

Vic West Community Meeting Workshop #2

Saturday September 24 2016

50 attendees

The Community was asked to workshop the following:

Now: What is working well; what is not working well

Wow: What do they want the neighbourhood to look like in 25 years

Table 1

Now

- Affordable (within the City of Victoria)
- Enhancing Community Pride
- flow/cut through traffic cuts up the community
- Difficult for children to cross / travel to school
- Poor sightlines, traffic accident hazards
- Opportunity for shared streets with active transportation. e.g. water-to-water access, Selkirk to Barard (West Songhees)
- Traffic – routing, designation, planning, commuters, industrial
- proximity to waterfront (West Songhees Walkway)
- Walkability to downtown
- We care about our community
- Bakeries – Spiral Café
- Proximity to Downtown
- Vehicle through-fare major problem
- Songhees condos are possible vacant – not much livelihood there
- Small businesses

Wow

- walkability within Vic West and to Downtown
- Great community centres for events and kid's activities
- Garden beds in round-a-bouts to slow down traffic (maintained by residents?)
- water-to-water cycle/pedestrian route
- Barnard park to Arm Street Improvement
- Better use of Victoria West Park
- More activities and amenities at the Community Centre (i.e. dinners, kids activities)
- Library Branch
- What happened to the Round House development?
- How school could be a community school?
- identity – Community Definition
- Enhanced community meeting places
- Neighbourhood Emergency Plan

- Stronger Identity for Residential Area
- Better co-panning along the boundaries with Esquimalt (i.e., industrial areas, traffic)
- Community Beautification in conjunction with traffic calming
- Access to water
- Walkability and Bikeability
- High Quality Businesses
- Access to Goose and E&N (cycling infrastructure)
- Banners / Welcome to Vic West sign / pole painting
- Opportunity: Visual cohesiveness, build the community identity and sense of continuity
- Vic West School – change to Community School. Amenities for the community
- Block streets? Put thought into traffic management

Table 2

Now

- Lots of young families in my neighbourhood
- Not working: No sidewalks in undeveloped areas (i.e. Alston, Langford, Tyee, etc.)
- Affordability with Diversity
- Nor enough affordable housing
- not enough crosswalks on Craigflower Road
- Monster Boats was not our vision for the small-craft marina in Songhees plan. This is an example of how the plan was not implemented as the neighbourhood intended
- We have to fight individual developer's plans all the time. They aren't following the existing plans for density, land use, etc.
- Affordability – Not working and needed!
- Craigflower / Banfield Village needs to be included in the City OCP
- land developments are not including food growing spaces or edible landscaping
- Increasing density along water is blocking views and overwhelming traditional residences – e.g. 21 stories along Esquimalt
- Traffic concerns in front of school for decades! Dangerous!
- Traffic through neighbourhoods too fast. Bike lanes with wider roads = faster traffic
- Current processes take too long to affect change and are counter-productive (e.g. land use, transportation – bureaucratic)
- Downtown works park all over Vic West and trash green boulevards
- City not following our plan for traffic calming anymore (e.g. no green meridians, etc.)
- Process for anchoring community requests to include components / infrastructure into land development - Not working
- Community voice is here but not always followed – wisdom lost
- Traffic calming not working
- Green spaces with public gardens are working, however, more the merrier
- Not working: people parking in Vic West and walking downtown
- Bike connections to other communities – working!

Wow

- Passive Buildings - Promote mandate these
- Free /affordable childcare
- Gorge access – distributed development – develop a number of neighbourhood docks and access points

- More free, child friendly festivals
- Urban gardening, food production
- Slow Traffic down
- More amenities for development from development (high density)
- Plan for peak oil
- Better walking / cycling path on Bay Street bridge
- More off road walking and biking paths
- childcare spaces to meet current need
- Plan for electric Autonomous Vehicles (power, road space, parking)
- More affordable housing
- Don't allow businesses that bring large amounts of parking (i.e. Kickboxing school – 20 cars every hour but no parking)
- Stronger language in policy for the community vision to be included in projects (i.e. “must”)
- Define “affordable” in terms of housing
- Farmers market – local food that we can walk to
- Light rail along Craigflower? Rail along E&N?
- Public Edible Landscaping not ornamental
- Walkability network all over neighbourhood
- Private and public food growing spaces in every development project
- Banfield Beach – Parking, Bike Traffic connecting to Galloping Goose, environment
- Free communal bikes
- More independent small businesses
- change concrete medians and boulevards to green landscape and trees
- Use existing railway to link to Western Communities / Downtown
- lane-way houses, back yard cottages, co-housing, cottage clusters, pocket neighbourhoods – are all affordable housing ideas
- Play area with zip line
- Waterslide park (maybe part of gorge waterway)
- More accessible housing
- Services – medical, retail, food
- we need more pedestrian walkability – more crosswalks
- no big box stores in Vic West
- Green boulevards full of food or at least landscaped – not weedy dead grass.
- Outdoor gym equipment. Adult jungle gym as natural element / art
- Place making in front of elementary school – more walkable, less car-centric
- More community created Public Art
- Small cottages, small homes, multiple small cottages or living places for singles, aging residents – not all 3 bedroom houses
- Small Urban Village along Craigflower Road
- Natural playgrounds
- Craigflower Banfield Village – not only Westside Village which is franchises, not neighbourhood friendly
- Enough affordable childcare in Vic West for all kids who need it
- Food security is more important than development
- Townhouses to share land makes housing more affordable
- Need many access points for swimming in Gorge
- Need to encourage more density through secondary suites and garden apartments
- earthquake planning and mitigation
- Include food growing spaces as a mandatory infrastructure in land development

- Need more boulevard gardening. Need encouraging, not enough, not being promoted
- Minimize Development that contributes to climate change
- Need better walking / cycling paths (i.e. Hudson extension: E&N access, widen Banfield park path)
- Need bigger dock for swimming (w/ toilets and change rooms)
- Need welcome signs for Vic West
- Vic West School – getting too small

Table 3

Now

- West Songhees and Goose pathways are great
- connections via Goose
- McCaskill St Chicken coop mural
- community centre is fabulous
- awesome transit options
- feel safe here
- art quest
- character architecture
- lots of Green space
- Mature trees and green space and gardens
- Banfield park (without Micro-housing and sewage)
- Community pride and heritage
- Keep the community strong
- aging in place seniors
- lack of communication between City and community members / residents
- in some aspect feel like when the City has a plan it is set in stone and the community has no say
- Vic West is not such a throughway for West Shore traffic
- sense of community
- strong community like a family
- healthy community – vibrant
- poor control of truck traffic on residential streets
- not mobility friendly, i.e. wheelchairs, scooters
- Hereward and Esquimalt are hazardous
- parking management not effective

Wow

- cycling corridors – active transportation network
- Need to protect heritage homes
- Emergency infrastructure – fire / police. Risk?
- heritage building preservation
- Preserve traditional community
- Swimming and boat access in the Gorge
- parks and green space
- clearly defined and controlled industrial areas
- separation of high-density and low-density areas

- mixed-use development
- pedestrian friendly village centre
- City flower planting and edible plants
- Urban forest / parks / active transportation
- Character homes
- sense of community
- Plant more trees including fruit bearing
- larger dog parks
- accessible community
- garden suites more common
- new development – maintain architectural character guidelines
- ecological and community centered vision
- vibrant schools and daycares
- more walk, less cars
- improve place making (signage, etc.)
- better advertising
- city engagement
- HOV lane?
- Rail corridor – moves commuters to Western Communities to downtown
- ample pedestrian and cyclist user access
- recreation and health facilities
- mixed-use development
- Small village development in Central Vic West
- keep charm of Vic West
- farmers markets
- Pedestrian crossings – more pedestrian control
- Need better pedestrian crossings on Wilson Street from Rothwell to Esquimalt border
- need strategies to slow down traffic in Bay Street
- need to review commercial truck routes relative to active transport (Hereward)
- control traffic commuting through Vic West
- Traffic and pedestrian safety
- Transportation infrastructure
- dog parks – plan for new one is lacking
- parks
- need for clean-up crews
- creative solutions
- dog friendly community (more so than now)
- Housing
- Diverse housing options accessible
- need more innovation – housing solutions – affordable
- Economic development
- renovation needed for community centre
- lack of arts
- community theatre
- Shopping options, restaurants and cafes
- Need school improvements

Table 4

Now

- no waterfront walkway past Banfield
- one of the most beautiful harbors in the world
- comprehensive community with an identifiable core
- excessive noise and pollution from float planes
- no walk-in clinic
- no doctors within walking distance (need medical clinic)
- no small boat launches in inner-harbour
- lack of dock space in Banfield Park
- Speeding through the 30 km zone
- Not working: Electric bikes through park
- big old trees
- not safe walking after sun-down in trails
- unsafe bicycle speeds in goose
- fast electric vehicles n bike trails
- fabulous patio at Lure restaurant
- West Songhees walkway is great
- New Marina (good)
- Small businesses on Craigflower
- inner-harbour with small sail boats, kayaks and waterfront restaurants
- a few public art pieces
- West Song walkway
- Banfield park trees
- no laundromat
- no waterpark or pool
- new garden shop on Bella
- No neighbourhood pub or brewery (small around Banfield Park?)
- Craigflower village is good
- Diversity
- Spiral Café
- Thriving Craigflower Village
- Greenspace in Banfield Park
- Swimming

Wow

- washroom on the Goose
- clean and clear sidewalks
- good bus connection to downtown
- new bridge
- Good bike path to Galloping Goose and Downtown
- new community centre
- Enhance Vic West as a district neighbourhood and not a suburb of Esquimalt or only a commuter path
- walkability
- Question of boat houses especially sunken ones
- Good public parks for dogs and kids
- Gorge side walkway – Banfield North

- larger dock, harbour ferry service
- to be able to age in place and get all basic service needs – food, medical, exercise, recreation, etc. ability to walk to services
- Great education / schools
- safe, family friendly community
- community gardens, produce stalls
- many community garden spaces
- safety – don't feel safe walking at night
- outdoor patios – restaurants and cafes
- better recycling facility
- children's playground by new bridge
- Songhees single-use needs more business
- division between residents in development around the Vic West Harbour and the core of Vic West
- Ability to walk to car-free plazas
- walkability
- co-op or co-op housing
- mix of high and low-density housing and some older buildings
- preserve heritage buildings
- Diversity – families, singles, group care homes, young, old
- increased range of housing options
- good medical facilities
- healthy grocery options
- Public art
- traffic calming – Esquimalt Road
- childcare, children/family programs
- locally owned businesses
- Small theatre / music venue
- mix old charm with modern amenities
- affordable housing options
- good bike paths lanes
- Children's playgrounds
- New community centre
- Community events – e.g. swim fest and Vic West Fest
- lack of public (outdoor and Vic West Centre) sporting facilities, e.g. weight lifting
- local Mom and baby type shops
- Village Pub – West Side
- Community centre with lots of events and programs
- Great sporting and recreation facilities – both indoor and outdoor
- mixed-use developments
- Need under 5 year daycare
- No good shopping in Vic West creating traffic going to uptown and western communities
- small shops with quality goods and services
- need good dog parks

Table 5

Now

- Commercial animal farming is not working, no rules or regs

- more people on the streets
- more people in the parks
- strong community association executive
- people take up committee events
- current parks and greenspace, specifically Banfield park
- open space park and walkways are great
- not working: multi-function use of open space near Langford Street
- No one from Songhees at this meeting (not at our table)
- Old Vic West (Bay Street) and New Vic West not working
- There seems to be an objection to new development, I am all for new development

Wow

- Keep traditional residential neighbourhoods – ensure development doesn't erode streets that are currently single family ownership
- keep traditional residential areas as is (current configuration)
- keep green spaces
- boat rentals
- stronger regulations governing raising of poultry and bees – impact on areas with small-lot zoning
- more restaurants
- Commercial businesses integrated in and look more Craigflower Village, less Westside Village
- Internal Vic West Trolley system
- Train LRT Running
- I want a safe neighbourhood where kids can be seen playing
- Ensure transportation is safe on smaller streets – make concrete blocks on Belton permanent – no through traffic on Belton
- Permanent barricade on Belton
- No commercial animal farms in residential
- Parking and Suites – need to consider parking before developing
- Haven't gotten rid of moored and derelict boats yet
- Barricade on Belton is considered temporary – creating uncertainty in neighbourhood
- Speed of cars on Herewood is too fast
- need more thought to urban farming with a mix of small lot zoning (not currently working)
- have a vibrant arts and community centre
- more festivals
- great school and daycare
- Gorge – lots of recreation – no gas motors – no moored boats – clean!
- Roundhouse developed for community
- power Vic West with Solar, wind and tidal power turbine under Tillicum bridge
- get rid of over-head power lines
- keep bicycle trails going
- public restrooms in parks
- good school and daycare
- stores along Tyee at Westside Village
- Draw more businesses to Vic West from Downtown
- Increase tourism in Vic-West
- YMCA or Rec Centre
- Green infrastructure (PV, tidal turbine, micro power stations, etc)

- More people and higher density. Need redevelopment of Westside Village, more retail and food choices, and new mandate for Dockside Green.
- Dockside Green is a scar on our community. The City needs to take it back and sell it to competent developers
- Old Vic West: need more density, suites, garden suites, removal of existing stock
- Bring old and new together
- Dead zones in Vic West – redevelop old.
- Implications of size restrictions removal – 200 sq ft apartments do not support concept of family neighbourhoods.
- how do you connect the different pockets of the neighbourhood –houses (traditional), Railyards, Bayview / Roundhouse, Songhees, Dockside. Lack of cohesiveness between different parts of Vic West

Table 6

Now

- Galloping Goose trail and Songhees Walkway
- Bike trails
- orchards
- Banfield park maintenance
- parks and walkways
- favorite places – Spiral Café, Sailor Jacks. Need more commercial
- Character – house designs
- Street poetry
- local designer / community meetings
- Vic West community centre x 2
- the community effort and interest
- City creates parks and then does not maintain them, if this is the case why not leave them wild?
- access to water for children non-existent
- urban poverty
- through traffic cutting through residential streets
- Parking in Vic West and working Downtown – not working
- Integration of immigrants and refugees
- Diverse but lack of indigenous culture
- traffic – not working
- Traffic on Skinner Street – not working
- Vic West is a gem – access to waterfront
- drug culture – not working
- Access to city, walk, bike and bus is great. Access to water is poor
- bad local road ways
- Look and feel. Design awareness. Local businesses
- Concern with traffic on residential streets. Vehicles drive fast on residential streets.

Wow

- roof gardens
- highly maintained parks, playgrounds, waterpark
- bird friendly
- reduce / change speed limits on residential streets

- Improve walk ways, cross walks, speed bumps, street lighting, re-pave, school roads, Front street
- water access
- Langford Street is a mess, would like to see an improvement
- Improve intersection on Front Street
- quiet parts
- artistic parks, waterfront walking community
- save our trees
- allow more renos – city zoning
- Swimming at Gorge
- Front street improvements – sidewalks, speedbumps
- more pedestrian connections and walkways between neighbourhoods
- Seawall to City and access vis bus
- more public art
- solar energy – self sufficient
- more bicycle friendly amenities
- more community centres to connect community
- outdoor gym
- Access to waterfront – world impressive
- concern about divide between waterfront and other neighbourhoods
- lots of playgrounds
- community gardens
- commerce – how to invest locally
- more places to walk, sit, destination small-scale commercial
- better connection between residential and commercial
- amenities ex: Green Grocer in accessible community area
- community gathering places
- lots of bumping places, social interaction
- Design conscious, overall theme for Vic West
- More pronounced historical areas
- Preserve heritage buildings, structures and park areas
- honour indigenous heritage
- zoning input with City
- Integrate new and old
- Corner of Craigflower Road and Covenant, the gate has heritage value – restore it.
- Expand urban village – shop, food, local
- Industrial to Housing and Rec – Urban Village
- honour Indigenous heritage
- More community events (i.e. Vic West Days, Gorge Swim Fest
- No sailing in harbour – set aside sailing zones, Westbay as an example
- new local and main roads