

PLAN IT WHITEHORSE

Fourth Avenue Goes on a Diet

In May 2005, drivers and cyclists arriving in Downtown Whitehorse noticed new lanes, lines and signs along 4th Avenue. It had been put on a “road diet”. The former two or four lanes of vehicle traffic were replaced by a consistent three-lane configuration flanked by two bike lanes. The work was completed as part of the City’s Urban Transportation Showcase Project – Whitehorse Moves. This Transport Canada funded program aims to reduce green house gas emissions in the transportation sector. The City chose the 4th Avenue Road Diet as one of its six infrastructure projects after two years of consultation and planning with Whitehorse residents and leading urban transportation designers.

The aim of the 4th Avenue road diet was to eliminate the barriers on 4th Avenue to make it safer, more interesting and

more accessible for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. A dual left hand turn centre lane keeps through-traffic flowing, while eliminating “dart around” movements. A bike lane in both directions provides cyclists with a designated place on the road. The bike lanes connect to the trails on 2 Mile Hill, along Robert Service Way, and to the Black Street staircase leading to the airport trail. Cyclists now have a safe and direct cycling corridor through downtown, leaving the sidewalks safer for pedestrian travel and roads safer for everyone. Cyclists are reminded that they must wear a bike helmet, obey all traffic rules and signs and, at night, must have functioning lights.

Roads put on diets are often more interesting and aesthetically pleasing places to drive, walk and cycle; traffic slows down and there is more life on the street. To make 4th Avenue even more pleasant and

interesting, the City and partner businesses are currently installing numerous planting clusters, benches, and bus shelters within the boulevard area, providing colour and life to the streetscape. Designer bike racks created by local artists and are located at various places along 4th Avenue.

More people commuting and running errands by bike, on foot or by bus reduces emissions of greenhouse gases. Providing alternative transportation options and improving the infrastructure along 4th Avenue will result in a healthier and more active community, which ultimately benefits both personal health and the long-term health of the planet.

For more information on Whitehorse Moves initiatives please contact Sabine Schweiger, Environmental Coordinator at 668-8312.

News from the Waterfront

The Whitehorse Waterfront was a busy place this summer. At Shipyards Park, the landscaping was completed, with the planting of over 200 new trees and shrubs. The lift station at Shipyards Park lift is also getting a new look. Interior and exterior improvements are underway and will be completed later this fall.

Another highlight from the summer was the completion of the Trolley line extension. The line now runs from Rotary Park north all the way to Spook Creek. At the Train Shed, a new patio, trees, benches and planter boxes have been added.

This fall the City is beginning work on the reconstruction of First Avenue and the

installation of new infrastructure at the Motorways Site. Quest Engineering will be working with several other companies on this project. The design work will be completed early next year and the construction of infrastructure including water, sewer, shallow utilities, road works and traffic lights will be completed by fall of 2006.

A Detailed Riverfront Plan is also underway. This will involve a focused planning and design process for the area bounded by Main St., First Ave., Strickland St. and the Yukon River. There will be opportunities for public input. Watch the City Page in the newspapers or our website for more details.



Exterior and interior improvement underway at the lift station in Shipyards Park



Canada Games Centre Grand Opening

The Grand Opening of the Canada Games Centre - Centre des Jeux du Canada is October 15th at 2 p.m. This new complex is home to the Whitehorse Lions Aquatic Centre, an indoor soccer field house, a flexi-hall and three ice surfaces. This includes an NHL-sized arena, an Olympic-sized arena as well as a leisure ice surface. Other facilities include an indoor running track, an indoor play area and a fitness centre.

On opening day, sports groups will demonstrate their sports in each of the new arenas throughout the weekend.

Enjoy watching or participating in speedskating, basketball, soccer, running, weightlifting, dodgeball, yoga, dene games, synchronized swimming!

Special events for teens will include swimming, skating, a dodgeball tournament and a fitness challenge. Activities will be happening all weekend and it's all free. Bring your skates, swimming suit or just a gym bag full of everything and try out the Canada Games Centre - Centre des Jeux du Canada. Join us in celebrating this beautiful new facility! For more information call 667-4FUN.

Residential Intensification in Whitehorse

The City of Whitehorse is continuing its efforts to promote sustainable development through the intensification of the city's developed areas. The Official Community Plan (OCP) states that future development shall be directed in as compact a manner as feasible given established land use patterns.

Residential intensification can take a number of forms including infill development, adaptive reuse, lot splitting and secondary suites. Intensification can result in reduced infrastructure costs, more efficient land use, the preservation of natural areas outside the urban boundary, the revitalization of areas in decline and can

make public transit systems more feasible.

The City, in implementing the recommendations in the OCP, is continuing to look at ways of increasing the density in urban areas.

There are currently several projects underway that will increase the residential density downtown. The City has been working with developers on several proposals for condos, mixed-use developments and seniors residences that are being planned for downtown. The Downtown Plan will give further recommendations on how to encourage this type of positive development in the City's core.

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Downtown Plan Update

The Background Report for the new Downtown Plan is now complete. The preparation of this report involved research, analysis and public consultation that consisted of four meetings with the advisory committee and two sets of public meetings.

The next step is to use this Background Report to develop the draft plan. A third

set of public meetings in late fall will provide the public with the opportunity to comment on the draft plan.

The Background Report, and more information on the planning process, can be viewed on our website at www.planning.whitehorse.ca. Please call Zoë Morrison at 668-8338 for more information.

