

REPORT

Climate Action, Planning and Development

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: September 11, 2023

From: Jackie Teed, Acting Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development
File: 13.2525.02

Item #: 2023-566

Subject: 22nd Street Station Area Visioning Update

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with the next steps for the 22nd Street Station Area Visioning process identified in this report.

PURPOSE

To update Council on First Nations collaboration and plans for community engagement on the relaunch of 22nd Street Station Area visioning.

SUMMARY

The visioning process for 22nd Street SkyTrain Station Area has been relaunched. This report provides an update to Council on the anticipated ideas challenge and community engagement processes, as well as a summary of First Nations input to date. A public launch event is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, October 11th, at Anvil Centre. A project page is being created, and various community engagement events scheduled. The ideas challenge will be open from early October to early December 2023. Staff anticipate reporting back to Council with the findings from the ideas challenge and community engagement early in 2024.

BACKGROUND

At their regular meeting on June 12, 2023, Council directed staff to relaunch the visioning for the 22nd Street Station Area, with a dual focus on climate action and closer collaboration with First Nations.

PROJECT UPDATES

First Nations Engagement

Staff reached out to Kwantlen, Qayqayt, Kwikwetlem, Tsleil-Waututh, Squamish, and Musqueam First Nations following the June report to Council, with project updates and questions around engagement preferences. Staff have had further meetings with Squamish, Kwantlen, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, anticipate a meeting with Musqueam, and continue to reach out to Kwikwetlem and Qayqayt. Input is summarized below:

- No concerns have been expressed about the proposed project process.
- Several Nations have indicated an interest in providing input separately from the ideas challenge process. There is enthusiasm about being at the table for the design charrette when ideas are being integrated and built upon. Staff will be flexible in seeking input throughout the project process, on timelines that work for First Nations, and seeking to connect for input in advance of project decisions being made.
- First Nations staff have expressed an interest in exploring opportunities for economic reconciliation, such as by facilitating the creation of First Nations owned and operated housing within the station area.
- Interest has also been expressed in opportunities for cultural recognition, making the Coast Salish context of the lands more visible, through approaches like informing the design concept, exploring wayfinding, and public art, and creating space for gatherings and ceremony.

The above expressions were from different Nations but not attributed separately here, recognizing that these are preliminary discussions and not specifically directions from Chiefs and Councils.

Stakeholder Engagement Update

Staff and the project consultant have met with BC Hydro, TransLink and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for early discussions on issues and opportunities in and around the station area. Staff have also communicated the visioning timeline with the School District and plan to have further discussions.

Community Engagement Plan Update

Staff and the project consultants are planning for a public launch event for the visioning on Wednesday, October 11th 2023. The event is anticipated to consist of an engaging panel of speakers as well as an interactive opportunity for dialogue on ideas for the vision. Because the vision for 22nd Street Station Area has relevance across the city, the launch event is being planned to be held at an easily accessible venue, Anvil Centre.

Additional events will be held within the Connaught Heights neighbourhood, including pop-up engagement and a workshop for residents, to which the Connaught Heights and West End Residents Associations will also be invited.

Staff and Modus (consultant retained to lead the ideas challenge and community visioning process) are also reaching out to a range of organizations serving and representing different cross-sections of the community, to invite to focus group discussions and engage in different ways (e.g. staff are planning to engage with youth at the City's Youth Centre over multiple drop-in sessions), to ensure that we gather input from lesser heard voices.

An interactive Be Heard page will be set up for the project. A community survey will be hosted on the site, as well as the use of interactive tools like ideas boards.

Ideas Challenge Update

Modus has completed a strategy for the ideas challenge, which is anticipated to be open from early October to early December 2023. In addition to local outreach, they will be reaching out to post-secondary and international networks with the overarching question of, "What is your big bold idea for a climate-friendly neighbourhood where everyone can thrive?" The challenge will be framed with underlining principles around climate action, reconciliation, and equity and inclusion. Participants will be invited to submit on one or more of the following areas of interest:

- Landscape and water,
- Mobility, access and infrastructure,
- Buildings and energy,
- Land use and housing, and,
- Community connection and identity.

Ideas will be evaluated based on the following:

- Creativity and innovation,
- Relevance to local context,
- Communication and clarity, and,
- Alignment with principles around advancing climate action in an inclusive and equitable manner.

There are anticipated to be multiple "winning" ideas, with honorariums for some of the submissions rated highest by a jury. The concept of the ideas challenge is to harvest a range of ideas from residents as well as leaders from outside of the community.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will bring a report on 22nd Street Station Area visioning to the September 19 Advisory Planning Commission (APC) meeting for feedback from the Commission on the process and solicitation of early ideas for the station area.

Staff and the project consulting team will proceed with community engagement, the ideas challenge, and further engagement with First Nations through the fall. Staff anticipate reporting back to Council and APC in early 2024 with the findings from this engagement and collaboration. Next steps will then include integration of ideas into a draft vision for further review by Council, community and First Nations.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

Staff across multiple departments are being engaged in the station area planning process. Initial interdepartmental meetings have been held, to surface possible synergies (e.g. with parks planning), identify early considerations, and to start to map out the technical analysis needed to bring the vision to implementation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2023-2027 approved Capital Plan includes approximately \$360,000 in 2023 and \$115,000 in 2024 for visioning, First Nations collaboration, stakeholder and community engagement activities.

OPTIONS

The following options are presented for Council’s consideration:

- 1. That Council direct staff to proceed with the next steps for the 22nd Street Station Area Visioning process identified in this report; or
- 2. That Council provide staff with alternative direction.

Staff recommends Option 1.

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:
Meredith Seeton, Senior Policy Planner

This report was reviewed by:
Lynn Roxburgh, Supervisor of Land Use Planning
Christina Coolidge, Indigenous Relations Advisor
Demian Rueter, Acting Senior Manager of Climate Action, Planning and Development

This report was approved by:

Serena Trachta, Acting Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer