

Draft Downtown and Vision Plan Feedback

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

17 April 2023 - 03 May 2023

PROJECT NAME:

Downtown Vision and Action Plan



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 | What are you happy with?

Anonymous

4/17/2023 12:52 PM

I like the proposed greening of space, trees as wind breaks, more pedestrian oriented design of the short and medium term visions.

Anonymous

4/18/2023 08:50 AM

Not much. There's no love put into this town. There's 1 grocery store. 1 pool, one gym, many liquor stores. It's really hard to live in this town some days.

Anonymous

4/18/2023 09:18 AM

I was not happy with the plan.

Anonymous

4/19/2023 02:04 PM

I like the idea of investing in the core to make it more of an area to be in rather than travel through

Anonymous

4/20/2023 12:12 PM

That there is public consultation

Anonymous

4/21/2023 10:58 PM

Added green space.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 10:43 PM

I like the idea of sprucing up Mackenzie but there are more financially practical thing we can do instead of focusing on one block.

Anonymous

4/25/2023 11:43 PM

I'm really happy that walking and cycling has been put at the forefront of this plan. I overall like the ideas of integrating green spaces and mixed use spaces into downtown. We need to downsize the massive swaths of parking lots. I love the 20 year plan, I just wish it could come sooner! I loved all the winter plans on pages 25-27. I'm excited for all the new pathways on page 44. I like the idea of burying hydro infrastructure and I definitely think we should do that.

Anonymous

4/26/2023 01:03 PM

Attention to crosswalks and sidewalks

Anonymous

4/26/2023 01:04 PM

It addresses the need to have places to sit and gather

Anonymous

4/26/2023 01:04 PM

The beautification of the downtown. It needs work!

Anonymous

4/26/2023 01:07 PM

I love that we can be apart of the plan.

Anonymous

4/26/2023 01:08 PM

New picnic tables that the district put in are great! Love the material.

Anonymous

4/26/2023 01:09 PM

I like the plan but we need industry.

Anonymous

5/01/2023 01:25 PM

Progress in beautification, the initial appearance is huge with tourists and visitors

Anonymous

5/02/2023 10:04 AM

I am happy that beautification and an improvement mindset is being presented in this plan; however, the plan, in my opinion, is unrealistic.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:22 PM

I like the colour of the flower/tree examples. I like the removable pots idea, good idea for snow clearing

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:24 PM

More sidewalks and I like that the plan mentions accessible side walk improvements

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:26 PM

I like the idea of a park outside of purple bicycle. I like the idea to promotion of murals and more art.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:28 PM

Mention of plants.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:29 PM

Like the idea of fruit bushes.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:30 PM

Empty spaces looking nicer.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:31 PM

Smart use of storm management, replacing infrastructure with an open mind. Likes the idea of more greenery.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 03:49 PM

I like that the project will make Mackenzie beautiful. But the plan doesn't look feasible with the weather we get here.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 11:51 AM

Urban forest/green spaces, narrower main street. Making downtown an attractive destination; not just utilitarian. Addresses the findings about too-wide streets, too much parking lot, and a lack of inviting store frontage.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 12:05 PM

I like: adding more green space, more art and culture, easier walking, removing highway status, improved warmer lighting and special lighting features, adding seating and part area to tree crusher to create a more welcoming area for visitors entering the town, winter play features, more plants and trees in general

Anonymous

5/03/2023 02:06 PM

The beautification of downtown. Right now it looks like a concrete jungle, it actually effects my mental health in a negative way. These changes are so needed!

Optional question (27 response(s), 4 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q2 | What are your concerns?

Anonymous

4/17/2023 12:52 PM

The long term vision has some extremely drastic changes to the built infrastructure which is mostly privately owned. Although it seems like a nice direction, and granted there is a long time frame to achieve these goals, it seems very unrealistic to think that the malls would all be completely rebuilt in a town that hasn't seen much in the way of new building in the last decade. But hey, reach for the stars man. Hopefully you can get some money from the Enbridge pipeline going through north of town and there's still a mill in twenty years.

Anonymous

4/18/2023 08:50 AM

We need another grocery store. We need another gas station. These buildings need some love and it shouldn't all be on the small business owners. We need longer hours on things such as the grocery store. 6 pm on a weekend is a little outrageous. They use to have later shopping days. The kids need more to do. There's way to much drug and violent activity going around these young children. We need some programming that teaches respect as these children just don't give a hot damn about things anymore. It's nerve wracking knowing my child is going to the highschool in a few years and I'm already thinking of how I could get her into online programming to make sure

she/he gets the best education possible.

Anonymous

4/18/2023 09:18 AM

Several concerns: - reducing the main road through town to a single lane road instead of a double lane is going to cause congestion - the plan does not adequately address snow removal - plan appears to complicate snow removal which will take time and cost money, current streets lack maintenance and now it will even be harder - having to purchase specialized equipment is also a concern - overall the plan appear to require a lot of money to build and currently the district does not have funding to address the fundamentals of the community (i.e. proper drinking water in Gantahaz), internet in Gantahaz - the plan looks great from a far but is far from great - biggest concern is how is the District going to maintain this area given our current and future budget deficits - taxes are too high now

Anonymous

4/19/2023 02:04 PM

I have significant concerns with how snow management is going to be with these changes. Much of our roads are down to 2 lanes in the winter due to snow. Narrowing this will require significant work for city works. Landscaping will have a difficult time surviving the snow load (especially if we are laying snow piles on top of it. Our current trees that are put in those areas struggle to survive. Potting trees and plants to move from these areas have their own issues... storage of same? Survival of plants through the winter due to the cold. From what I can tell from the plan it appears you will close the bike path for snow storage over winter, this does not support our fat bikers in the community (a growing activity)

Anonymous

4/20/2023 12:12 PM

The winter brings snow, outside business access is nothing but a problem for safety - ice and slip trips

Anonymous

4/21/2023 10:58 PM

Too much reduced parking, mall teardown unlikely, focus in one area, spread investments throughout downtown core.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 10:43 PM

Turning one block of Mackenzie boulevard into two lanes and expecting people to park on the street when they will just park in the parking lots. I am also concerned about where the snow will go if the places used now are turning into parking or area for plants and trees. The plan only focuses on one block. The whole boulevard could use some sprucing up. We should be encouraging business or clubs etc to use the existing empty buildings on Mackenzie Boulevard and making other business clean up. Take down the Tim Horton building of finish it. Trailer courts, empty buildings, unmaintained vacant land , fenced lots and unfinished buildings are the eye sores of Mackenzie

not the one block the plan focuses on. I am also concerned about the cost for the project and maintaining the project when it is done. Will the cost for this be put on to home owners?

Anonymous

4/25/2023 11:43 PM

Regarding art pieces downtown: I think the pieces that look best are murals on the sides of buildings. I loved the bright coloured bricks on the title page of the report. I would just want these to be artworks that fit with the space, and advance the overall "look and feel," that you're going for. My fear is that an art piece will get chosen just because it is local, and will stand out like a sore thumb. Think of the "balls" in downtown PG: <https://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/archive/steel-and-granite-art-causes-public-outcry-3730311> Any art I think should be commissioned to go along with the overall theme and citizens should be able to vote on renderings. If the citizens don't like any of the options then new options should be presented.

Anonymous

4/26/2023 01:03 PM

That the accessible strip for cross walks may not be maintained.

Anonymous

4/26/2023 01:04 PM

How will the plan address snow removal, concerned about cost.

Anonymous

4/26/2023 01:07 PM

Private properties need alot of work, it will be hard to convince owners.

Anonymous

4/26/2023 01:09 PM

Will there be a town in 30 years.

Anonymous

5/01/2023 01:25 PM

Boulevard extremely wide , could be halved and made safer for pedestrians / kids / elderly

Anonymous

5/02/2023 10:04 AM

My first concern is that our community is considering a pedestrian focused plan in a climate, in the best case weather scenario, that does not address the reality that 7 months of the year provides very adverse weather that is prohibitive to strolling around outside. Where exactly does all the parking come from with these smaller buildings to accommodate 40 or 50 vehicles that need to grocery shop? Are people really going to be strolling about to different stores in -40 with a wind? Additionally, the adjustment to decreased set backs, angled parking and multiple smaller buildings for shopping is prohibitive to snow removal/storage (at both the tax payer and property owner financial cost if trucking snow becomes a reality) and creates the need for more driving and parking to go to stores for supplies. I am

also concerned that smaller retail shops would not benefit from this "stand-alone/segregated" style of location of smaller buildings and would result in less foot traffic for those retailers. Also concerning is that the Alexander Mackenzie Mall as well as the other privately owned businesses seem to be non-existent in your plan - it is very concerning that the district, who takes taxes from these owners are bold enough (or perhaps your consulting firm is) to actually present a plan to the community that literally wipes those owners (community investors) off the map. Finally - of most concern is the District moving towards changing the OCP, zoning and bylaws to force private land owners into a situation where they could potentially be in non-compliance. What happens if the mall burns down - and the owner is insured for replacement value of the mall and now the owner is mandated to follow this new plan - you are making decisions that have implications that are unknown to owner's and putting the people at risk that have invested in this community. Even if this plan just sits on the shelf - the private land owners could end up in a non-compliant situation that would impact not only their ability to get insurance on those properties but also decrease the value of the property in a sale situation - this will further prohibit investment in the community.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:22 PM

Just green colours, we need more Colour.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:24 PM

That this will be completed.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:30 PM

Lack of parking.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 03:49 PM

The walking area are in high wind, high snow accumulation. Nobody wants to walk around extra in that. I don't think its right that you want to take and rezone the mall and make it stand alone buildings. At what cost is that going to be the mall owners if you make them change everything. in your plans it does not show the mall at all? Is the district planning on tearing it down without the owners knowledge or approval? I do not think you have thought this through you are looking to make changes without taking to all businesses involved. Have you spoken to the property owners? How do they feel about the changes you are proposing? Maybe you should talk with them.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 11:51 AM

No concerns about the plan but implementing it properly will have costs. My concerns are that the town will opt for less expensive and incomplete solutions, which could undermine the ultimate goal. E.g., rain gardens to more cost effectively (and environmentally) maintain

street trees. One council member says the cost of snow removal will increase. Maybe, maybe not. If snow can be managed in a way that utilizes it during winter, and that preserves water during spring melt, capturing more of that water cycle, it could end up reducing costs. But investment in proper infrastructure is required. Perhaps the District could re-orient its entire approach to snow and water management. At the very least, it's the cost of an extra sidewalk plow.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 12:05 PM

That action won't be taken to implement new plan (change in lighting, buildings)

Anonymous

5/03/2023 02:06 PM

First, the current state of downtown. As I mentioned before, Mackenzie as it is now is not visually appealing in town. Yes we are surrounded by beauty, but the actual town itself is not. I do not see an action plan with concrete targets when it is actually going to happen. This plan just seems aspirational, when is it actually going to happen?

Optional question (21 response(s), 10 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q3 | Do you have any suggested changes to the plan?

Anonymous

4/18/2023 08:50 AM

Put some love back into Mackenzie. We need to give people a reason to live here. We need more outdoor fun parks for the kids to bring people together. We need a bigger dog park so all people can enjoy an enclosed space. We need to give teachers a reason to be here. We need to attract a different population here because retired folks aren't going to help a whole lot in the community. No offence. Something needs to change because I see more and more people leaving and more drugs and crimes happening here.

Anonymous

4/18/2023 09:18 AM

I agree that changes could be made but the scale of the project is too vast and with little to no new business coming to town I feel that it could be scaled way back and if the District wants to spend money, fix the current infrastructure instead of creating more that will lack maintenance.

Anonymous

4/20/2023 12:12 PM

Use the reduce reuse recycle methodology.... New is not better Spend infrastructure money on access to recreational activities, access

Anonymous

4/21/2023 10:58 PM

Make small incremental changes over time....slowly add trees, covered area, garbage cans and art. Don't throw a ton of money into one large project. Spend it slowly over time, checking back in with community needs. Do not reduce mack boulevard to single lane traffic, there are logging trucks and rec vehicles that pass through regularly, as well as high traffic times when there could be congestion.

Anonymous

4/24/2023 10:43 PM

Do not change Mackenzie boulevard. Into two lanes. There is enough room for vehicles and bicycles. We don't need street parking. Focus on sprucing up the whole boulevard not just one block. See comments above. Make little areas nicer. Like putting flowers back around the M when you come into town. It is a nice welcome for visitors. I heard that we can't afford to put all the flowers in now so how are we going to maintain the proposed plan? Finish the pump bike park and surrounding area so people can use it.

Anonymous

4/25/2023 11:43 PM

I'm also concerned about the stark lack of knowledge of the drivers in Mackenzie regarding how to interact with cyclists. I find there are two extremes. Those who stop suddenly and try to wave you across and treat you like you're special, while on the other end you have drivers that treat you with contempt and do speedy maneuvers so they can get ahead of you. Can we put up some informational road signs around town? Such as "cyclists are vehicles, not pedestrians" and "share the road" Can we also advocate with Canada Post so that our post office can get renovated on the outside? It is an eyesore and it is arguably the landmark that lets you know you are in downtown.

Anonymous

4/26/2023 01:04 PM

Adding in a planter box program for seniors.

Anonymous

4/26/2023 01:07 PM

Fine the owners of the business and residences that do not take care of their buildings and have junk in the yard.

Anonymous

4/26/2023 01:08 PM

More picnic tables and benches.

Anonymous

5/01/2023 01:25 PM

See above

Anonymous

5/02/2023 10:04 AM

First, I think that prior to any more amendments to the OCP, bylaws and zoning AND/OR adoption of this plan presented that the District

of Mackenzie has a meeting with the private landholders. Perhaps the District may consider working with the owner's of these privately held lands and engage with some realistic beautification programs that help build these locations up rather than spending public money on a plan that wipes them off the map.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:22 PM

More colour!

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:24 PM

Add in Morfee Elementary street sidewalk, it is a NEED.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:28 PM

More to the maintenance, mindful planting, complimentary plants, and lots of mulch to prevent weeds.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:29 PM

Thick layer of mulch to prevent the weeds from coming through.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:30 PM

Expand are to more than just the downtown.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:32 PM

We need more rec signage. Tourists to see the trails north of Mackenzie on the FSR Roads.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:32 PM

Firesmart in front of Hospital.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 12:33 PM

We need another Grocery Store and Gas station.

Anonymous

5/02/2023 03:49 PM

My suggestion is do not get rid of the mall in your planning leave it the way it is. Beautiful or not.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 11:51 AM

No.

Anonymous

5/03/2023 12:05 PM

no

Anonymous

Add actual target dates to tasks, so we can look forward to them :)

5/03/2023 02:06 PM

Optional question (23 response(s), 8 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question