



AGENDA

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

September 30, 2020, 3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE

80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC

Pages

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

[Note: This meeting will be live streamed and video recorded for the public.]

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

a. Minutes

3 - 8

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2020-JUL-29, at 3:00 p.m.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

a. Relmage Nanaimo - Introduction for the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness

9 - 20

Karin Kronstal, Social Planner, and Chris Sholberg, Community Heritage Planner, to provide the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness with a PowerPoint presentation regarding Relmage Nanaimo.

5.a.1 Committee Discussion regarding Relmage Nanaimo

b. Madeleine Koch, Active Transportation Project Specialist, re: "Intro to the City's Transportation Group"

21 - 27

Madeleine Koch, Active Transportation Project Specialist, to provide the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness with a PowerPoint presentation titled "Intro to the City's Transportation Group".

5.b.1 Discussion re: Transportation

To be introduced by Madeleine Koch, Active Transportation Project

Specialist.

Questions for discussion:

1. What are the biggest challenges with accessibility and inclusion in Nanaimo's transportation system?

2. What are the biggest opportunities to improve accessibility and inclusion in Nanaimo's transportation system?

6. REPORTS:

a. Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) Program Update

To be introduced by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Treat Accessibly Program

28 - 29

To be introduced by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Attached for Information: Email dated 2020-SEP-22 from Rich Padulo, Founder, Treat Accessibly, promoting a free curbside Trick-or-Treating action plan to facilitate an inclusive/accessible Halloween.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2020-JUL-29, AT 3:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor Armstrong, Chair
Councillor Maartman
A. Breen, At Large Member (joined electronically)
T. Davenock, At Large Member (joined electronically)
L. Derksen, At Large Member (joined electronically)
S. Hamel, At Large Member (joined electronically)
R. Harlow, At Large Member (joined electronically)
J. Maffin, At Large Member (joined electronically)

Absent: S. Cameron
D. Hollins
L. Malbon
R. Pike
E. Williamson

Staff: R. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
P. Rosen, Director, Engineering
L. Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture
L. Clarkson, Manager, Recreation Services
D. Osborne, Manager, Recreation Services
T. Stuart, Recreation Coordinator
A. Fipke, Capital Project Management Specialist
S. Gurrie, City Clerk
K. Gerard, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING TO ORDER:

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Special Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2020-MAY-20, at 3:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Update on Metral Drive Complete Streets Universal Design Elements

Introduced by Poul Rosen, Director, Engineering.

Annalisa Fipke, Capital Project Management Specialist provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- The goal of the Metral Drive Complete Streets project is to make the road safe and accessible for every person, age and ability
- Metral Drive Complete Streets project has been nationally recognized and has won a Sustainable Urban Transportation Award from the Transportation Association of Canada
- Staff have reviewed and researched best practices and “lessons learned” from other municipalities and incorporated those findings into the project
- Issues raised with the current state of Metral Drive include:
 - Little or no separation from moving vehicles
 - Pedestrian crossings are too close to vehicles
 - Large curb rails allow for drivers to turn corners at a greater speed
 - Drainage issues
 - Missing sidewalks connections and crosswalks
- Improved physical considerations include:
 - Driveway crossing with level sidewalk and bike paths
 - Floating busses stops to ensure people getting on or off the bus are not impeding pedestrians and cyclists
 - Raised intersections to ensure vehicle traffic, pedestrians and cyclists are separated
 - Two stage crosswalks which allow for refuge space in the middle of the road
 - Curb extensions, offset crosswalks, protected intersections and benches
- Staff met with a representative from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) to review the project plans and consult on the various visual considerations that could be implemented
- Suggestions included directional scorelines, tactile warning surface indicators, audible crosswalk signals at all crosswalks and shoreline detection
- Comfort considerations implemented into the plan include boulevard separation, modal separations, advanced stop lines and street lighting

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Vehicle and pedestrian separation
- Current condition of Metral Drive does not allow for continuous sidewalks and crosswalks are far apart
- CNIB’s involvement in the project
- Bus and bench covers and/or shelters
- The directional flow of the cyclist’s lanes
- Size and type of trees chosen

Annalisa Fipke, Capital Project Management Specialist, continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- Staff conducted a walking tour of Metral Drive with the representative from CNIB and provided the plans to CNIB for review
- Bus and bench covers are not currently part of the project but will be considered after Phase 1 is complete
- Bike lanes will follow the direction of traffic
- Landscape and natural barriers were chosen to ensure no low hanging branches and overgrown shrubs on sidewalks

(b) Summer Camp Integration Program

Introduced by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Darcie Osborne, Manager, Recreation Services and Tracy Stuart, Recreation Coordinator, provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Staff have updated the summer camp program this year to ensure that children with diverse abilities can be included in the summer camps
- Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) have a long standing partnership with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) who provide funding for children with diverse needs
- Modification for integration in 2020 included 7 weeks of programmed camps instead of 8 weeks, 24 campers with 2 integration campers per camp and one leader per child with diverse abilities
- Benefits of the integration program for children of all abilities include social interaction, physical activity, mental stimulation and relief and support for parents
- Staff have taken on new and enhanced cleaning measures to ensure the health and safety of each child especially those who are immune compromised
- Feedback from parents has been very positive

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Qualifications to attend the summer camps
- The application process and deadline being a barrier to attendance
- Statistics on the amount of applicants versus attendees
- Suggestion of program leaders wearing see-through masks or face shields

5. REPORTS:

(a) Committee Discussion regarding Accessibility Equipment for Front Desk Staff

Introduced by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, advised that the video is unavailable through the link provided in the agenda due to a temporary closure of the Canadian Hearing Services website. The video is available online through YouTube.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Installing light flashing fire alarms in all facilities for those who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Researching alternative ways that front counter Staff can communicate with people who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Researching alternative ways to communicate with children during swim lessons and other PRC programs such as visual aids
- Updating new employee training to include a piece to address customers with visual and hearing impairments and/or diverse needs
- Reviewing the process for implementing recommendations and making recommendations to Council in the Fall
- Rick Hansen Foundation offers audits on all spectrums of disabilities and provides a walk-through of facilities to make suggestions on different accessibility options that could be implemented

(b) Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) Program Review Presentation

Introduced by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Presentation:

1. Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture, provided the Committee with a presentation. Highlights included:
 - The LEAP Program was developed in 1993 and eligibility is based on a referral from a social service agency or proof of financial situation
 - Currently the program offers a 50% discount on registered programs and 50 free admissions for swimming, skating, aqua fit, weight rooms and Oliver Woods Community Centre drop-in activities
 - The following information is required:
 - Application form
 - Notice of Assessment and/or proof of residency
 - T1 General Form
 - Other income declarations
 - Current child tax benefits statement
 - From 2011 to 2019 usage has decreased from 2556 users to 579 users
 - PRC offers other low cost programs such as free sponsored public skating and swimming, \$3.00 gym and swim sessions and active passes for students in Grade 5 and 6
 - The proposed LEAP review process will involve four steps including:
 - Step 1 – information gathering (September and October 2020)
 - Step 2 – information review (November and December 2020)
 - Step 3 – revised program proposal (January and February 2020)
 - Step 4 – revised program implementation (March 2021)

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Timeline for completion and implementation of the revised program
- Statistics of usage of facilities and programs compared to the LEAP program
- Barriers of access to the LEAP program including comprehensive application process
- Engaging with low income families and residents to understand why they do not use the LEAP program
- The cost increases in registered programs since 2011
- Promotion and communication of the LEAP program
- Which programs in the Activity Guide the 50% discount can be used for

Councillor Armstrong suggested that Committee members write down their suggestions for improvements and barriers to the LEAP program and these will be compiled and reviewed at the next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness scheduled for 2020-SEP-30.

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, advised the Committee to send correspondence regarding the LEAP program to legislative.servicesoffice@nanaimo.ca and Staff will compile the feedback and add to the agenda for the next meeting on 2020-SEP-30.

By unanimous consent, the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness agreed that the Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) Program Review be added as a standing item to all future Committee agendas.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Building partnerships with social service agencies and other service providers to promote the LEAP program and assist with the application process
- Claiming net income versus gross income on the application
- Access to the program for students of Vancouver Island University
- Partnering with the Regional District of Nanaimo Transit to offer bus passes along with the LEAP program
- Creating a form that can be filled out and submitted online

It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness approves of and conducts the review process for the Leisure Economic Access Policy (LEAP) program. The motion carried unanimously.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Round Table Discussion

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Committee member attendance at meetings
- Wheelchairs that are water accessible
- Adding members to the Committee from visual minorities, service providers and other agencies

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:42 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER



Introduction for ACAI Committee



Our City, Our Voices.

1



What is
**REIMAGINE
NANAIMO?**



OCP Update



Parks, Recreation & Culture Plan Update



Active Transportation Plan



Climate Action Plan

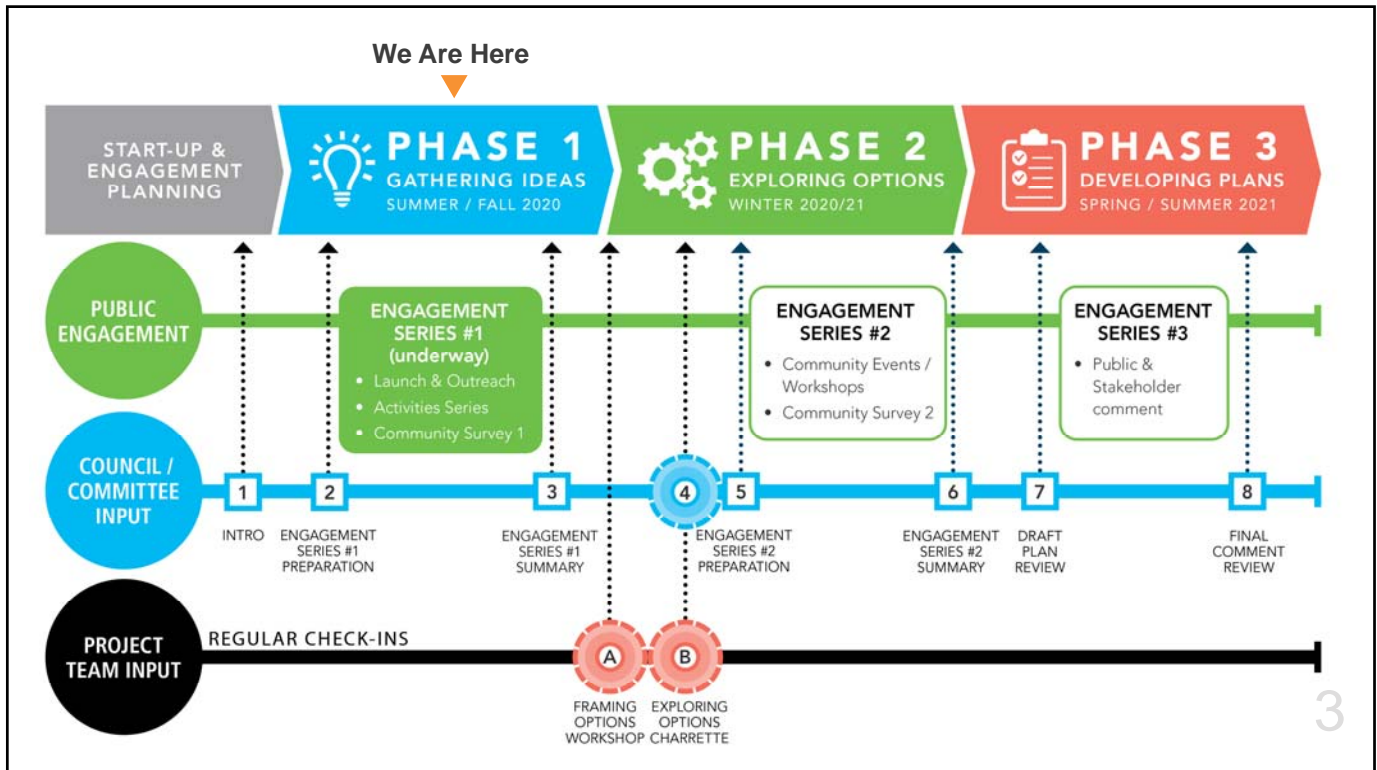


Economic Development Plan



Water Supply Strategic Plan

2



How do we engage while being physically distant?

**Phase 1
Engagement Activities**

**reimagine
NANAIMO**

4

Project Webpage

getinvolvednanaimo.ca



- Project details
- Background
- New content added regularly
- How to be involved
- Interactive Tools – Mapping, Ideas Boards
- Not online?
Call 250-755-4464

5

Sign up for Project Updates!

getinvolvednanaimo.ca



STAY INFORMED

Subscribe for project updates

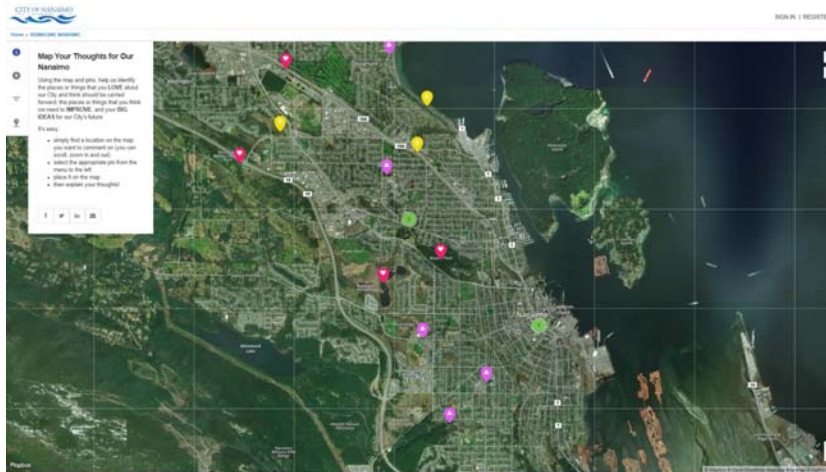
Subscribe

- Sign up at
getinvolvednanaimo.ca/reimagine-nanaimo
- Emails that keep you up-to-date on all new information and activities throughout the process

6

Online Community Mapping

getinvolvednanaimo.ca

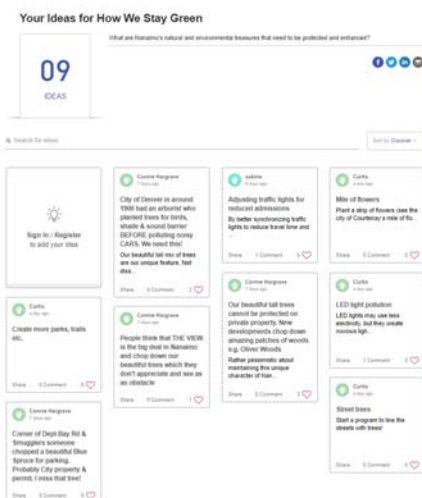


- Building a collective picture of what people:
 - LOVE
 - WANT TO SEE IMPROVED
 - HAVE IDEAS FOR

7

Online Ideas Boards

getinvolvednanaimo.ca



- The online version of the sticky note
- Brainstorming on important questions for our future
- Opportunity to learn from and build on the ideas of others

8

Social Media

Like and Share!



Facebook



Twitter



Instagram



9

Input Questionnaires



Online Ideas Questionnaires

- Open to all
- July – September 2020
- Online or print options
- 1 Main Ideas Questionnaire
- 6 Topic Questionnaires



Statistically-valid

- Direct mail-out to representative sample of Nanaimo residents
- September 2020

Incentives for participating in all versions

10

REIMAGINE Topic of the Week

Focusing in on key areas



Week	Topic
Aug 10-16	How We Adapt & Stay Green – our environment
Aug 17-23	How We Connect & Play – our parks, recreation & culture
Aug 24-30	How We Care – inclusivity & accessibility
Aug 31-Sept 6	How We Work – our economy & jobs
Sept 7-13	How We Move – our transportation
Sept 14-21	How We Live – our neighbourhoods



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REIMAGINE Backgrounders

Introducing key topics



- 2-4 page overviews of key **REIMAGINE TOPICS**
- Trends, changes, issues, and opportunities
- Starting point for discussions

12

REIMAGINE Video Series

Making information accessible



- Background about key topics
- Presented by a member of Mayor and Council
- Easy way to learn about the process and why to be involved
- Choose your own adventure!

13

Static Stations & Pop-ups

Catching people where they are



- Outdoors in local parks throughout August
- "Quick" comment opportunities at strategic locations in the community
- In recreation facilities as they open in fall (September)
- Other locations being explored by City
- Designed to limit shared materials and respect physical distancing

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Creative Community Contest

REIMAGINE Creatively!



"Corny Cornucopia"

"Lettuce" plant more local food and flowers for people, birds, and bees!

How many types of fruits, veggies, and flowers can you spot in this photo?



- Invitation for people to share their inspiration for a future Nanaimo – their own way
- All ages and interests
- Through Phase 1 engagement
- Prize: \$500 Gift Card to one of:
 - Local Electronics Store
 - Local Bike Shop
 - Local Grocery Store

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Kids Activity Book

Engaging younger residents



- Activities for kids ages 7-14
- Opportunity to learn more about planning
- Distributed through SD#68, recreation, other
- Hope to receive completed activities back!

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Further Outreach

Reaching the Harder to Engage



- Connecting with audiences who many not engage online
- Reaching out to groups and organizations to discuss how we can connect
- Flexible approach
- Looking for ideas from Community Representatives to help us in this process

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Community Representatives

- Help spread the word through your networks
- Share a few words at your meetings or events
- Encourage participation in engagement activities online and in the community
- Work with us to remove a barrier to participation – **please contact us**
- Provide input yourself!



Community Representatives Kit

Supporting conversations



What's in it?

- Small Posters
- Project Backgrounders
- Hard Copy of the Input Questionnaires
- Kids Activity Booklet
- FAQs Document
- Project Cards
- Project Stickers / Tattoos
- A cool button

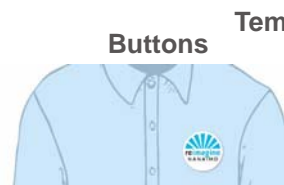
How Do I Get a Kit?

Contact: reimagine@nanaimo.ca to request:

1. A printed package via pick-up at SARC or by mail
2. An e-version (ltd. items)



Stickers



Buttons



Temporary Tattoos

19



Creating an inclusive process together

20

REIMAGINE NANAIMO PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT Discussion

What are your suggestions for reaching more people in our community?

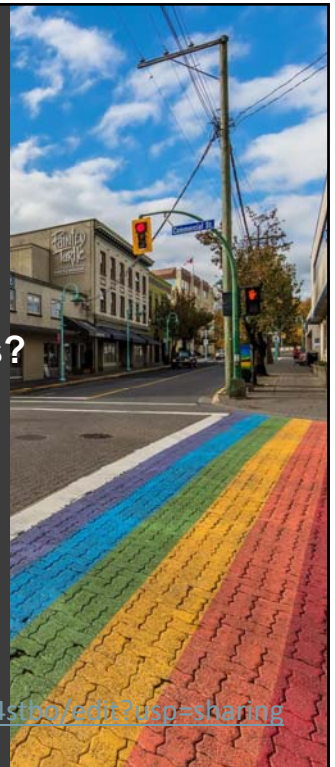


REIMAGINE NANAIMO FOCUS Discussion

What do you think is Nanaimo's one biggest **OPPORTUNITY** to embrace in the coming years?

What do you think is Nanaimo's one biggest **CHALLENGE** to tackle in the coming years?

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1oPg6KW-p9Zpx8LT1grUJcJjr8W1FzQk82ruJ374stbn/edit?usp=sharing>





STAY IN TOUCH
GetInvolvedNanaimo.ca
Email: reimagine@nanaimo.ca
Phone: 250-755-4464



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Introduction to the Transportation Group

Hello!



A Bit of Background

- Nanaimo used to be a much smaller city. In 1975, Nanaimo amalgamated with surrounding communities, including what were then rural areas. Along with this new land, Nanaimo also inherited existing roads, many of which were built to rural standards
- Today, Nanaimo is a long, spread out city, which presents unique transportation planning challenges and opportunities.



Downtown Nanaimo Circa 1970
Photo credit: Nanaimo Community Archives

What do we do?

- The City of Nanaimo looks after maintenance and development of most roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails within the City. And we work with other agencies as well:
 - The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for the Island Highway, Stewart Avenue, the Nanaimo Parkway, and Duke Point Highway
 - The Island Corridor Foundation is responsible for the E&N Railway
 - The Regional District of Nanaimo is responsible for transit routes and service (the City is responsible for bus stops)



What Guides our Work?

- City Plans
- Design standards
- Availability of resources



CITY OF NANAIMO
THE HARBOUR CITY

Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan

- be **safe** and comfortable in order to encourage people of all ages and abilities to walk, cycle, and use transit.
- provide **mobility** options for people of all ages and abilities to travel within the City by all modes of transportation.
- be **accessible** to people of all abilities and designed to overcome barriers experienced by people with cognitive and mobility challenges. Universal accessible design of the transportation system will improve mobility for all people in the community.
- provide attractive **connections** to key activity areas and trip generators in the community.
- be **sustainable** by creating attractive walking and cycling facilities and providing transit services that will reduce the need to drive around the City as the primary mode. More compact, dense land use patterns supported by active transportation solutions will serve to reduce GHG emissions and ultimately enhance overall community health and well being.
- be **affordable** based on current revenue streams such as general taxation, development cost charges as well as partnerships with private sector interests and development. Shift funding and investments to align with priority modes and support the Plan's Vision.

Excerpt from Pg 12 of [Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan](#) – "The Transportation Vision"

CITY OF NANAIMO
THE HARBOUR CITY

Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan



CITY OF NANAIMO
THE HARBOUR CITY

Standards

- For many years, City standards supported basic accessibility elements, such as curb cuts, minor tactile surfacing, and audible crossing signals
- The City has recently adopted “Complete Street” standards which support a high standard of accessibility
- Nanaimo still has a lot of road space that is not up to accessibility standards

Availability of Resources

- A reality we face in the Transportation group is limited resources. We do not have enough budget to carry out every project that would be worthwhile – at least not in the shorter term. We do our best to prioritize projects that will have the greatest impact, and often have to make very difficult decisions
- We often have opportunities to complete transportation projects at the same time as other developments – for example, private land developers are required to improve the roadways in front of their property. We also partner with other City departments to make transportation improvements when utility lines are being replaced, as this reduces project costs significantly.



Accessibility and Inclusion

- With new standards in place, and a heightened awareness of the critical importance of accessibility and inclusiveness in City services, the City of Nanaimo has made some significant improvements in recent years.
- However, we have a long way to go yet.
- We acknowledge that our current context reflects many years where accessibility and inclusion were not prioritized
- We acknowledge that our focus in Transportation has been more on accessibility than inclusion, and that we need to broaden our understanding of how to adapt our services beyond physical accessibility
- We also acknowledge that we need help and guidance to ensure we are making this shift in the best way possible.

Future Planning

- REIMAGINE NANAIMO is our opportunity to take a closer look at our priorities, and our options for addressing the directions set by the Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan
- We know our plans must account for accessibility and inclusion. We also know we need your help to ensure this is done right.



Thank you!

Discussion Questions

- What are the biggest accessibility and inclusion challenges within Nanaimo's transportation system?
- What are the biggest opportunities to improve accessibility and inclusion within Nanaimo's transportation system?

Information regarding the Treat Accessibly Program and email to Mayor Krog regarding the program from Rich Padulo, Founder, Treat Accessibly

More Info on Treat Accessibly:

In 2019, our trick-or-treating program, Treat Accessibly, caught fire because it championed a curb-side Trick-or-Treating experience to make Halloween accessible to nearly 400,000 differently-abled Canadian children at 25,000 homes. 97 News segments: TV, Radio and Social helped us achieve 39 million impressions on Canadians.

This year we continue to champion accessibility and our curb-side trick-or-treating program **now** helps all Canadians celebrate Halloween safely through COVID-Recovery.

Treat Accessibly promotes a FREE Curb-Side Trick-or-Treating action plan to facilitate an inclusive/accessible Halloween. That same Curb-Side model, tips and FREE lawn sign available at local retailers and participating real estate agents will help *all* families celebrate a safer Halloween in 2020 and create action-based awareness for 400,000+ differently-abled children.

Below please find a few statements of the support we have received for our 2020 plan from Government at Provincial and Municipal levels. If Halloween is deemed safe, their governments plan to share our Treat Accessibly solution via social to help provide consistent and concise tips for Trick-or-Treating as we are the only National movement ready to go.

We firmly believe if, and only if, government feels it's safe, Treat Accessibly has a FREE plan in place to help celebrate a safe and inclusive Halloween for communities across Canada. [Our tips include homes' with trick-or-treating and parent taking their kids out.](#)

The Treat Accessibly grass-roots movement this year is primed to help all Canadians and their provincial and local government have a turn-key plan for an Inclusive/Curb-side Halloween to help families.

Happy Halloween Everybody!

Dear Mayor Krog,

Thank you for all you and your team have done to support families through COVID and all you do for Nanaimo everyday.

Halloween was the topic in the news last week across the country, B.C.'s Top Doctor said it could happen with the strategies we include in our totally FREE and easy Halloween program already.

I'm happy to say our Canadian grass roots movement, Treat Accessibly, has been working for months to create an infinitely scalable, turn-key, action plan that can support every home celebrate Halloween in a Recovery-minded, curb-side, and accessible fashion.

Our position is one, only if your local government feels it is safe we have a curb-side trick-or-treating plan in place.

Our requests for consideration from your office are:

1. We put this program on your radar so you may leverage to help families in Nanaimo when you feel timing is right.
2. If you would like to provide a statement of conditional support or share with your teams who may benefit from this resource.
3. If you would like to confer with how we are rolling the program out nationally based on our successful 2019 program, it would be an honour.

Included below, our FREE lawn signs that will be available at local Home Depots and participating RE/MAX Agents in early October and free to print at TreatAccessibly.com now.

Thank you for your attention. More info is included below. My very, very best to you and Nanaimo.

Sincerely,
Rich

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