art programs** – more opportunities/access to art programs for people of all ages – events, workshops, classes, etc. **(1 comment)**
- **renew arts policy** **(1 comment)**
- **Downtown revitalization** – need to leverage business investment to revitalize some ugly spots downtown **(1 comment)**
- **funding** – provide equal funding for community organizations, not just for some (i.e., choirs/singing groups) **(1 comment)**

Strong local economy **(19 comments)**

- **local economy/diversification** – City needs to play a role in diversifying our economy (not just tourism and mining), maintain a strong tourism industry, happy to see local food production as an economic opportunity – encourage/incentivize residents to produce food in gardens, affordability and quality of life influence local economy **(7 comments)**
- **support local businesses and entrepreneurs** – provide incentives to local businesses and disincentives to big box stores, provide start-up grants **(4 comments)**
- **government staff/services** – more qualified people and accountability, less staffing, focus on basic services, cut 'freebies' for government staff **(3 comments)**
- **taxes/anti-business** – City is anti-business, burdens on private sector and commercial development, development fees too high, taxes increase yearly, building codes make development too expensive, lack of consultation with local businesses **(2 comments)**
- **support** – especially initiatives that support other sustainability goals/needs **(1 comment)**
- **make people work, real work** **(1 comment)**
- **attract young talent to live/work in Whitehorse** **(1 comment)**

Strong, engaged, participatory community (18 comments)

- **community associations** – City should keep up to date contact list for community associations and offer free programs to board members (i.e., board development workshops, perhaps hire a coordinator to facilitate community associations, some work well and others do not (not representative of community interests), associations sometimes abused by the few in control, City should develop expectations handbook of what community association input should look like **(4 comments)**
- **more/deeper engagement** – continue with community consultation but listen more to responses, people need to feel their input has been incorporated into decisions/actions, special interest groups seem to have more influence on Council than the public, some public consultations seem undemocratic (i.e., participated in a committee where they felt the outcome was already decided) **(3 comments)**
- **we are doing great** – this process is a great example **(2 comments)**
- **bias/conflict of interest** – community meetings regarding trails are biased in favour of motorized recreational vehicle users, conflicts of interest for contractors (facilitating community meetings on trail decisions and performing trail work) **(2 comments)**
- **intergenerational activities** – older people and younger people are often isolated from each other, promote intergenerational activities, more activities and involvement for seniors **(2 comments)**
- **volunteering** - opportunities are well-advertised, doesn't need much work, volunteer rates depend on improving equality/reducing poverty **(2 comments)**
- **less engagement** – meaningful engagement is great but not required for everything, we elect officials to make decisions **(1 comment)**
- **communications** – use social media to communicate about events and issues to increase participation **(1 comment)**
- **accountability** – greater accountability for City expenditures **(1 comment)**

GENERAL COMMENTS

- **Good work** – appreciate that the City is trying to be more sustainable, appreciate the opportunity to provide input, we’re moving in the right direction, keep up the good work **(5 comments)**
- **Governance** – less public services/more private sector, less government staff/more front line people and services **(2 comments)**
- **Taxes** – spend money wisely, there are times when growing/increasing services isn’t needed (i.e., when service levels suffer, debt is incurred, or taxes are raised), consider scaling back or deferring plans in tough economic times rather than raising taxes, consider user fees **(2 comments)**
- **Include business owners in the process** – more business representatives should have been included in the stakeholder meetings, local businesses are affected by legislated changes and should have a say in the future **(1 comment)**
- **Plan not necessary** – a waste of effort, studies and plans aren’t necessary, let’s focus on getting the basics right first (i.e., adequate snow removal) **(1 comment)**

COMMUNITY ACTIONS

In addition to feedback on the draft plan, participants were asked what actions they would take over the next year to be more sustainable. Results below are from survey responses

Ideas	# of people committed
Conserve energy (turn off the lights, use energy efficient lights and appliances, etc.)	10
Eat local (buy locally grown foods, grow my own food)	9
Drive less (walk or cycle to destinations that are close by, take transit more often, carpool)	9
Conserve resources (stop buying things I don’t need, choosing items with less packaging, repairing items that break, etc.)	9
Conserve water (take shorter showers, not leave the tap running, collect and reuse rainwater, etc.)	6
Stop using pesticides on my lawn and/or garden	4

Other key ideas included connecting with neighbours through annual events (such as a street-wide yard sale or tea party), re-purposing/re-using/recycling things (for example, using pallets to create garden boxes), and drying clothes outside or using an indoor drying rack.