

City of Vancouver

**Regional Context Statement
Development Plan**



Table of Contents

Introduction	5
GOAL 1 Create a Compact Urban Area	
STRATEGY 1.1 Contain urban development within the Urban Containment Boundary	9
STRATEGY 1.2 Focus growth in Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas	11
STRATEGY 1.3 Protect Rural areas from urban development	19
GOAL 2 Support a Sustainable Economy	
STRATEGY 2.1 Promote land development patterns that support a diverse regional economy and employment close to where people live	20
STRATEGY 2.2 Protect the supply of industrial land	24
STRATEGY 2.3 Protect the supply of agricultural land and promote agricultural viability with an emphasis on food production	29
GOAL 3 Protect the Environment and Respond to Climate Change Impacts	
STRATEGY 3.1 Protect Conservation and Recreation lands	32
STRATEGY 3.2 Protect and enhance natural features and their connectivity	34
STRATEGY 3.3 Encourage land use and transportation infrastructure that reduce energy con- sumption greenhouse gas emissions, and improve air quality	38
STRATEGY 3.4 Encourage land use and transportation infrastructure that improve the ability to withstand climate change impacts and natural hazard risks	43
GOAL 4 Develop Complete Communities	
STRATEGY 4.1 Provide diverse and affordable housing choices	45
STRATEGY 4.2 Develop healthy and complete communities with access to a range of services and amenities	52
GOAL 5 Support Sustainable Transportation Choices	
STRATEGY 5.1 Coordinate land use and transportation to encourage transit, multiple-occupan- cy vehicles, cycling and walking	59
STRATEGY 5.2 Coordinate land use and transportation to support the safe and efficient move- ment of vehicles for passengers, goods and services	68
6 Implementation	74

List of Maps

Map 1:	Regional Land Use Designations, Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas	10
Map 2:	Greenways Plan	36
Map 3:	Local Centres, Hospitals and Post-Secondary Institutions	58
Map 4:	Frequent Transit Network	60
Map 5:	Cycling Routes	65
Map 6:	Goods and Services Vehicle Routes	69
Map 7:	Major Road Network and Highways	70

List of Tables

Table 1:	Total Population, Dwelling Unit and Employment Projections	9
Table 2:	Dwelling Unit and Employment Projections for Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas	11
Table 3:	Housing Target By Tenure and Income - 10 Year Estimate	46



Metro Vancouver's Regional Growth Strategy: *Metro Vancouver 2040 – Shaping our Future* was adopted by the Metro Vancouver Board on July 29th, 2011, after being unanimously accepted by all local governments in the region. The Regional Growth Strategy looks out to 2040 and provides a framework on how to accommodate the over 1 million people and 600,000 new jobs that are expected to come to Metro Vancouver in the next 30 years.

Challenges

The key challenge for the region and its member municipalities is to accommodate growth in ways which advance both sustainability and livability. To accomplish this, the Regional Growth Strategy is focused on addressing the following issues:

Accommodating Growth To Advance Livability and Sustainability

The region is expected to continue to grow by over 35,000 residents per year. Growth without sprawl implies greater density of development. Carefully structured, this can reduce congestion, improve the economics of transportation infrastructure and public services, increase the viability of retail and service centres, foster the creation of vibrant centres of culture and community activities, and maintain an attractive and diverse urban environment.

Building Healthy, Complete Communities

As the region's population both ages and grows in number, providing affordable and appropriate housing for residents at various stages of their lives is an ongoing challenge. Additionally, ensuring access to the key elements of a healthy social

community – shops, personal services, community activities, recreation, employment, culture, entertainment and a safe and attractive public environment – requires careful planning primarily at the local scale, but also, to some extent, regionally.

Supporting Economic Prosperity

Metro Vancouver has a diversified economic base, including trade and commerce, manufacturing, goods distribution, professional services, tourism, education and agriculture. The region connects with, and serves, a resource-rich province and has strong gateway links to the North American and Asia-Pacific regions. The challenge for the Regional Growth Strategy is to ensure an adequate supply of space for industry and commerce throughout the region, located appropriately to their needs and in a manner that supports an efficient

transportation system on which the economy depends.

Protecting the Natural Environment

Many of Metro Vancouver's natural assets are of national and international significance. Managed properly, they also provide the basics of life – breathable air, potable water and nutritious food. The challenge is to protect these assets for the benefit of current and future generations in the face of a growing population and associated urban development and impacts which can threaten their integrity and quality.

Responding to Climate Change Impacts and Natural Hazard Risks

The major natural hazard risks facing the Metro Vancouver region include earthquakes, floods, and slope instability. Many of these are exacerbated by the global threat of climate change. The

challenge is to prepare for and mitigate regional natural hazards and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions which can increase many of these risks, not only through mitigation strategies, but also through land use and transportation patterns generally.

Protecting Agricultural Land to Support Food Production

Comprising over 50,000 hectares of the region, agricultural lands are an important asset. The heightened importance of producing fresh, regionally grown food to meet economic, environmental, health and food security objectives reinforce the need to protect the region's rich agricultural lands. The challenge for the Regional Growth Strategy is to protect the agricultural land base and to encourage its active use for food production.

Responses

To respond to these challenges, the Regional Growth Strategy sets out a series of strategies and actions for Metro Vancouver and member municipalities arranged under five key goals intended to achieve the desired outcomes:



Goal 1 Create a Compact Urban Area

Metro Vancouver's growth is concentrated in compact communities with access to a range of housing choices, and close to employment, amenities and services. Compact transit oriented development patterns help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, and support both the efficient use of land and an efficient transportation network.



Goal 2 Support a Sustainable Economy

The land base and transportation systems required to nurture a healthy business sector are protected and supported. This includes supporting regional employment and economic growth. Industrial and agricultural land is protected and commerce flourishes in Urban Centres throughout the region.



Goal 3 Protect the Environment and Respond to Climate Change Impacts

Metro Vancouver's vital ecosystems continue to provide the essentials of life – clean air, water and food. A connected network of habitats is maintained for a wide variety of wildlife and plant species. Protected natural areas provide residents and visitors with diverse recreational opportunities. Strategies also help Metro Vancouver and member municipalities meet their greenhouse gas emission targets, and prepare for, and mitigate risks from, climate change and natural hazards.



Goal 4 Develop Complete Communities

Metro Vancouver is a region of communities with a diverse range of housing choices suitable for residents at any stage of their lives. The distribution of employment and access to services and amenities builds complete communities throughout the region. Complete communities are designed to support walking, cycling and transit, and to foster healthy lifestyles.



Goal 5 Support Sustainable Transportation Choices

Metro Vancouver's compact, transit-oriented urban form supports a range of sustainable transportation choices. This pattern of development expands the opportunities for transit, multiple-occupancy vehicles, cycling and walking, encourages active lifestyles, and reduces energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, household expenditure on transportation, and improves air quality. The region's road, transit, rail and waterway networks play a vital role in serving and shaping regional development, providing linkages among the region's communities and providing vital goods movement networks.

Purpose of Vancouver's Regional Context Statement Official Development Plan



Regional Context Statements are the policy tools which link municipal policies and plans to the Regional Growth Strategy.

The Vancouver Charter requires Vancouver City Council to prepare and adopt a Regional Context Statement in support of the Regional Growth Strategy. This Regional Context Statement, adopted by City Council as an Official Development Plan (ODP), shows how Vancouver's policies and plans work toward achieving the goals and strategies set out in the Regional Growth Strategy.

Where applicable, the Regional Context Statement also shows how the City's plans and policies will be made consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy over time.

The City of Vancouver, unlike other local governments, does not have an Official Community Plan covering the whole City. However, there are land use and transportation plans and policies which together provide a planning framework equivalent in scope to a city-wide development plan. These include the following key policy plans:

- Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (2011)
- Healthy City Strategy 2012 - 2020 (Ongoing)
- Housing and Homelessness Strategy (2012)
- Transportation 2040 (2012)
- EcoDensity (2008)
- CityPlan (1995)
- Industrial Lands Policies(1995)
- Central Area Plan (1991)
- Economic Action Strategy (2011)
- Metro Core Jobs and Economy Land Use Plan (2007)

The City also has a Zoning and Development By-law which covers the entire City.

These plans, policies and by-laws address the five Goals of the Regional Growth Strategy. The requirements of the Regional Goals and the measures the City of Vancouver has adopted to implement them are described in the following five sections.

[How to Read this Document...](#)

Each chapter lists the goals, strategies and role of municipalities specified in the Regional Growth Strategy. Each municipal action is followed by a description of how Vancouver's existing policies and plans contribute to achieving the strategies. The descriptions of the policies and plans provide high-level directions. The full versions of these policies and plans are available at www.vancouver.ca.

STRATEGY 1.1

Contain urban development within the Urban Containment Boundary

Role of Municipalities:

1.1.3 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

- a) depict the Urban Containment Boundary on a map, generally consistent with the Regional Land Use Designations map.

The Urban Containment Boundary is depicted on Map 1 (page 10).

- b) provide municipal population, dwelling unit and employment projections, with reference to guidelines contained in Appendix Table A.1, and demonstrate how municipal plans will work towards accommodating the projected growth within the Urban Containment Boundary.

Population, dwelling unit and employment projections for the City of Vancouver are provided in Table 1. Almost all of the City is within the Urban Containment Boundary (The exception is the Southlands area that is part of the Agricultural Land Reserve). The projected growth of the City will be accommodated within the Urban Containment Boundary.

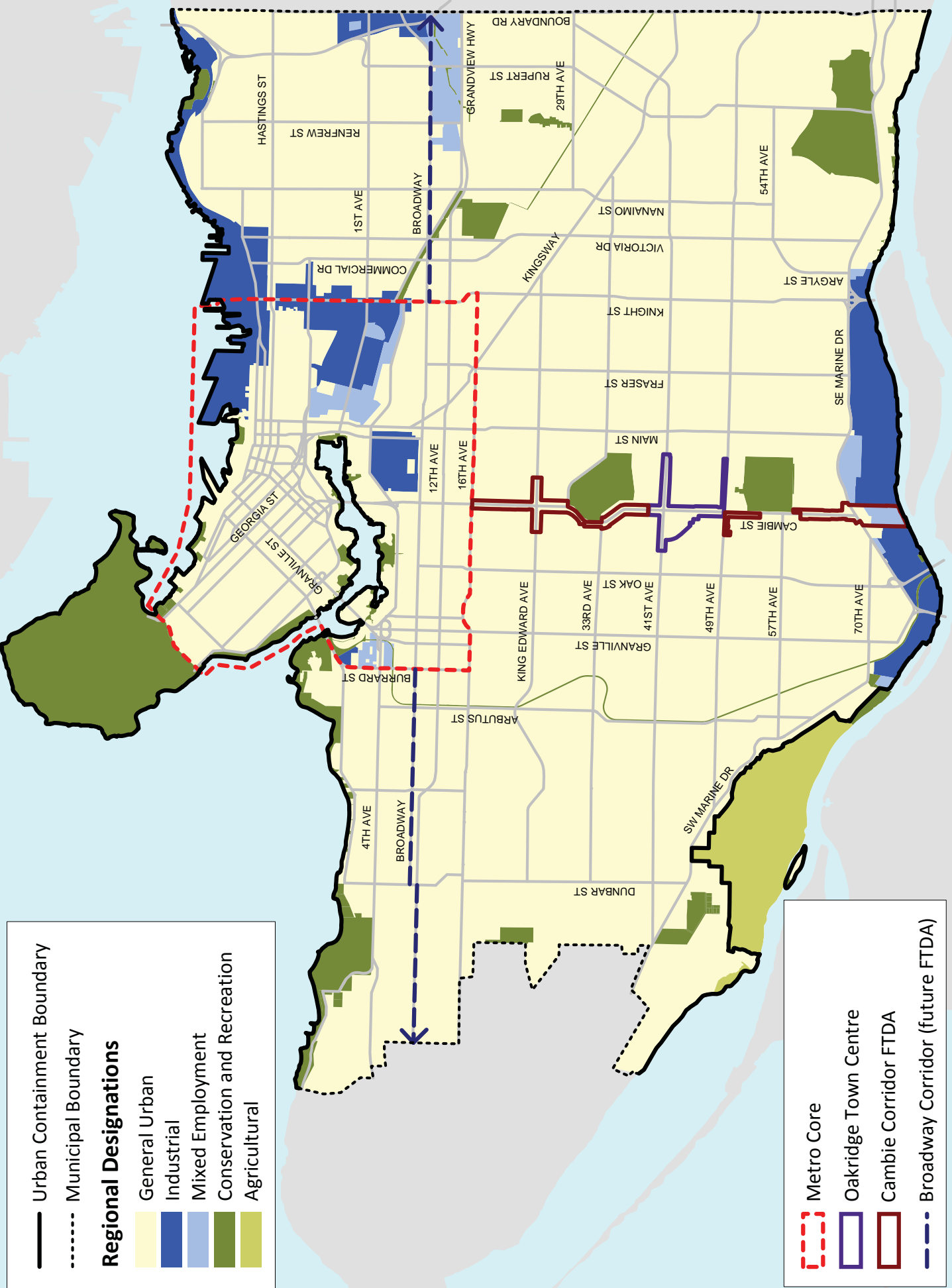
Table 1. Total Population, Dwelling Unit and Employment Projections

Vancouver	2006	2021	2031	2041*
Population	601,200	685,000	725,000	765,000
Dwelling Units	264,500	309,000	336,000	362,000
Employment	393,000	445,600	477,000	505,000

* Under a high regional growth scenario, the 2041 projections for Vancouver would increase to 788,000 people and 373,000 dwellings. Employment projections would remain the same.



Map 1. Regional Land Use Designations, Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas



STRATEGY 1.2

Focus growth in Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas

Role of Municipalities:

1.2.6 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

- a) provide dwelling unit and employment projections that indicate the municipal share of planned growth and that contribute to achieving the regional share of growth for Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas as set out in Table 2 (Metro Vancouver Dwelling Unit and Employment Growth Targets for Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas).

Dwelling unit and employment projections for Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Dwelling Unit and Employment Projections for Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas

Dwelling Units	2006	2021	2031	2041	2006-2041
Metro Core	94,100	117,400	128,600	139,800	45,700
Oakridge Centre	500	2,300	3,200	4,100	3,600
Cambie Corridor	1,200	2,300	2,900	3,500	2,300
All Other Areas	168,700	187,000	201,300	214,600	45,900
Vancouver Total	264,500	309,000	336,000	362,000	97,500

Employment	2006	2021	2031	2041	2006-2041
Metro Core	255,600	291,700	313,300	332,600	77,000
Oakridge Centre	3,600	4,600	5,200	5,800	2,200
Cambie Corridor	2,200	3,700	4,600	5,500	3,300
All Other Areas	131,600	145,600	153,900	161,100	29,500
Vancouver Total	393,000	445,600	477,000	505,000	112,000

- b) include policies for Urban Centres which:

- i) identify the general location, boundaries and types of Urban Centres on a map generally consistent with the guidelines set out in Table 3 (Guidelines for Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas) and the Regional Land Use Designations map (Map 2);

There are two urban centres: Metro Core and Oakridge Town Centre. Their location and boundaries are shown on Map 1 (page 10).



ii) focus growth and development in Urban Centres, generally consistent with guidelines set out Table 3 (Guidelines for Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas);

The following policies focus growth in Urban Centres. Additional city-wide policies that address economic sustainability, environmental protection, climate change, affordable housing, diverse communities, and transportation choices are provided in other sections of the Regional Context Statement.

Metro Core Policies

• CityPlan (1995)

The CityPlan vision for “A Vibrant Central Area” reinforces the Metro Core’s key and distinct role in the City and the Region.

Directions for the Central Area include:

- Concentrate headquarters, financial, and related offices in the downtown’s Central Business District (CBD); and focus medical, civic, and related offices in Broadway Uptown (Broadway from Oak Street to Yukon Street).
- Maintain existing industrial lands to help protect opportunities for activities that serve downtown businesses.
- Create livable residential neighbourhoods for diverse household types and income levels.
- Maintain the downtown as the cultural and entertainment centre of the region.
- Promote more attractive downtown plazas and parks, create greenways, and increase access to the waterfronts.
- Enhance transportation systems to provide a greater emphasis on transit, walking, and biking.

• Central Area Plan (1991)

The Central Area Plan includes land use policies that are consistent with the CityPlan vision for the Metro Core.

Key land use directions include:

- Re-shape major office development on the downtown peninsula into a compact Central Business District (CBD) centred on transit; south of False Creek, focus offices in the Broadway Uptown office district.
- Ensure adequate close-in locations for the support activities that service the CBD and for compatible entertainment uses.
- Develop housing in highly livable and primarily residential neighbourhoods around and closely linked to the CBD. Facilitate wide housing choice at various scales and for different household types and income levels.

Oakridge Town Centre Policies

• Cambie Corridor Plan (2011)

The Cambie Corridor Plan includes land use policies that direct significant residential and commercial development in the Oakridge Town Centre. In describing future neighbourhood character, the plan states that Oakridge Town Centre will be strengthened and enhanced as a walkable mixed-use urban centre with a diverse mix of job space and housing types and tenures. As the centre of the City and Canada Line, this area represents the most significant concentration of urban uses and density outside the Metro Core.

• Oakridge Centre Policy Statement (2007)

The Oakridge Centre Policy Statement describes general planning principles that will guide future development of Oakridge Centre.

Planning principles are to:

- Encourage incremental redevelopment to create a vibrant centre at Cambie Street & 41st Ave with a mix of housing, retail, service and office uses served by a well-connected public transit system, parks and public amenities.

- Encourage higher densities of transit-supportive office, residential and commercial uses.
- Provide for the expansion of retail uses, and an increase in the amount of office space.
- Develop housing choices suitable for families of all types, ages and incomes.
- Prioritize planning for pedestrians, cyclists and transit riders.
- Maintain levels of service and amenity. Provide new park area. Optimize parks and open space.

iii) encourage office development through policies and/or other financial incentives, such as zoning that reserves capacity for office uses and density bonus provisions;

Metro Core Policies

• Metro Core Jobs and Economy Plan (2007)

The Metro Core Jobs and Economy Plan includes land use policy directions to increase commercial capacity in two areas of the Metro Core and to reserve those areas primarily for commercial development.

Directions for the CBD include:

- Increase permitted commercial densities and heights.
- Continue to prohibit market residential development except in limited situations.

Directions for Broadway Uptown (Broadway from Oak Street to Yukon Street) include:

- Strengthen the primarily commercial character of Broadway Uptown by increasing commercial density.
- Increase height limits where appropriate.
- Maintain the policy to restrict residential uses.

Oakridge Town Centre Policies

• Cambie Corridor Plan (2011)

The Plan describes the Oakridge Town Centre as a walkable mixed-use urban centre with a diverse mix of job space and housing types and tenures. Along Cambie Street from 39th to 48th Avenue mid to high-rise buildings will be introduced with retail, service and office uses at street level. In this area, second floor job space is encouraged or required where feasible.

• Oakridge Centre Policy Statement (2007)

One of the key planning principles in the Oakridge Centre Policy Statement seeks to increase office development.

Directions for office include:

- Provide for and encourage an increase in the amount of office space on the site to serve local and city-wide needs and to support the transit hub with rapid transit access.
- Encourage the location of office uses in proximity to the transit station.



- iv) in coordination with the provision of transit service, establish or maintain reduced residential and commercial parking requirements in Urban Centres, where appropriate;

Metro Core Policies

- Parking By-law

The Parking By-law sets standards for the minimum number of parking spaces that must be provided in residential and commercial developments throughout the City. In general, this parking requirement is lowest in the Downtown area, and is lower in other sub-areas of the Metro Core, when compared to the rest of the City.

In specific areas, the Parking By-law also sets standards for the maximum number of parking spaces that may be provided, for example:

- For commercial developments, maximum limits are established in the following Metro Core sub-areas: Downtown; Central Broadway; South East False Creek; Mount Pleasant Industrial; and False Creek Flats Mixed Employment.
- For residential developments, maximum limits are established in the following Metro Core sub-area: South East False Creek.

Oakridge Town Centre Policies

- Oakridge Centre Policy Statement (2007)

One of the key planning principles in the Oakridge Centre Policy Statement calls for the development of a parking plan, with Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies appropriate for a transit-oriented development.

Policies to reduce parking requirements include:

- Provide a balanced supply of parking that meets the residential and commercial needs of the development, while supporting and encouraging alternate modes of transportation.
- Consider best practices of Traffic Demand Management to reduce the overall parking provisions.
- Examine opportunities for applying blended parking ratios where the demands of different uses are mutually compatible.

- c) include policies for Frequent Transit Development Areas which:

- i) identify on a map, in consultation with TransLink, the general location and boundaries of Frequent Transit Development Areas that are generally consistent with:
- Table 3 (Guidelines for Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas);
 - TransLink's Frequent Transit Network, which may be updated over time;
 - other applicable guidelines and policies of TransLink for the Frequent Transit Network;

The City of Vancouver currently has one Frequent Transit Development Area (FTDA), the Cambie Corridor. Refer to Map 1 (page 10). The following policies focus growth in FTDA's.

Note: Pending a decision on transit service, a planning program will be launched for the Broadway Corridor that seeks to coordinate with the investment in transit. In consultation with the community and Council, a planning area will be identified and pending completion of the planning work, it is expected that the area will be identified as a FTDA.

ii) focus growth and development in Frequent Transit Development Areas, generally consistent with the guidelines set out in Table 3 (Guidelines for Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas);

Cambie Corridor FTDA Policies

- Cambie Corridor Plan (2011)

The Cambie Corridor Plan focuses on opportunities to integrate development with transit and to build and enhance the existing neighbourhoods along the Corridor while supporting the City's goals of environmental sustainability, liveability, and affordability.

In addition, the Cambie Corridor will integrate a strategically denser mix of housing and employment space with transit, low carbon energy sources and key amenities such as shopping, local gathering places, improved

parks, community facilities and civic spaces. Job space will be focused strategically - in neighbourhood centres, existing shopping areas, and areas in close proximity to stations.

- Broadway Corridor and Other Rapid Transit Station Areas

It is expected that additional Frequent Transit Development Areas will be identified, pending future transit investment and planning work.

Given Broadway's significant role in the region, it is expected that it will be prioritized as a future Frequent Transit Development Area.

iii) in coordination with the provision of transit service, establish or maintain reduced residential and commercial parking requirements within Frequent Transit Development Areas, where appropriate;

- Cambie Corridor Plan (2011)

The Cambie Corridor Plan provides the following directions on parking requirements:

- Implement parking reductions within developments for sites close to transit, provide higher reductions in parking requirements for sites close to rapid transit stations and recognize the importance of short-term street parking to local merchants. Parking reductions should not result in an increase in demand for on street parking.



d) include policies for General Urban areas which:

- i) identify the General Urban areas and their boundaries on a map generally consistent with the Regional Land Use Designations map (Map 2);

The General Urban area is identified on Map 1 (page 10).



ii) ensure development in General Urban areas outside of Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas are generally lower density than development in General Urban areas within Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas;

• Zoning and Development By-law

General Urban areas located outside of Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas are currently zoned for development

at densities that are generally lower than in General Urban areas within Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas.

iii) where appropriate, identify small scale Local Centres in the General Urban areas that provide a mix of housing types, local-serving commercial activities and good access to transit. Local Centres are not intended to compete with or compromise the role of Urban Centres and should preferably be located within Frequent Transit Development Areas (see Map 11);

Local Centres are described and shown on Map 3: Local Centres, Hospitals and Post-Secondary Institutions (Section 4.2.4 on page 58).

iv) exclude non-residential major trip-generating uses, as defined in the Regional Context Statement, from those portions of General Urban areas outside of Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas;

• Transportation 2040 (2012)

The Transportation Plan's land use direction states that the City will support shorter trips and sustainable transportation choices through mixed land use, pedestrian oriented design, densities that support walking, cycling, and transit, and new housing choices that put residents close to jobs, schools, recreation and transit.

Land Use Directions include:

- Prioritize and encourage a dense and diverse mix of services, amenities, jobs, and housing types in areas well-served by frequent, high-capacity transit.
- Locate major trip generators near rapid transit stations or along transit corridors.

v) encourage infill development by directing growth to established areas, where possible;

Within Vancouver, all development now takes place as infill or redevelopment within established areas.

Examples of planning for infill development include:

- Station Area Plans to increase residential density near rapid transit stations;

- Neighbourhood Centre Plans to increase residential density in areas identified in community plans;
- Zoning changes to permit laneway houses and encourage secondary suites in RS (one-family) areas; and
- Zoning changes to permit multiple conversion dwellings, townhouses, and infill dwellings in RT (two-family) areas.

- e) include policies that, for Urban Centres or Frequent Transit Development Areas that overlay Industrial, Mixed Employment, or Conservation and Recreation areas, the Industrial, Mixed Employment, and Conservation and Recreation intent and policies prevail, except that higher density commercial would be allowed in the Mixed Employment areas contained within the overlay area;

- Industrial Lands Policies (1995)

The overall objective of the Industrial Lands Policies is to retain most of the City's existing industrial land base for industry and service businesses. All areas that are designated in the Regional Context Statement as Industrial or Mixed Employment are covered by the Industrial Lands Policies. Rezoning of industrial land will be considered only if it is based on a city-initiated planning process.

- Zoning and Development By-law

For all areas that are designated as Industrial or Mixed Employment, the base zoning is industrial (I or M District Schedule). These industrial zones permit industrial uses and a limited amount of compatible non-industrial uses. Residential development is not allowed.

- Mixed Employment Area Policies

Only Mixed Employment areas have policies that allow consideration of privately-initiated rezoning applications. The Mixed Employment area rezoning policies permit higher density office and retail uses in addition to industrial uses. Higher density office uses are permitted in Mixed Employment areas that are served by rapid transit. Large format retail uses are permitted in pre-determined areas along two arterial streets with frequent transit service. Residential uses are not permitted.

- f) for Urban Centres, Frequent Transit Development Areas and General Urban areas, include policies which:

- i) support continued industrial uses by minimizing the impacts of urban uses on industrial activities;

- Industrial Lands Policies (1995)

The Industrial Lands Policies minimize the impact of urban uses by clearly indicating that the retention of an industrial land base is a high priority. All Industrial and Mixed Employment areas across the City are subject to the Industrial Lands Policies.

Any application to rezone Industrial or Mixed Employment land is subject to Council-approved rezoning policies. Only the Mixed Employment areas have rezoning policies in place to permit office and retail uses, in addition to industrial activities. Residential uses are not permitted. All Industrial areas are zoned to permit industrial activities and restrict non-industrial development.



ii) encourage safe and efficient transit, cycling and walking;

- Transportation 2040 (2012)

The Transportation Plan directions state that the City will support shorter trips and sustainable transportation choices through mixed land use, pedestrian oriented design, densities that support walking, cycling, and transit, and new housing choices that put residents close to jobs, schools, recreation and transit.

Related directions include:

- Land Use - Use land use to support shorter trips and sustainable transportation choices.

- Walking - Make walking safe, convenient, comfortable, and delightful. Ensure streets and sidewalks support a vibrant public life and encourage a walking culture, healthy lifestyles, and social connectedness.
- Cycling - Make cycling feel safe, convenient, comfortable, and fun for people of all ages and abilities.
- Transit - Support transit improvements to increase capacity and ensure service that is fast, frequent, reliable, fully accessible, and comfortable.

iii) implement transit priority measures, where appropriate;

- Transportation 2040 (2012)

The Transportation Plan includes policies to improve transit reliability and speed using transit priority measures. Transit priority measures such as bus bulges, queue jumpers, signal priority, and lane priority or reallocation can be effective ways to improve transit capacity, speed, and reliability.

The City will continue to implement or pursue measures where they provide the most benefits to transit while considering impacts on other users. A creative approach is especially important in streets with limited space. In some cases, highly localized, strategic interventions may provide substantial benefit.

iv) support district energy systems and renewable energy generation, where appropriate.

- Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (2011)

Climate Leadership

The City has a target to reduce community-based greenhouse gas emissions by 33% from 2007.

High priority actions to achieve this include:

- Work with partners in the City to build new neighbourhood-scale renewable energy systems.

- Work with partners to convert large-scale steam systems to renewable energy.

- Neighbourhood Energy Strategy (2012)

The City has adopted a Neighbourhood Energy Strategy that focuses efforts to develop new, low carbon neighbourhood energy centres in areas of greatest existing or planned density such as in the Metro Core and along the Cambie Corridor.

- Cambie Corridor Plan (2011)

The Cambie Corridor presents significant opportunities to help the City meet its targets for a lighter ecological and carbon footprint, through policies that account for the energy demands in building design, construction, operation and maintenance.

Key Strategies for district energy include:

- Design development of all new buildings to be easily connectable to a district heating system
- Large site developments will be required to provide a business case analysis to explore the viability of campus or district energy systems.

- EcoCity Policies for Greener Larger Sites (2008)

For all rezonings that involve land generally two acres or more; a business case analysis will be required by a qualified green energy consultant, at the discretion of the City, to explore the viability of campus or district energy systems. If the business case is viable a system will be required.

- Energy Utility System By-law No. 9552

The Energy Utility System By-law establishes requirements for making use of the energy utility system in the South East False Creek service area.

STRATEGY 1.3

Protect Rural areas from urban development

Role of Municipalities

1.3.3 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

- a) identify the Rural areas and their boundaries on a map generally consistent with the Regional Land Use Designations map;
- b) limit development to a scale, form, and density consistent with the intent for the Rural land use designation, and that is compatible with on-site sewer servicing;
- c) include policies which:
 - i) specify the allowable density and form, consistent with Action 1.3.1, for land uses within the Rural land use designation;
 - ii) support agricultural uses within the Agricultural Land Reserve, and where appropriate, outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve.

As the City of Vancouver does not contain any lands designated as Rural, this section is not applicable. The Southlands area is designated as Agricultural, and is addressed in Section 2.3.6.



STRATEGY 2.1

Promote land development patterns that support a diverse regional economy and employment close to where people live

Role of Municipalities:

2.1.4 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

- a) include policies that support appropriate economic development in Urban Centres, Frequent Transit Development Areas, Industrial and Mixed Employment areas;

The following policies support appropriate economic development in Urban Centres, Frequent Transit Development Areas, Industrial and Mixed Employment areas:

City Wide Policies

- [Vancouver Economic Action Strategy \(2011\)](#)

The Economic Action Strategy focuses on a vision that results in a high performing economy with thriving growth sectors. The intent is to strengthen our City as both a destination and producer of global investment and talent.

Related targets to protect, enhance, increase and densify employment spaces include:

- Refine employment space strategies that meet future growth needs, and align with local neighbourhoods.
- Identify sectors that require unique spaces and locations.
- Densify urban employment.
- Support Vancouver's role as a shipping gateway.

- [EcoDensity Charter \(2008\)](#)

The EcoDensity Charter supports:

- A greener, denser city pattern that protects and ensures proper space for diverse jobs, shopping and economic activity close to home for a balanced, resilient city with minimal commuting as the City grows, including protection of key commercial and industrial districts for economic activity rather than housing.

- [CityPlan \(1995\)](#)

The CityPlan direction for a diverse economy is to increase the number and choice of jobs in the City, concentrate major job growth in the downtown, maintain industrial areas, and focus other job growth in neighbourhood centres.

To achieve this, Vancouver will:

- Encourage continued job growth at a rate that helps balance the number of jobs in the City with the number of workers who live here.
- Concentrate headquarters, financial, and related offices Downtown, and focus medical, civic, and related offices in Broadway Uptown.
- Use existing industrial land for port uses and industries that employ city residents or serve city businesses.
- Encourage jobs that serve city residents to locate in neighbourhood centres.
- Support Regional Town Centres to slow the growth in commuting from the region into Vancouver.

Urban Centre Policies

- Metro Core Jobs And Economy Plan (2007)

The goal of the Metro Core Jobs and Economy Land Use Plan is to ensure that there is enough development and transportation capacity to accommodate future job growth and economic activity in the Metro Core.

Central Business District Policy Directions include:

- Strengthen the primarily commercial character of the CBD.
- Encourage an adequate number, diversity and location of hotel uses.
- Encourage the development of cultural facilities.

Broadway Uptown Policy Directions include:

- Strengthen the primarily commercial character of Broadway Uptown.

Broadway Mixed-Use Area Policy Directions include:

- Create office and commercial hubs.
- Strengthen the commercial character of Cambie Street.

- Oakridge Centre Policy Statement (2007)

Related key planning principles in the Oakridge Centre Policy Statement include:

- Create a Neighbourhood and Municipal-Serving Centre by encouraging incremental redevelopment to create a vibrant centre at Cambie Street & 41st Ave with a mix of housing, retail, service and office uses served by a well-connected public transit system, parks and public amenities.
- Create a Transit Hub by encouraging higher densities of transit-supportive office, residential and commercial uses within a 5-minute walk of the transit station.

FTDA Policies

- Cambie Corridor Plan (2011)

The Cambie Corridor Plan ensures job space and diversity in the following ways:

- Recognize the special opportunity that the Corridor represents in providing job space in transit supportive locations. Encourage high levels of employment density within the Corridor. In doing so, consider the value of existing affordable commercial spaces.
- Ensure appropriate levels of office, entertainment, creative incubators, educational facilities and retail space within mixed use developments. Developments in close proximity to stations should provide higher proportions of office and other higher ridership uses.
- Avoid displacement or destabilization of existing city-serving land uses including industrial and employment areas.



Mixed Employment Area Policies

Large Format Uses:

- Council will consider applications for site specific rezoning to CD-1 (Comprehensive District) for large format retail, institutional, cultural and recreational uses. Suitable uses are those not normally found or appropriate in a neighbourhood centre. Large format uses are permitted in pre-determined areas along two arterial streets with frequent transit service.

General Office Uses:

- Council will consider applications for site specific rezoning to CD-1 (Comprehensive District) for a broad range of office uses on

sites near an existing rapid transit station, or station anticipated to be constructed within a reasonable time.

Industrial Area Policies

• Industrial Lands Policies (1995)

The Industrial Lands Policies guide future decisions on the use of industrial land. The overall objective of the policies is to retain most of the City's existing industrial land base for industry and service businesses to meet the needs of port/river related industry, and city-serving and city-oriented industries.

- b) support the development of office space in Urban Centres, through policies such as zoning that reserves land for office uses, density bonus provisions to encourage office development, variable development cost charges, and/or other financial incentives;

The following policies support the development of office space in Urban Centres:

Urban Centre Policies

• Metro Core Jobs And Economy Plan (2007)

Directions for the Central Business District (CBD) include:

- Increase permitted commercial densities and heights.
- Continue to prohibit market residential development except in limited situations to achieve other City objectives such as heritage revitalization, affordable housing or cultural amenity.

Directions for Broadway Uptown include:

- Strengthen the primarily commercial character of Broadway Uptown by increasing commercial density.
- Increase height limits where appropriate for commercial development.

- Maintain policy to restrict residential uses in order to consolidate office and job space.



- Rezoning Policy for the Central Business District (CBD) (2009)

The intent of this rezoning policy is to provide guidance for the commercial intensification of the CBD. For the CBD area, this policy requires that new development is non-residential use and also stipulates the conditions by which market residential uses may be permitted, in very limited instances, to achieve public objectives.

- Transfer of Heritage Density (1983)

The City of Vancouver offers a variety of incentives to achieve the rehabilitation and legal protection of heritage resources. Key related policies includes:

- All heritage density transferred into and within the CBD must be as non-residential uses, with the exception of large, multi-use development sites.

c) include policies that discourage major commercial and institutional development outside of Urban Centres or Frequent Transit Development Areas;

- Transportation 2040 (2012)

The Transportation Plan land use direction states that the City will support shorter trips and sustainable transportation choices through mixed land use, pedestrian oriented design, densities that support walking, cycling, and transit, and new housing choices that put residents close to jobs, schools, recreation and transit.

d) show how the economic development role of Special Employment Areas, post secondary institutions and hospitals are supported through land use and transportation policies.

Three hospitals and four major post-secondary institutions in the City are located along the frequent transit network. Two of the hospitals are in the Metro Core and in close proximity to private medical offices, health services and laboratories. Three of the post-secondary institutions are in the Metro Core, and the fourth is in the Cambie Corridor FTDA.

The locations of Hospitals and Post-Secondary Institutions are shown on Map 3 (page 58).

- General Policy for Higher Buildings (2007)

The intent of this policy is to mark the prominence of the Central Business District in our downtown skyline, while also providing opportunities for strategically placed height at two prominent bridge “gateways” to mark the entry into downtown from the Burrard and Granville Bridges.

- Oakridge Centre Policy Statement (2007)

Related key planning principles in the plan include:

- Office: Provide for and encourage an increase in the amount of office space on the site to serve local and city-wide needs and to support the transit hub with rapid transit access. Encourage the location of office uses in proximity to the transit station.

Land Use Directions include:

- Prioritize and encourage density and a diverse mix of services, amenities, jobs, and housing types in areas well-served by frequent, high-capacity transit.
- Locate major trip generators near rapid transit stations or along transit corridors.



STRATEGY 2.2

Protect the supply of industrial land

Role of Municipalities

2.2.4 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

- a) identify the Industrial areas and their boundaries on a map generally consistent with the Regional Land Use Designations map (Map 2);

The Industrial areas are identified on Map 1 (page 10).



- b) include policies for Industrial areas which:

- i) support and protect industrial uses;

- CityPlan (1995)

The CityPlan direction is to: increase the number and choice of jobs in the City; and concentrate major job growth in the downtown, maintain industrial areas, and focus other job growth in neighbourhood centres.

To achieve this, Vancouver will:

- Use existing industrial land for port uses and industries that employ city residents or serve city businesses.

- Industrial Lands Policies (1995)

The Industrial Lands Policies guide future decisions on the use of industrial land. The overall objective of the policies is to retain most of the City's existing industrial land base for industry and service businesses to meet the needs of port/river related industry, and city-serving and city-oriented industries. Rezoning of industrial lands will only be considered when based upon CityPlan or other city-initiated planning process.

The Industrial areas are currently all zoned for industrial use.

ii) support appropriate accessory uses, including commercial space and caretaker units;

• Zoning and Development By-law

The industrial zoning supports appropriate accessory uses in the following ways:

- Accessory uses, that are customarily ancillary to the principal use, are permitted. Accessory uses include retail and office uses.
- Floor area for accessory uses is limited to a percentage of the principal use floor area.
- Local serving restaurant use is permitted. The allowable floor area is limited.
- A dwelling unit for a caretaker is permitted.

iii) exclude uses which are inconsistent with the intent of industrial areas, such as medium and large format retail, residential uses (other than industrial caretaker units where necessary), and stand-alone office uses that are not supportive of industrial activities;

• Zoning and Development By-law

The industrial zoning generally excludes uses which are inconsistent with the intent of industrial areas. However, some flexibility is allowed:

- Permitted retail activities include farmers' market, furniture store, gasoline station, convenience store, rental, and vehicle dealer. The floor area is limited, and medium and large format retail uses are not permitted.
- A residential unit associated with an artist studio is permitted. However, the floor area is limited, and new construction and strata-titling are not permitted.
- Office uses are permitted. To discourage stand alone offices, the allowable area is limited to a percentage of the existing building area, or is lower than the maximum density for industrial uses.

iv) encourage better utilization and intensification of industrial areas for industrial activities;

• Zoning and Development By-law

The industrial zoning encourages better utilization and intensification of industrial areas in the following ways:

- Permits a wide range of industrial uses (from light to heavy industrial) and associated accessory uses.
- Permits high densities that encourage a mix of industrial uses.
- Permits multi-storey building heights.
- Requires no building set backs, other than to ensure the provision of lane access.



- c) identify the Mixed Employment areas and their boundaries on a map generally consistent with the Regional Land Use Designations map (Map 2);

The Mixed Employment areas are identified on Map 1 (page 10).

- d) include policies for Mixed Employment areas which:

- i) support a mix of industrial, commercial, office and other related employment uses, while maintaining support for established industrial areas, including potential intensification policies for industrial activities, where appropriate;

• Land Use and Development Policies and Guidelines

The base zoning for Mixed Employment Areas is industrial. The Mixed Employment Area rezoning policies permit office and retail uses in clearly defined areas of the City. Sites that have been rezoned to permit office and retail uses continue to permit industrial uses. Residential uses are not permitted.

Rezoning and development policies have been approved for the following Mixed Employment areas:

- Burrard Slopes IC Districts
- False Creek Flats High Technology District
- Grandview/Boundary Mixed Employment Area
- Marine Drive Large Format Area
- Marine Landing Mixed Employment Area

- ii) allow large and medium format retail, where appropriate, provided that such development will not undermine the broad objectives of the Regional Growth Strategy;

- Large Format Area Rezoning Policies and Guidelines: Marine Drive Industrial Area (2001)
- Grandview Boundary Mixed Employment Area Rezoning & Development Policies And Guidelines (2002)

Large Format Area rezoning policies apply to sites fronting on arterials in two Mixed Employment areas:

- Marine Drive, south side, from Yukon Street to Main Street; and
- Grandview Highway, north side, from Slo-can Street to Boundary Road.

- Council will consider applications for site specific rezoning to CD-1 (Comprehensive District) for large format retail, institutional, cultural and recreational uses. Suitable uses are those not normally found or appropriate in a neighbourhood centre. All types of retail use, except the sale of food (i.e. grocery store), will be considered. Retail uses including clothing will require a retail impact analysis.

iii) support the regional objective of concentrating commercial and other major trip-generating uses in Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas;

All Mixed Employment areas are near a rapid transit station or Translink's Frequent Transit Network, and generally meet the location criteria set out in Table 3 of the Regional Growth Strategy regarding the distance from transit service.

Two Mixed Employment areas are located in the Metro Core:

- Burrard Slopes IC Districts
- False Creek Flats High Technology District

One Mixed Employment areas is in a FTDA:

- Marine Landing Mixed Employment Area

Four Mixed Employment areas are near a rapid transit station:

- False Creek Flats High Technology District
- Grandview/Boundary Mixed Employment Area
- Marine Drive Large Format Area
- Marine Landing Mixed Employment Area

iv) where Mixed Employment areas are located within Urban Centres or Frequent Transit Development Areas, support higher density commercial development and allow employment and service activities consistent with the intent of Urban Centres or Frequent Transit Development Areas;

The following policies support higher density commercial development in Mixed Employment areas:

- [False Creek Flats Rezoning Policy: Additional General Office Use in "High Technology" Districts \(2009\)](#)
- [Grandview Boundary Mixed Employment Area Rezoning & Development Policies And Guidelines \(2002\)](#)
- [Cambie Corridor Plan \(2011\)](#)

- [Burrard Slopes IC Districts Interim Rezoning Policies and Guidelines \(2007\)](#)

The goal of the Burrard Slopes rezoning policies is to preserve the area's downtown "support service" role and its existing small scale and architecturally varied character.

Higher density General Office rezoning policies apply to sites in the following Mixed Employment areas:

- False Creek Flats High Technology District
- Grandview/Boundary Mixed Employment Area
- Marine Landing Mixed Employment Area

The major directions to achieve this goal are:

- The existing IC zoning permits industrial use and a lower density mix of office, service, and retail uses.
- The rezoning policies permit higher density for office and service uses, but not retail uses.

Council will consider applications for site specific rezoning to CD-1 (Comprehensive District) for a broad range of office uses on sites within a realistic walking distance of an existing rapid transit station, or station anticipated to be constructed within a reasonable time. Viable pedestrian linkages to the rapid transit station must be demonstrated.



- v) allow low density infill / expansion based on currently accepted local plans and policies in Mixed Employment areas and support increases in density only where the Mixed Employment area has transit service or where an expansion of transit service has been identified in TransLink’s strategic transportation plans for the planned densities;

See Section 2.2.4 d) iii) support the regional objective of concentrating commercial and other major trip-generating uses in Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development areas on page 27.

- vi) exclude residential uses, except for an accessory caretaker unit;

The Mixed Employment area rezoning policies, except for the Burrard Slopes IC Districts Rezoning Policies, do not permit residential uses other than for a caretaker dwelling unit. Council has directed staff to consider removing the residential component from the Burrard Slopes IC Districts Rezoning Policies.

- e) include policies which help reduce environmental impacts and promote energy efficiency.

The Greenest City 2020 Action Plan includes a number of actions to reduce environmental impacts and promote energy efficiency.

- Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (2011)

Green Economy

The Green Economy targets include doubling the number of green jobs over 2010 levels by 2020 and doubling the number of companies that are actively engaged in greening their operations over 2011 levels by 2020.

High priority actions include:

- Develop programs to support each of the five green job clusters that the City has identified as priorities. Programs might include research, technology hubs, business incubators, and network development.
- Deliver a business engagement program. This program can help Vancouver businesses make measurable improvements to their environmental performance and improve productivity and competitiveness.

Green Buildings

The Green Building targets include reducing GHG emissions in existing buildings by 20% over 2007 levels, and requiring all buildings constructed from 2020 onward to be carbon neutral in operations.

High priority actions include:

- Update the Vancouver Building Bylaw to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emission in both new and existing buildings.
- Use price signals in permit fees for new construction as well as renovations to existing buildings to reward energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reductions.

STRATEGY 2.3

Protect the supply of agricultural land and promote agricultural viability with an emphasis on food production

Role of Municipalities

2.3.6 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

- a) specify the Agricultural areas and their boundaries on a map generally consistent with the Regional Land Use Designations map (Map 2);

The Agricultural areas are identified on Map 1 (page 10).

- b) include policies to support agricultural viability including those which:
 - i) assign appropriate regional land use designations that support agricultural viability and discourage non-farm uses that do not complement agriculture;
 - ii) discourage subdivision of agricultural land leading to farm fragmentation;
 - iii) where feasible, and appropriate with other governments and agencies, maintain and improve transportation, drainage and irrigation infrastructure to support agricultural activities;
 - iv) manage the agricultural-urban interface to protect the integrity and viability of agricultural operations (e.g. buffers between agricultural and urban areas or edge planning);
 - v) demonstrate support for economic development opportunities for agricultural operations (e.g. processing, agri-tourism, farmers' markets and urban agriculture);
 - vi) encourage the use of agricultural land, with an emphasis on food production;
 - vii) support educational programs that provide information on agriculture and its importance for the regional economy and local food systems.

Regional Growth Strategy Section 2.3.1 specifies that Metro Vancouver will only extend regional sewerage services into Agricultural areas under exceptional circumstances. Metro staff are preparing the Regional Growth Strategy implementation guidelines for future sewerage extension, and considering areas in the Regional Growth Strategy Agricultural Designation where approved sewerage infrastructure is in place. It is acknowledged that the Southlands Agricultural area has sewerage infrastructure and services in place. It is the intent that, following a regional review of previously approved sewerage services in Agricultural areas, that the Southlands Agricultural area be identified in the RGS as an existing sewerage extension area, and not subject to Regional Growth Strategy Section 2.3.1.



The following policies support agricultural land viability:

- Zoning and Development By-law

All lands in the City that are designated as Agricultural are also in the Agricultural Land Reserve and are zoned RA-1. All Agricultural Lands are located outside the Urban Containment Boundary.

The intent of the RA-1 zone is to maintain and encourage the semi-rural, equestrian and limited agricultural nature of this District, to permit one-family dwellings on large lots and in specific circumstances to permit infill one-family dwellings.

- Agricultural Land Reserve Policies (1979)

The City of Vancouver ALR policies state that:

- The primary criterion for evaluating applications for release of undeveloped or underdeveloped land from the Agricultural Land Reserve be the capability of that land for agricultural pursuits as determined by the Agricultural Land Commission and that the Agricultural Land Commission base its decisions solely on that criterion.



- Southlands Plan, Policies and Guidelines (1988)

The Southlands Plan retains the rural character of Southlands, supports the area's Agricultural Land Reserve designation, and supports the protection and rehabilitation of existing natural habitats and the protection and enhancement of the water quality of the Fraser River and estuary.

The policy calls for agricultural suitability to be the main criterion for land use decisions regarding the ALR, and states that the Agricultural Land Commission should only exempt land from the ALR if it has marginal or questionable potential for agricultural use.

The following policies help to encourage food production, economic development opportunities and educational programs in the City:

- Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (2011)

Local Food

One of the goals of the Greenest City initiative is to become a global leader in urban food systems by 2020. The target is to increase city-wide and neighbourhood food assets by a minimum of 50% over 2010 levels. Related actions and strategies include:

- Grow more food in the City and expand the number of farmers markets within the City.
- Support the creation of food infrastructure and food related green jobs in production, processing, storage, distribution, and waste management.
- Establish partnerships with private businesses, non-profit groups, and volunteers.
- Develop policies and regulations to create a sustainable food system.
- Increase public awareness of the link between local food and a healthy environment.

• Vancouver Food Strategy (2013)

The Vancouver Food Strategy is a plan to create a just and sustainable food system for the City. It builds on years of food systems initiatives and grassroots community development, considering all aspects of the food system, from seed to table to compost heap and back again.

The strategy has five goals that will help shape the future of Vancouver's food systems:

- Support food-friendly neighbourhoods.
- Empower residents to take action.
- Improve access to healthy, affordable, culturally diverse food for all residents.
- Make food a centrepiece of Vancouver's green economy.
- Advocate for a just and sustainable food system.

• Farmers' Market Policies (2010)

The Farmers' Market By-laws were introduced in an effort to support and promote farmers' markets in the City and a just and sustainable food system.

The farmers' market by-laws support agricultural operations in the following ways:

- Farmers' markets allowed in all zones across the City except for CD-1.
- Reduced permitting and licensing fees for farmers' markets.
- A streamlined application process and expedited permitting times.

• Vancouver Food Charter (2007)

The Vancouver Food Charter is a vision for a food system that benefits our community and the environment. It sets out the City's commitment to developing a coordinated municipal food policy, and encourages engagement and participation in activities related to food security.

The goal of Vancouver's Food Charter is to effect change, by encouraging:

- Consumers to purchase more locally produced food.
- Regional farmers to direct more of their production to local markets.
- Restaurateurs to feature more local, sustainable food on menus.
- Food retailers to shift more of their inventory to local, sustainably produced food.
- Increased levels of edible gardening in the City.
- Enhanced backyard and neighbourhood composting.



STRATEGY 3.1

Protect Conservation and Recreation lands

Role of Municipalities:

3.1.4 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

- a) identify Conservation and Recreation areas and their boundaries on a map generally consistent with the Regional Land Use Designations map (Map 2);

Conservation and Recreation areas include major parks, waterfront parks and walkways, natural corridors and golf courses. The Conservation and Recreation areas are identified on Map 1 (page 10).

- b) include land use policies to support the protection of Conservation and Recreation areas that are generally consistent with the following:
 - i) public service infrastructure, including the supply of high quality drinking water;
 - ii) environmental conservation;
 - iii) recreation, primarily outdoor;
 - iv) education, research and training facilities and uses that serve conservation and/or recreation users;
 - v) commercial uses, tourism activities, and public, cultural or community amenities that are appropriately located, scaled and consistent with the intent of the designation;
 - vi) limited agriculture use, primarily soil-based;



- Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (2011)

Access to Nature

The City of Vancouver's goal is for residents to enjoy incomparable access to green spaces, including the world's most spectacular urban forest. A target for meeting this goal is that all Vancouver residents live within a five-minute walk of a park, greenway, or other green spaces by 2020. Bringing nature more fully into people's daily lives and enhancing their experience with nature not only improves physical health, it also benefits the environment and wildlife.

Related actions and strategies include:

- Create four to six new mini-parks by converting street right-of-ways to parks.
- Work to acquire new parks in priority neighbourhoods.
- Plant 150,000 new trees on city land and other public property.
- Green Hastings Park.
- Build and upgrade parks and greenways.

- Park Board Strategic Plan (2005 – 2010)

The Park Board Strategic Plan outlines the need for meeting future challenges as the City's population continues to grow. The Strategy indicates that they will need more parkland and recreation facilities to meet the need, while preserving the 200+ parks with many outdoor play facilities and over 220 buildings including community centres, field houses, pools, rinks, restaurants, concession stands and service buildings.

Related actions include:

- Plan for long-term renewal of park and recreation facilities.
- Assess recreation needs.
- Expand services to accommodate population growth.

- City Plan (1995)

CityPlan provides the following directions:

New & More Diverse Public Places

Vancouverites seek new and more diverse public places – places where people can relax, walk, bike, socialize, celebrate, and play. Nature will be protected and so will the public views to the mountains and water that make up the City's spectacular setting.

- Ensure that the number and quality of the City's public places matches the needs of a growing and increasingly diverse population; and encourage neighbourhoods and businesses to participate in enhancing the City's public places.

Clean Air & Water

As the region grows and there is increasing pressure on our environment, the City will give priority to actions that protect the environment, everything from how people travel to how they use water.

- Make improving the environment a priority in decision-making with particular attention to air and water quality; and involve individuals and businesses directly in actions that protect and improve the environment. To achieve this, Vancouver will consider environmental impacts when making decisions on land use, transportation, and city services. For example, the standard template for Council Reports requires that Environmental Implications be considered.



- c) include policies, where appropriate, that effectively buffer Conservation and Recreation areas from activities in adjacent areas.

This action is not applicable to Conservation and Recreation areas in the City of Vancouver. The City's intent is to encourage full access to nature.

STRATEGY 3.2

Protect and enhance natural features and their connectivity

Role of Municipalities:

3.2.4 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

include policies and/or maps that indicate how ecologically important areas and natural features will be managed (as conceptually shown on Map 10) (e.g. steep slopes and ravines, intertidal areas and other natural features not addressed in Strategy 3.1).

- Park Board Strategic Plan (2005 - 2010)

The Vancouver Park Board is in the process of updating its Strategic Plan. The Plan's approved Strategic Framework (2011) is guided by the following Mission and Vision statements:

Mission: Provide, preserve and advocate for parks and recreation to benefit all people, communities and the environment.

Vision: To be leaders in parks and recreation by connecting people to green space, active living and community.

The Plan's vision will be achieved by focusing on four priority directions, one of which calls for the Board to be a Leader in Greening: Through our actions we demonstrate leading green and horticultural practices and preserve, protect and create green space. The goals and objectives for the Leader in Greening direction are summarized below.

Goal #1 Green Operations: We are green in all that we do – we strive to minimize our footprint through green policies and practices that reduce carbon dependency, enhance energy conservation and reduce waste.

Strategic Objectives for Green Operations:

1. Sustainable Operations: Design, measure, monitor and manage operations, and implement new practices to minimize our environmental footprint.
2. Greener Spaces: Preserve, restore and expand green space. Use the Park Board's horticultural expertise to support plant conservation, landscape restoration, garden design and local food production.

Goal #2 Healthy Ecosystems: We grow green neighborhoods by providing our communities with easy access to nature and advocating for healthy and sustainable environments.

Strategic Objectives for Healthy Ecosystems:

1. Green Stewardship: Model and advocate for best practices in ecosystem enhancement and management.

2. Local Food Systems: Support community-based food production by contributing to the development of neighbourhood and city-wide food infrastructure programs and assets.
3. Green Education & Advocacy: Use Park Board expertise, programs, facilities and partnerships to increase awareness and knowledge of sustainable living.

Consistent with the Plan's strategic directions, several ecologically important features and natural areas are being restored and enhanced across the City. Examples include:

- Renfrew Ravine and Renfrew Community Park master planning process, which aims to increase and enhance the riparian area around this open section of Still Creek.
- Ongoing implementation of the Stanley Park Forest Restoration project.
- Ongoing implementation of the Stanley Park Ecological Action Plan.

- Consultancy for the ecologically and culturally sensitive restoration of Beaver Lake in Stanley Park.
- Restoration of Beaver Lake bog.
- Maintaining and enhancing Audubon status for civic golf courses.
- Ongoing restoration of riparian areas along Still Creek in Vancouver.
- Studies underway to develop a creek and estuary in New Brighton Park.
- Ongoing planning for the restoration of Trout Lake and the master planning process for John Hendry Park.
- Restoration and enhancement of the Fraser River frontage at the River District between Kerr Street and Boundary Road.
- Development of a songbird strategy for the City.
- Restoration of remnant woodlands and creation of new forested areas in the City.
- Development of an ecotone on the site of the former Marginal Wharf at Jericho Beach.
- Construction of the Creekway watercourse in Hastings Park.

Role of Municipalities:

3.2.5 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

In collaboration with other agencies, develop and manage municipal components of the Metro Vancouver Regional Recreation Greenway Network and connect community trails, bikeways and greenways to the Regional Recreation Greenway Network where appropriate.

The City Greenways network identifies 17 Greenways across the City, shown on Map 2 (page 36).

• Vancouver Greenways Plan (1995)

The City Greenways network is a city-driven initiative to build greenways in Vancouver. The Vancouver Greenways Plan identifies City and Neighbourhood Greenways as important destinations and create a network that covers the entire City. The Greenways extend waterfront routes, provide a variety of routes that cross the City, and connect into the Regional Recreation Greenway Network.



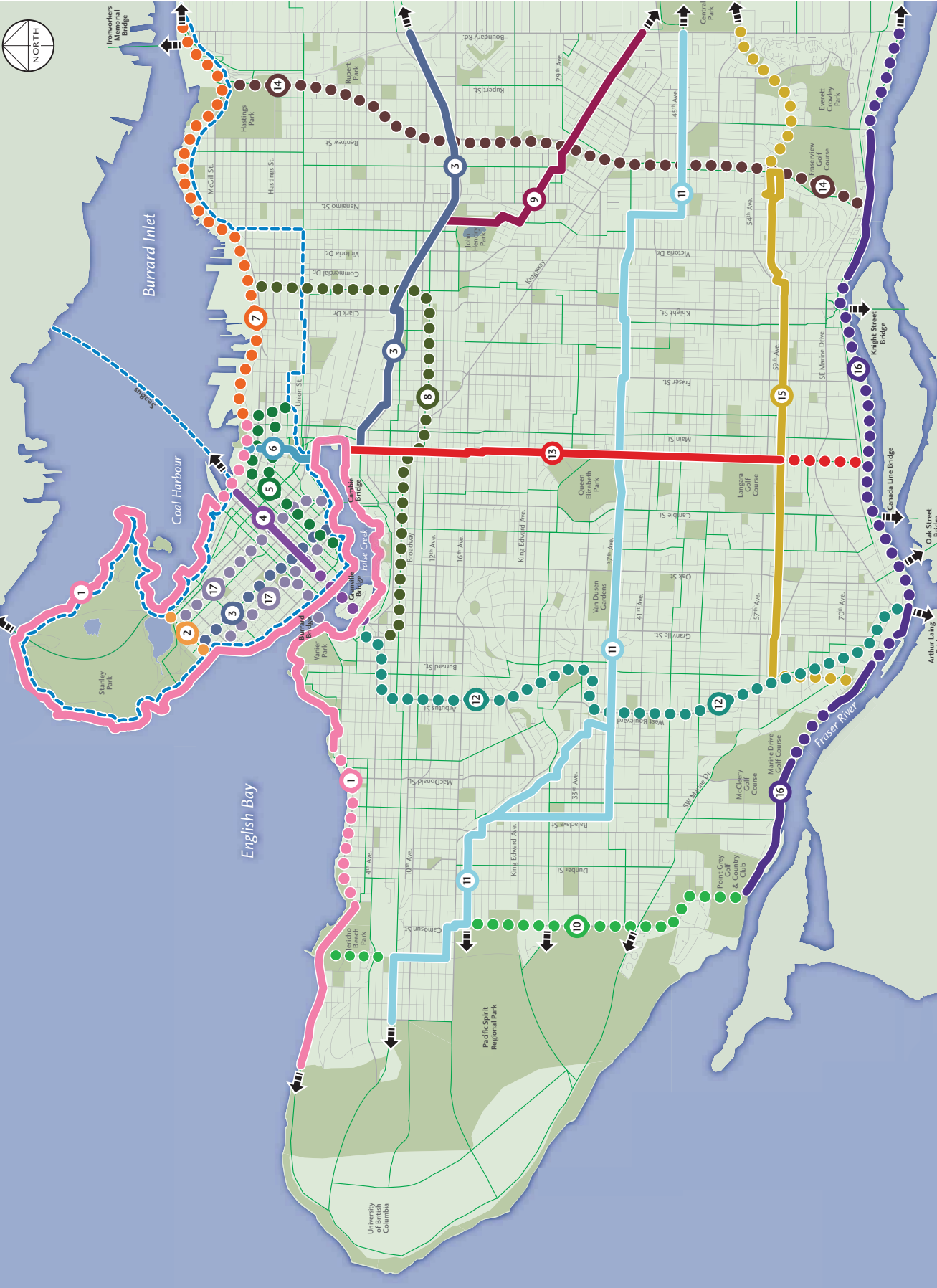
Map 2: City Greenways Plan



Legend

- 1 Seaside *
- 2 Lagoon
- 3 Central Valley *
- 4 Granville
- 5 Downtown Historic Trail
- 6 Carrall
- 7 Portside *
- 8 Midtown Way
- 9 Parkway *
- 10 Spirit Trail
- 11 Ridgeway
- 12 Arbutus *
- 13 Ontario
- 14 Eastside Crosscut
- 15 North Arm Trail
- 16 Fraser River Trail *
- 17 City Centre

- Greenway
Constructed or in progress
- Proposed Greenway
Exact route to be determined through public consultation and detailed study
- Bikeway
Constructed or in progress
- - - Trans Canada Trail
- ⇨ Potential connections
- Parks and open spaces
- Regional Recreation
- * Greenway Network



Role of Municipalities:

3.2.6 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

Identify where appropriate measures to protect, enhance and restore ecologically important systems, features, corridors and establish buffers along watercourses, coastlines, agricultural lands, and other ecologically important features (e.g. conservation covenants, land trusts, tax exemptions and ecogifting)

The following policies protect, enhance and restore ecologically important systems:

- Stanley Park Ecological Action Plan (2011)

This action plan focusses on restoration and enhancement activities to benefit the ecological health and biodiversity of Stanley Park's ecosystem.

The five priority areas to be addressed are:

- Ecological and culturally sensitive restoration of Beaver Lake.
- Seeking solutions to the water quality issues in Lost Lagoon.
- Developing best management practices for invasive species.
- Developing best management practices for Species of Significance.
- Reducing fragmentation of habitat in the park.

- Greenest City Quickstart Recommendations (2009)

Recommendations for nature and greenspace include:

- Restore Shoreline and Intertidal Zones: Vancouver should partner with the Vancouver Aquarium, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other levels of government on regular shoreline clean-up and intertidal zone restoration.
- Improve public access to the waterfront, restoring the riverbank, remediating soil and extending Vancouver's system of waterfront trails and parks.
- Add green space and improve river access.

- Still Creek Enhancement Plan (2002)

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate and enhance some sections of Still Creek, one of only two remaining visible streams in urban Vancouver.

The City of Vancouver is working with neighbouring municipalities to:

- Return creekside habitat to native plantings.
- Remove concrete and naturalize creek banks.
- Add interpretive plaques and boardwalks to provide recreational and educational opportunities.

- Fraser River and Burrard Inlet Waterfront Policies and Guidelines (1974)

The public waterfront areas along Burrard Inlet, English Bay, False Creek and the Fraser River consist of parks, beaches, walkways and seawalls that have varied character, provide for many different uses and attract many different people.

The Waterfront policies require the provision of landscape treatments as a condition of development permit applications for all conditional use development along the Fraser River and the Burrard Inlet waterfronts.



Role of Municipalities:

3.2.7 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

Consider watershed and ecosystem planning and/or Integrated Stormwater Management Plans in the development of municipal plans.

- Integrated Stormwater Management Plans

There are three Integrated Stormwater Management Plans in the City:

- Still Creek has been in the implementation phase since 2006
- The Musquem Creek ISMP is under development and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2014.
- The city-wide ISMP, also scheduled for completion by the end of 2014, covers the rest of the City.

- Sewer Separation Plan

Vancouver is working toward the Province of BC's environmental goal to eliminate combined sewer overflows by 2050. As the City replaces combined sewers with a separated sewer system, properties will also need to have separated sewer connections.

Sewer separation has been underway since the 1970s. Elimination of combined sewer overflows will be achieved by 2050 and completion of system separation will be achieved in 2070.

STRATEGY 3.3

Encourage land use and transportation infrastructure that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and improve air quality

Role of Municipalities:

3.3.4 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

- a) identify how municipalities will use their land development and transportation strategies to meet their greenhouse gas reduction targets and consider how these targets will contribute to the regional targets;

- Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (2011)

Climate Leadership

The City has a target to reduce community-based greenhouse gas emissions by 33% from 2007.

High priority actions to achieving this include:

- Work with partners in the City to build new neighbourhood-scale renewable energy systems.
- Work with partners to convert large-scale steam systems to renewable energy.
- Develop a policy framework that clearly articulates when the City will or will not consider different renewable energy sources for district energy systems.

Green Transportation

The City of Vancouver is working towards making walking, cycling, and public transit preferred transportation options.

Targets include:

- The majority (over 50%) of trips are made by foot, bicycle, and public transit.
- Average distance driven per resident is reduced by 20% from 2007 levels.

High priority actions and strategies include:

- Support transportation and active transportation planning with land use policies that enable the City to meet mobility and transportation targets.
- Make active transportation choices such as walking and cycling feel safe, convenient, comfortable and fun for all ages and abilities.
- Plan for complete communities to encourage increased walking and cycling and to support improved transit service.
- Support transit improvements to increase capacity and ensure that service is fast, frequent, reliable, fully accessible and comfortable.

- [Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Official Development Plan \(2010\)](#)

This Official Development Plan incorporates existing greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and actions to achieve those targets.

Targets include:

- Reduce GHG emissions:
 - (i) to 6% below 1990 GHG levels by 2012
 - (ii) to 33% below 2007 GHG levels by 2020
 - (iii) to 80% below 1990 GHG levels by 2050
- Require that all new construction be carbon neutral by 2030.

Related actions include:

- Continue to pursue and implement the policies outlined in the Community Climate Change Action Plan.
- Develop a new climate change action plan to meet the 2020 GHG emission reduction target as part of the Greenest City 2020 implementation planning program.

- [The Climate Friendly City: A Community Climate Change Action Plan for the City of Vancouver \(2005\)](#)

This action plan demonstrates the City of Vancouver's commitment to leadership in addressing its own emissions, and in being environmentally, socially and economically responsible.

Climate-Friendly City recognizes the importance of building a city that works not only for today but also for the future, and is committed to becoming more sustainable in all of its operations. Vancouver City Council approved a corporate greenhouse gas reduction target of 20 per cent below 1990 emission levels by 2010. To achieve this goal, the City adopted a greenhouse gas action plan, which addresses emissions resulting from areas such as energy use in civic facilities, fleet operations and landfill emissions associated with the waste generated by city operations.

- [Corporate Climate Change Action Plan \(2003\)](#)

The City of Vancouver was one of the original signatories to the national Partners for Climate Protection initiative and in December, 2003 the City approved a Corporate Climate Change Action Plan outlining the steps and committing the resources to realize a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2010 from its own operations. This included energy use in its own civic facilities, buildings, and fleets.



b) identify policies and/or programs that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and improve air quality from land use and transportation infrastructure, such as:

- existing building retrofits and construction of new buildings to green performance guidelines or standards, district energy systems, and energy recovery and renewable energy generation technologies, such as solar panels and geexchange systems, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- community design and facility provision that encourages transit, cycling and walking (e.g. direct and safe pedestrian and cycling linkages to the transit system);

• Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (2011)

Climate Leadership

The City has a target to reduce community-based greenhouse gas emissions by 33% from 2007.

High priority actions to achieving this include:

- Work with partners in the City to build new neighbourhood-scale renewable energy systems.
- Work with partners to convert large-scale steam systems to renewable energy.
- Develop a policy framework that clearly articulates when the City will or will not consider different renewable energy sources for district energy systems.

Green Buildings

The Green Building targets include reducing GHG emissions in existing buildings by 20% over 2007 levels, and requiring all buildings constructed from 2020 onward to be carbon neutral in operations.

High priority actions to achieving these include:

- Update the Vancouver Building Bylaw to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Use price signals in permit fees to reward energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reductions.

Green Economy

The Green Economy targets include doubling the number of green jobs over 2010 levels by 2020 and doubling the number of companies that are actively engaged in greening their operations over 2011 levels by 2020.

High priority actions to achieving these include:

- Help Vancouver businesses make measurable improvements to their environmental performance.

Clean Air

The City of Vancouver target for clean air is to always meet or beat the most stringent air quality guidelines from Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and the World Health Organization.

Highest priority actions include:

- Encourage electric vehicle transport.
- Regulate uncontrolled wood-burning appliances for residential buildings.
- Establish a framework to integrate air quality considerations in City of Vancouver planning.
- Collaborate with Port Metro Vancouver, Metro Vancouver, and BC Hydro on joint air quality issues.

Green Transportation

The City of Vancouver is working towards making walking, cycling, and public transit preferred transportation options with a target that aims at making the majority (over 50%) of trips by foot, bicycle, and public transit.

Key Strategies include:

- Make active transportation choices such as walking and cycling feel safe, convenient, comfortable and fun for all ages and abilities.
- Plan for complete communities to encourage increased walking and cycling and to support improved transit service.
- Support transit improvements to increase capacity and ensure that service is fast, frequent, reliable, fully accessible and comfortable.
- Advance policies that encourage residents to reduce car ownership and use.
- Accelerate the shift to low- and zero-carbon-emission vehicles.
- Work with local and regional partners on a sustainable goods-movement strategy that supports a growing economy while reducing GHG emissions.

• [Passive Design Toolkit \(2009\)](#)

The Passive Design Toolkits serves as a resource to the development industry, and as a framework for the City to review and update its design guidelines.

The strategies in this toolkit offer suggestions for harnessing the power of the sun and decreasing the energy consumption requirements of a typical home.

• [Electric Vehicle Charging \(2009\)](#)

The City is making the transition as easily as possible, by updating building bylaws to include EV charging infrastructure requirements.

To accommodate EVs in new apartment buildings, condos, townhouses, and other buildings

with a minimum of three homes, Council has made the following revisions to the City's building bylaw:

- Parking stalls - 20% of the parking stalls in every building must include a receptacle for charging cars.
- Electrical room - The electrical room must include enough space to install any equipment necessary to provide charging for all residents in the future.

• [Green Buildings Program \(2008\)](#)

Under the Green Homes Program, new one- and two-family homes are required to include a number of sustainable features that will help save energy, water, and money, while providing an improved indoor environment.

• [Southeast False Creek Neighbourhood Energy Utility \(2006\)](#)

The NEU provides space heating and domestic hot water to multi-family residential, commercial, institutional and industrial buildings in Southeast False Creek. As the City's first renewable district heating system, it launches a program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy sources.

• [Neighbourhood Energy Strategy \(2012\)](#)

The City has adopted a Neighbourhood Energy Strategy that focuses efforts to develop new, low carbon neighbourhood energy centres in areas of greatest existing or planned density such as in the Metro Core and along the Cambie Corridor.



c) focus infrastructure and amenity investments in Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas, and at appropriate locations along TransLink’s Frequent Transit Network;

• Transportation 2040 (2012)

The Transportation Plan’s land use direction states that the City will support shorter trips and sustainable transportation choices through mixed land use, pedestrian oriented design, densities that support walking, cycling, and transit, and new housing choices that put residents close to jobs, schools, recreation and transit.

Related actions include:

- Prioritize and encourage density and a diverse mix of services, amenities, jobs, and housing types in areas well served by frequent, high-capacity transit.
- Locate major trip generators near rapid transit stations or along transit corridors.
- Prioritize city transportation infrastructure investments in areas where density and land use optimizes sustainable transportation choices.

d) implement land use policies and development control strategies which support integrated storm water management and water conservation objectives.

• Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (2011)

Clean Water

Targets for Clean Water are:

- Meet or beat the strongest of BC, Canadian, and appropriate international drinking water quality standards and guidelines.
- Reduce per capita water consumption by 33% from 2006 levels.

In order to meet these targets the City has developed high priority actions which include:

- Water metering for new homes which will move to volume-based pricing of water usage.
- Develop and implement enhanced water education, incentive and conservation programs including incentive programs for low-flow toilets and increased education and enforcement of lawn sprinkling regulations.
- Expand public access to drinking water and reduce use of bottled water.

- Eliminate combined sewer overflows from outfalls at Crowe and Burrard streets and develop Integrated Rainwater Management Plans for the City.

Key Strategies include:

- Monitoring and protecting water quality.
- Continuing leadership and advocacy.
- Expanding public access to drinking water.
- Implementing policies and programs to enhance water conservation.
- Engaging the public, industry, and business for improved water conservation choices and habits.
- Installing water-saving technology through incentives and programs.

- Sewer Separation Plan

Vancouver is working toward the Province of BC's environmental goal to eliminate sewage overflows by 2050. As the City replaces combined sewer systems with separated sewer systems, properties will also need to have separated sewer systems.



STRATEGY 3.4

Encourage land use and transportation infrastructure that improve the ability to withstand climate change impacts and natural hazard risks

Role of Municipalities:

3.4.4 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

include policies to encourage settlement patterns that minimize risks associated with climate change and natural hazards (e.g. earthquake, flooding, erosion, subsidence, mudslides, interface fires).

- Flood Proofing Policies (1988, 1995, 2007)

The City's flood proofing policies are intended to reduce or prevent injury, human trauma, and loss of life and to minimize property damage during a flood event. In an effort to do this, the policy mandates flood construction levels (FCLs) which are the minimum floor elevations

for living spaces and areas used for storage of goods that could be damaged by flood waters.

The City is working on amending the flood-proofing policies and undertaking a coastal flood risk assessment to respond to hazards posed by sea level rise.



Role of Municipalities:

3.4.5 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

Consider incorporating climate change and natural hazard risk assessments into the planning and location of municipal utilities, assets and operations.

- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2012)

Vancouver City Council has adopted a comprehensive climate change adaptation strategy to ensure that Vancouver remains a liveable and resilient city in the face of climate change.

The landmark strategy recommends nine primary actions and over 50 supporting actions that the City of Vancouver can take to incorporate climate change adaptation measures into new projects and daily operations for all city business.

These actions will guide the way we build and maintain city streets, sewers, building infrastructure, parks and greenspaces to ensure they are resilient to climate change.

The objectives are:

- Minimize rainfall related flooding and associated consequences.
- Increase the resilience of Vancouver's infrastructure and assets to coastal flooding and erosion.
- Increase Vancouver's capacity to respond to extreme weather events and recover effectively.
- Reduce safety and health risks for the homeless and low-income population due to inclement weather.
- Minimize per capita water consumption.
- Minimize morbidity and mortality during heat waves.
- Increase resilience of the built environment to future climate conditions.
- Increase the long-term health and vigour of urban forests, green spaces and trees.
- Incorporate adaptation considerations in city business.

The primary actions identified in the strategy are:

- Complete and implement a city-wide Integrated Stormwater Management Plan
- Separate the sanitary and stormwater sewers (in progress)
- Complete a coastal flood risk assessment and develop a city-wide sea level rise adaptation response
- Update City flood-proofing policies including flood construction levels
- Develop a policy for back-up power and assess departments for shortfalls
- Water conservation (in progress)
- Support the Extreme Hot Weather Committee in completion of Phase II of planning and expand the hot weather preparedness work program.
- Continue to include climate change adaptation measures in the next Vancouver Building Bylaw (VBBL) update and explore associated zoning changes.
- Support development of a comprehensive Urban Forest Management Plan that focuses on growing successful trees in urban areas.



STRATEGY 4.1

Provide diverse and affordable housing choices

Role of Municipalities:

4.1.7 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

- a) include policies or strategies that indicate how municipalities will work towards meeting the estimated future housing demand as set out in Appendix Table A.4, which:
 - i) ensure the need for diverse housing options is articulated in municipal plans and policies, including neighbourhood and area plans;
 - ii) increase the supply and diversity of the housing stock through infill developments, more compact housing forms and increased density;
 - iii) in collaboration with the federal government and the province, assist in increasing the supply of affordable rental units for households with low or low to moderate incomes through policies, such as density bonus provisions, inclusionary zoning or other mechanisms, particularly in areas that are well served by transit;
 - iv) encourage and facilitate affordable housing development through measures such as reduced parking requirements, streamlined and prioritized approval processes, below market leases of publicly owned property, and fiscal measures.

- Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2012-2021 (2011)

The goals of the Housing and Homeless Strategy are to end street homelessness and provide more affordable housing choices, which include housing that is more accessible, affordable and suitable for all income levels, seniors, families and residents challenged by disability.

The strategic directions and priority actions in the strategy address the full range of housing options available to households of all income levels, extending from emergency shelter and housing for the homeless through

to affordable rental housing and homeownership.

Priority actions to increase the supply of affordable housing are:

- Optimize the City's use of land, capital grants, incentives, and other resources to lever and support housing partnerships
- Refine and develop new zoning approaches, development tools and rental incentives
- Pursue a new business model to enhance affordable housing delivery



Priority actions to encourage a housing mix across all neighbourhoods that enhances quality of life are:

- Protect the existing rental stock by:
 - maintaining and exploring opportunities to improve the Rate of Change regulations and SRA Bylaw
 - providing incentives for upgrades
 - improving property and tenancy management practices
- Target low barrier shelter, supportive housing and social housing:
 - in neighbourhoods with significant homeless populations and limited capacity
 - to specific populations (e.g. youth, ban Aboriginal, mentally ill, women, etc.)
- Use financial and regulatory tools to encourage a variety of housing types and tenures that meet the needs of diverse households

Priority actions to provide strong leadership and support partners to enhance housing stability are:

- Enhance support to renters
- Strengthen the focus of the Urban Health Initiative on homelessness, with an emphasis on improving health, safety, food security, employment, and social supports

- Demonstrate leadership in research and innovation to create improved housing options for our diverse population
- Focus our efforts with partners on preventing and eliminating homelessness

The strategy includes housing targets, summarized in Table 3, that meet or exceed the housing demand estimates set out in Appendix Table A.4 of the Regional Growth Strategy. To meet these targets by 2021, the actions in the strategy would:

- Ensure shelter capacity to meet the needs of street homeless
- Enable 2,900 new supportive housing units
 - Phase 1: 1,700 units (funded and delivered 2011–2013)
 - Phase 2: 450 units (funded 2012-2014)
 - Phase 3: 750 units (funded 2015-2021)
- Enable 5,000 additional new social housing units (includes 1,000 units of SRO replacement with self-contained social housing)
- Enable 11,000 new market rental housing units
 - 5,000 purpose-built rental
 - 6,000 secondary market (e.g. suites, laneway housing)
- Enable 20,000 market ownership units

**Table 3. Housing Targets By Tenure and Income - 10 Year Estimate
Vancouver Housing and Homelessness Strategy**

Target 2012-2021	Total	Shelters	Supportive Housing	Non-Market Housing	Purpose Built Rental	Secondary Rental	Market Ownership
Vancouver	38,900	Meet Needs	2,900	5,000	5,000	6,000	20,000

• Mayor's Task Force on Affordable Housing: Final Report (2012)

The final report from the Task Force on Housing Affordability enables the delivery of greater housing diversity and affordability.

The report outlines four high level recommendations:

- Increase supply and diversity of affordable housing.
Density increases in appropriate locations create important opportunities to enhance housing affordability and diversity. The City should accelerate planning programs that increase density in large developments and transit oriented locations, and those that increase housing diversity in residential neighbourhoods, including the creative use of underutilized city land, such as streets. Improving housing affordability and diversity should be a primary focus of these planning initiatives.
- Enhance the City's and the community's capacity to deliver affordable rental housing and social housing.
Create a new City-owned entity to deliver affordable rental and social housing by using City lands. Mobilize the community to support affordable housing through community land trusts and alternative financing models.
- Protect existing social and affordable rental and explore opportunities to renew and expand the stock.
Protect existing non-profit, social and co-operative housing that may be under threat and continue to protect the affordable market rental stock using the community planning process to focus on strategies to repair, renew and expand the stock neighbourhood by neighbourhood.
- Streamline and create more certainty and clarity in the regulatory process, and improve public engagement.
Enhance certainty, efficiency and transparency of approval processes and clarify regulations in order to reduce development costs and enhance affordability.

To implement the Task Force recommendations, Council approved the following actions:

- Action 1: Implement an Interim Rezoning Policy that increases affordable housing choices in Vancouver's neighbourhoods
- Action 2: Implement the Thin Street concept
- Action 3: Develop an operational and organizational model for a City-owned Housing Authority
- Action 4: Use current community planning programs to increase the supply of affordable housing
- Action 5: Revise and clarify the City's inclusionary housing policies (20% Policy) to enhance flexibility
- Action 6: Identify additional City-owned land that may be underused and begin planning works to bring these sites forward for affordable housing development
- Action 7: Increase housing supply and options in strategic locations throughout the City
- Action 8: Increase the supply of additional secondary rental units
 - Expand laneway housing to additional single family zones;
 - Explore feasibility of laneway housing in duplex zones;
 - Expand the zoning districts and housing forms for secondary suites (e.g. row houses); and
 - Consult with industry on revisions to the Vancouver Building By-law to require "suite readiness".
- Action 9: Create opportunities for the development of more co-housing projects
- Action 10: Enhance the City's family housing requirements
- Action 11: Support the development of Community Land Trusts and new financing mechanisms
- Action 12: Evaluate the impacts of expiring federal operating agreements and City-lease expiry and develop options



- Action 13: Evaluate the City's rental protection regulations (Rate of Change)
- Action 14: Develop and implement rezoning and permit process improvements
- Action 15: Take steps to provide applicants more certainty in the City's approach to financing the infrastructure and amenities needed to accommodate growth

- Cambie Corridor Plan (2011)

The affordable housing strategy for the Cambie Corridor seeks to ensure that low and moderate income families, key workers, seniors and those with impaired health or mobility can continue to find good housing options in conveniently located, complete communities that are well-served by transit. It includes policies to encourage the expansion and protection of rental housing and provide a mix of market and non-market housing types and tenures throughout the Corridor.

- EcoDensity Charter (2008)

The EcoDensity Charter commits to using density, design and land use strategically to support and facilitate greater housing affordability and diversity through:

- An increased and consistent supply to help moderate housing prices
- The significant achievement of more affordable housing choices
- The facilitation of purpose-built rental housing construction
- The facilitation of housing choices outside of the regular market system
- The reduction of living costs related to energy and transportation
- Strategic retention and enhancement of existing purpose-built rental options.

- CityPlan (1995)

The CityPlan direction is to increase neighbourhood housing variety throughout the City, especially in neighbourhood centres, and give people the opportunity to stay in their neighbourhood as their housing needs change.

To achieve this, Vancouver will:

- Continue to provide new housing near downtown jobs and ensure the housing is suitable for different ages and incomes;
- Add more housing to single-family neighbourhoods – in new forms – to provide housing for neighbourhood residents at different stages in their lives, and locate this new housing in neighbourhood centres;
- Involve both the City and neighbourhoods in planning the types, appearance, and location of new housing best suited to each neighbourhood;
- Develop new forms of housing that appeal to people looking for features traditionally only available in single-family housing.

- Community Plans

Community Plans provide guidance and direction on a variety of topics, including: land use, urban design, housing, transportation, parks and public spaces, social planning, cultural infrastructure, heritage features and community facilities. Community

As part of the Community Plans Terms of Reference, the Community Plans will align with and respect existing city-wide and regional policies. Emerging policy and directions will also be considered and advanced, where possible, at the neighbourhood level.

Where city-wide targets exist, the community plans will work to advance the implementation of these targets at the neighbourhood level.

Community Plan directions could, for example:

- Provide shelter and supportive housing for the neighbourhood's homeless population.
- Identify means to support the provision of quality social housing stock.
- Explore housing options to maintain and increase rental stock without displacing tenants.
- Expand housing supply and diversity through alternative housing forms in appropriate locations.
- Address affordability through preservation and enhancement of the aging rental housing stock to meet the diversity of needs in the community.

• Neighbourhood Centres (Ongoing)

The nine Community Visions completed for primarily single-family neighbourhoods all contain directions for improvements to their key shopping areas and directions for new housing types in various locations. Together, these directions address the provision for "neighbourhood centres" first described in CityPlan. Neighbourhood Centres are where shopping, services and new housing come together.

• Downtown Eastside Housing Plan (2005)

The Housing Plan outlines actions to improve the area's long-term viability. New market housing will be encouraged in the area to stimulate the local economy and diversify the social spectrum. Replacing the stock of marginal housing (mainly the aging Single Room Accommodations) with secure, better quality housing will be an important step in the revitalization and stabilization of the area.

Specific actions include:

- Replace SRAs with low-income social housing on a 1-for-1 basis and facilitate the integration of market housing.
- Facilitate the provision of moderate-cost rental and owner-occupied accommodation in market development.

• Zoning and Development By-law

In addition to typical housing forms currently allowed in the City's residential districts, e.g. one-family, two-family and multi-family dwellings, zoning changes have been implemented or are currently underway to increase the supply and diversity of the housing stock. For example:

- A secondary suite is currently allowed in all one-family dwellings, and will be allowed in other housing types.
- A laneway house is currently allowed in most single family areas, and will be expanded to other residential areas.
- Infill housing is allowed in most two-family and multi-family districts.
- Other forms of housing, including small house, duplex, rowhouse, or stacked townhouse, are allowed in various residential districts and proposed in new residential districts, which will allow a secondary suite with these housing types.

• Affordable Housing Strategies

A number of strategies have been implemented to protect existing affordable housing and encourage affordable housing development, including:

Supportive Housing Sites

The City is developing 14 new supportive housing projects across the City. This project is part of a partnership with the Province of BC.



Under the terms of the partnership, the City is providing land, and the Province is funding construction. Once the buildings are complete, they will be leased at nominal rents to non-profit operators for 60 years.

Rental 100: Secured Market Rental Housing Policy

The purpose of the Rental 100 policy is to encourage the development of projects where 100% of the residential units are rental. All rental units created will be secured for 60 years, or for the life of the building, whichever is greater. Development incentives include:

- DCL waiver
- Parking requirement reductions
- Relaxation of unit size to 320 sq. ft.
- Additional density beyond what is available under existing zoning
- Concurrent processing for projects requiring a rezoning

Interim Rezoning Policy for Increasing Affordable Housing Choices

The goal of the Interim Rezoning Policy is to encourage housing developments that include a strong level of affordability, and:

- Offer 100 percent rental units, or sold at 20 percent below market value.
- Are up to six storeys high on an arterial street (served by transit), or 3.5 storeys high within 100 metres of an arterial street.

A maximum of 20 rezoning applications will be considered throughout the City prior to reevaluation by Council. Only two projects are permitted within 10 blocks of each other on any arterial street.

Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan

The intent of the Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan is to maintain rental housing by requiring one-for-one replacement of demolished rental units in redevelopment projects involving six or more dwelling units.

Single Room Accommodation (SRA) By-law

The By-law is a tool to regulate the rate of change in the supply of low income housing in the downtown core. An owner wanting to convert designated room(s) to another occupancy or use, or to otherwise convert or demolish a designated room, must apply for and obtain a conversion or demolition permit. Council will decide whether or not to grant the permit, and may attach conditions to the permit, including a demolition/conversion fee.

Affordable Housing in New Neighbourhoods Policy

Since 1988, the City has required that 20 percent of the units in new neighbourhoods should be available for the development of affordable housing. The City works closely with the developers in these areas to produce a housing mix, and with senior governments and other partners to fund and construct social housing projects.

This policy is currently under review to provide a more flexible approach to the delivery of affordable housing in large developments.



4.1.8 Prepare and implement Housing Action Plans which:

- a) assess local housing market conditions, by tenure, including assessing housing supply, demand and affordability;
- b) identify housing priorities, based on the assessment of local housing market conditions, and consideration of changing household demographics, characteristics and needs;
- c) identify implementation measures within the jurisdiction and financial capabilities of municipalities, including actions set out in Action 4.1.7;
- d) encourage the supply of new rental housing and where appropriate mitigate or limit the loss of existing rental housing stock;
- e) identify opportunities to participate in programs with other levels of government to secure additional affordable housing units to meet housing needs across the continuum;
- f) cooperate with and facilitate the activities of the Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation under Action 4.1.5.

The Housing and Homelessness Strategy and the Mayors Task Force on Affordable Housing have implementation plans that address these actions (See Section 4.1.7).



STRATEGY 4.2

Develop healthy and complete communities with access to a range of services and amenities

Role of Municipalities:

4.2.4 Include policies within municipal plans or strategies, that may be referenced in the Regional Context Statements, which:

- a) support compact, mixed use, transit, cycling and walking oriented communities;
- b) locate community, arts, cultural, recreational, institutional, medical/health, social service, education facilities and affordable housing development in Urban Centres or areas with good access to transit;
- c) provide public spaces and other place-making amenities for increased social interaction and community engagement;
- d) support active living through the provision of recreation facilities, parks, trails, and safe and inviting pedestrian and cycling environments;
- e) support food production and distribution throughout the region, including in urban areas, roof top gardens, green roofs and community gardens on private and municipally-owned lands and healthy food retailers, such as grocery stores and farmers' markets near housing and transit services;
- f) assess overall health implications of proposed new communities, infrastructure and transportation services, including air quality and noise, with input from public health authorities;
- g) support universally accessible community design;
- h) where appropriate, identify small scale Local Centres in General Urban areas that provide a mix of housing types, local-serving commercial activities and good access to transit. Local Centres are not intended to compete with or compromise the role of Urban Centres and should preferably be located within Frequent Transit Development Areas;
- i) recognize the Special Employment Areas as shown on the Local Centres, Hospitals and Post-Secondary Institutions map (Map 11). Special Employment Areas are located outside of Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas, and are region-serving, special purpose facilities that have a high level of related transportation activity due to employee, student, or passenger trips.

- Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (2011)

Green Transportation

The City of Vancouver is working towards making walking, cycling, and public transit preferred transportation options.

Key Strategies include:

- Plan for complete communities to encourage increased walking and cycling and to support improved transit service by planning for mixed-use areas with pedestrian oriented public spaces, planning for new development that supports existing and new transit infrastructure, and encouraging new housing choices in existing walkable neighbourhoods.
- Make active transportation choices such as walking and cycling feel safe, convenient, comfortable and fun for all ages and abilities.

Access to Nature

The City of Vancouver's goal is for residents to enjoy incomparable access to green spaces, including the world's most spectacular urban forest.

A target for meeting this goal includes:

- All Vancouver residents live within five-minute walk of a park, greenway, or other green spaces by 2020.

Clean Air

The City of Vancouver has a target to always meet or beat the most stringent air quality guidelines from Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and the World Health Organization.

Local Food

The City of Vancouver wants to become a global leader in urban food systems with a target to increase city-wide and neighbourhood food assets by a minimum of 50% over 2010 levels.

- Vancouver's Healthy City Strategy 2012 – 2020 (Ongoing)

The health of people, the health of places, and the health of the planet are all connected. The City of Vancouver has long recognized that true sustainability requires integrated decision-making that takes into account the social, economic, and ecological needs of our residents, our neighbourhoods, and our environment.

This long-term strategy for healthier people, healthier places, and a healthier planet will focus our efforts in three key strategic areas:

- Towards Healthy People: taking care of the basics
- Towards Healthy Communities: promoting inclusion, belonging and connectedness
- Towards Healthy Environments: ensuring liveability now and into the future

The City of Vancouver is working with our key partner Vancouver Coastal Health to develop a formal commitment to enhance our collaborative efforts in seven priority areas:

1. Healthy housing options
2. Food security and sustainable food systems
3. Early care and learning
4. Active living and getting outside
5. Healthy services
6. Social connectedness
7. Healthy built environment



- Mayor's Task Force on Affordable Housing: Final Report (2012)

The final report from the Task Force on Housing Affordability enables the delivery of greater housing diversity and affordability.

The report outlines high level recommendations which include:

- Increase supply and diversity of affordable housing.

Density increases in appropriate locations create important opportunities to enhance housing affordability and diversity. The City should accelerate planning programs that increase density in large developments and transit oriented locations, and those that increase housing diversity in residential neighbourhoods, including the creative use of underutilized city land, such as streets.

- Cambie Corridor Plan (2011)

The Cambie Corridor Plan focuses on opportunities to integrate development with transit and to build and enhance the existing neighbourhoods along the Corridor while supporting the City's goals of environmental sustainability, liveability, and affordability.

Planning Principles include:

Principal 2 - Provide a complete community

- Provide land use mix throughout the Corridor that offers a variety of opportunities to work, live, shop, play and learn.
- Facilitate walking, biking, and strong transit ridership.
- Prioritize retail and other commercial uses at grade within identified neighbourhood centres, existing commercial areas, or areas adjacent to a station.
- Provide amenities and services, including entertainment, cultural facilities and services.
- Support rich social interactions and the inclusion of all residents in community life.

- Develop spaces in a way that provides adaptability/flexibility among different uses as the Corridor evolves.

- Central Area Plan (1991)

The Central Area Plan includes land use policies for the Metro Core.

Key directions include:

- Enhance the Central Area as a place where pedestrians move safely, easily, and comfortably on all streets where walking, supplemented by transit and bicycles, is the primary means of moving around.
- Create a Central Area that has a mix of activities, with quieter neighbourhoods where people live close to more active areas where people shop and play as well as work; and where the public streets are the primary scene of public life.
- Create a lively and liveable downtown; and improve the balance between employment growth and transportation capacity by putting more residents close to jobs, and by concentrating jobs in areas well served by transit.

- CityPlan (1995)

CityPlans land use policies for complete communities include:

- Create neighbourhoods that provide residents with a variety of housing, jobs, and services.
- Create neighbourhood centres that become the civic, public heart of each neighbourhood.
- Plan the centres with local people to meet the current and emerging needs of residents and local businesses.
- Ensure that the number and quality of the City's public places matches the needs of a growing and increasing diverse population.

- [EcoDensity Charter \(2008\)](#)

EcoDensity recognizes that density -- high quality, green in design, strategically located, and properly implemented -- provides cities with a powerful opportunity to improve environmental sustainability, along with affordability and livability.

Related commitments in the Charter include:

- Protect and ensure proper space for diverse jobs, shopping and economic activity close to home for a balanced, resilient city with minimal commuting as the City grows, including protection of key commercial and industrial districts for economic activity rather than housing.
- Achieve greater densities smartly and strategically, in land-use patterns, locations and designs where carbon footprint improvements and environmental gains are highest (e.g., around fixed transit; walkable shopping, employment and amenity areas; district energy sources, etc.) and where affordability and livability are also fostered.

- [Park Board Strategic Plan \(2005 – 2010\)](#)

The Park Boards mission is to provide, preserve and advocate for parks and recreation to benefit all people, communities and the environment.

The Strategy indicates more parkland and recreation facilities will be needed, while preserving parks with many outdoor play facilities and buildings including community centres, field houses, pools, rinks, restaurants, concession stands and service buildings.

Related actions include:

- Planning for long-term renewal of park and recreation facilities.
- Developing a park renewal strategy for neighbourhood and city-wide parks which balances the preservation of environmental assets with enhanced public recreation opportunities.

- Keeping Vancouver's parks and recreation facilities operating efficiently by ongoing investment of financial capital.

- [Culture Plan for Vancouver 2008-2018](#)

The vibrancy of Vancouver's arts and culture scene is a priceless benefit to its citizens and visitors. The Culture Plan affirms the City's commitment to a diverse and healthy creative sector. Vancouver's Culture Plan vision is to develop, enliven, enhance, and promote arts, culture, and cultural diversity in our City in ways that benefit our citizens, creative community, businesses, and visitors.

- [Vancouver Food Strategy \(2013\)](#)

The Vancouver Food Strategy is a plan to create a just and sustainable food system for the City. It builds on years of food systems initiatives and grassroots community development, considering all aspects of the food system, from seed to table to compost heap and back again.

The strategy has five goals that will help shape the future of Vancouver's food systems:

- Support food-friendly neighbourhoods
- Empower residents to take action
- Improve access to healthy, affordable, culturally diverse food for all residents
- Make food a centrepiece of Vancouver's green economy
- Advocate for a just and sustainable food system

- [Vancouver Food Charter \(2007\)](#)

The Vancouver Food Charter is a vision for a food system that benefits our community and the environment. It sets out the City's commitment to developing a coordinated municipal food policy, and encourages engagement and participation in activities related to food security.



The goal of Vancouver's Food Charter is to effect change, by encouraging:

- Consumers to purchase more locally produced food.
- Regional farmers to direct more of their production to local markets.
- Restaurateurs to feature more local, sustainable food on menus.
- Food retailers to shift more of their inventory to local, sustainably produced food.
- Increased levels of edible gardening in the City.
- Enhanced backyard and neighbourhood composting.

• Farmers' Market Policy (2010)

The Farmers' Market Policy was put forward to make it easier to set up markets throughout the City.

Changes to Policy included:

- Reducing permit fees for farmers' markets
- Expanding the zoning to allow for markets in all zones across the City
- Increasing the permitted maximum market size
- Establishing a streamlined process for setting up a market

• Urban Agriculture Guidelines for the Private Realm (2009)

Urban agriculture refers to growing food within a town or city - and includes community gardens, farmers markets, hobby beekeeping, shared garden plots, and edible landscapes.

The guidelines provide guidance with:

- Shared garden plots
- Location and access
- Co-locating with other amenities
- Number and size of garden plots
- Design of garden plots
- Support facilities
- Edible landscaping
- Stewardship

• Park Board Community Garden Policy (2005)

The Board recognizes community gardening as a valuable recreation activity that can contribute to community development, environmental awareness, positive social interaction, and community education.

The policy includes the following:

Support the development of the City's community gardens by :

- Providing access to information on the development and operation of community gardens
- Helping interested groups find suitable land for the development of community gardens (including on City-owned land, land controlled by other government agencies, and privately owned land)
- Helping develop user agreements with the owners of sites chosen for new gardens
- Providing initial and on-going support to community gardens

• Transportation 2040 (2012)

The City works together with TransLink and Metro Vancouver municipalities to build and maintain an integrated transportation system that moves people and goods through our city and region.

The plan's directions for long-term policies and specific actions include:

- Land Use - Use land use to support shorter trips and sustainable transportation choices.
- Walking - Make walking safe, convenient, and delightful. Ensure streets, sidewalks, and laneways support a vibrant public life that encourages a walking culture, healthy lifestyles, and social connectedness.
- Cycling - Make cycling feel safe, convenient, comfortable, and fun for people of all ages and abilities.
- Transit - Support transit improvements to increase capacity and ensure service that is fast, frequent, reliable, fully accessible, and comfortable.

- Bicycle Plan (1999)

The Bicycle Plan identifies action items to improve cycling in Vancouver, including a network of commuter and recreational bicycle routes throughout Vancouver. The plan took into account extensive consultation with cyclists and residents, and analyzed what we needed to integrate cyclists into the transportation network.

- Vancouver Greenways Plan (1995)

The Vancouver Greenways Plan presents an overview of the proposed Vancouver Greenways system, descriptions of the two major components (City Greenways and Neighbourhood Greenways) and an implementation strategy.

Vancouver Greenways can be waterfront promenades, urban walks, environmental demonstration trails, heritage walks and nature trails. Greenways expand opportunities for urban recreation, provide alternate ways to move through the City and enhance the experience of nature, community and city life.

Goals of a City Greenway are:

- Make walking more interesting
- Make cycling safer and more convenient
- Reduce the impact of the car

- Enhanced Accessibility Guidelines

These guidelines are used to assist owners and applicants in designing and incorporating enhanced accessibility for persons with disabilities into new or existing one-family dwellings, one-family dwellings with a secondary suite or two-family dwellings.

Enhanced accessibility encompasses the provision of ramps, lifts or other means of access to enable persons who have a loss, or reduction of functional ability and activity, to gain access to and from a dwelling.

- Accessible Street Design Guidelines

The City of Vancouver is committed to delivering the highest level of accessible and barrier-free pedestrian environment possible.

In designing for inclusion, accessibility and barrier-free pedestrian environments the guiding principles are:

1. **Equitable Use**
The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
2. **Flexibility in Use**
The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
3. **Simple and Intuitive Use**
Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.
4. **Perceptible Information**
The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
5. **Tolerance for Error**
The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
6. **Low Physical Effort**
The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.
7. **Size and Space for Approach and Use**
Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.

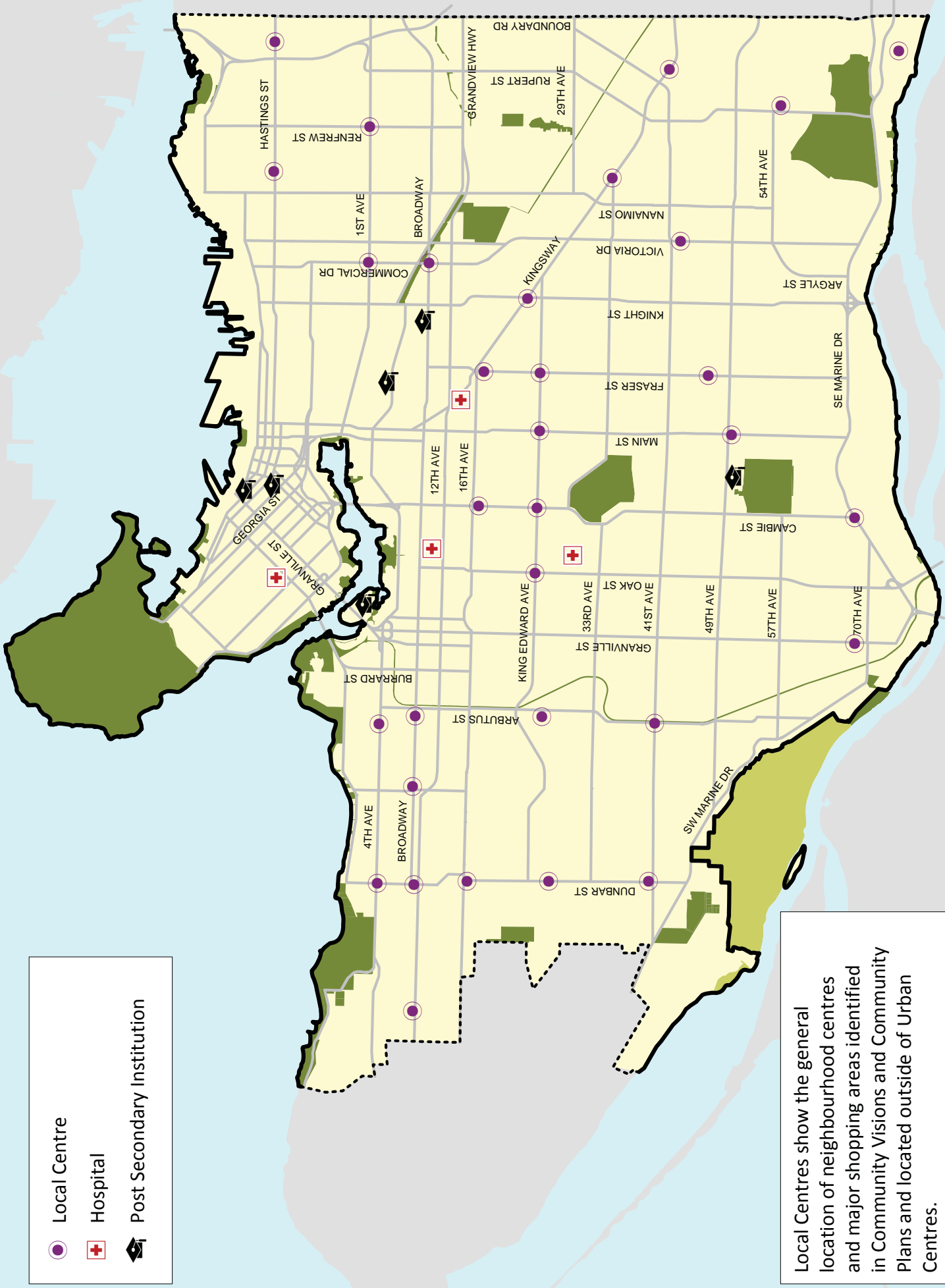
- Local Centres




Local Centres show the general location of neighbourhood centres and major shopping areas identified in Community Visions and Community Plans and located outside Urban Centres.

Local Centres are identified on Map 3 (page 58).



Map 3. Local Centres, Hospitals and Post-Secondary Institutions



-  Local Centre
-  Hospital
-  Post Secondary Institution

Local Centres show the general location of neighbourhood centres and major shopping areas identified in Community Visions and Community Plans and located outside of Urban Centres.

STRATEGY 5.1

Coordinate land use and transportation to encourage transit, multiple-occupancy vehicles, cycling and walking

Role of Municipalities:

5.1.6 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

- a) identify land use and transportation policies and actions, and describe how they are coordinated, to encourage a greater share of trips made by transit, multiple-occupancy vehicles, cycling and walking, and to support TransLink's Frequent Transit Network;

The City of Vancouver has a number of integrated plans and policies related to land use and transportation. These plans include:

- Transportation 2040 (2012)
- Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (2011)
- Cambie Corridor Plan (2011)
- EcoDensity Charter (2008)
- Metro Core Jobs and Economy Plan (2007)
- Bicycle Plan (1999)
- CityPlan (1995)
- Vancouver Greenways Plan (1995)
- Central Area Plan (1991)
- Community Plans

TransLink's Frequent Transit Network is shown on Map 4 (page 60).



Map 4. Frequent Transit Network

- B-Line Express Bus Stop
- Rail Rapid Transit Station
- Frequent Transit Bus Route
- B-Line Express Bus Route
- Rail Rapid Transit Line
- West Coast Express



• Transportation 2040 (2012)

Transportation 2040 is a plan that supports an inclusive, healthy, prosperous and livable future for Vancouver. The plan will provide a vision for the next 30 years, and guide transportation decisions for how people and goods will move in and around Vancouver for the next 15 years. It is the roadmap for a future where walking, cycling, and transit are attractive options for getting around.

This plan includes high-level policies and specific actions grouped into the transportation-related categories listed below:

- Land Use
Use land use to support shorter trips and sustainable transportation choices.
- Walking
Make walking safe, convenient, comfortable and delightful. Ensure streets and sidewalks support a vibrant public life and encourage a walking culture, healthy lifestyles, and social connectedness.
- Cycling
Make cycling safe, convenient, comfortable, and fun for people of all ages and abilities.
- Transit
Support transit improvements to increase capacity and ensure service that is fast, frequent, reliable, fully accessible, and comfortable.
- Motor Vehicles
Manage the road network efficiently to improve safety and support a gradual reduction in car dependence. Make it easier to drive less. Accelerate the shift to low-carbon vehicles.
- Goods, Services, and Emergency Response
Support a thriving economy and Vancouver's role as a major port and Asia-Pacific gateway while managing related environmental and neighbourhood impacts. Maintain effective emergency response times for police, fire, and ambulance.

- Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement
Encourage sustainable transportation choices and educate all road users to promote safe and respectful behaviour. Support legislation and enforcement practices that target dangerous conduct.

The City's transportation decisions will generally reflect a "hierarchy of modes" for moving people, as prioritized below.

1. Walking
2. Cycling
3. Transit
4. Taxi/Commercial Transit/Shared Vehicles
5. Private Automobiles

The hierarchy is intended to help ensure that the needs and safety of each group of road users are sequentially considered when decisions are made, that each group is given proper consideration, and that the changes will not make existing conditions worse for more vulnerable road users, such as people on foot, bicycle, and motorcycle.

This is a general approach and does not mean that users at the top of the list will always receive the most beneficial treatment on every street. Where modes lower in the hierarchy are prioritized, the reasons for this approach will be outlined and improvements to parallel alternative routes considered.



- Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (2011)

Green Transportation

The City of Vancouver is working towards making walking, cycling, and public transit preferred transportation options with a target that aims at making the majority (over 50%) of trips by foot, bicycle, and public transit.

The Highest Priority Actions for Green Transportation include:

- Completing a new Active Transportation Master Plan and updating the Transportation Plan with direction from the strategies and actions in the Greenest City Action Plan.
- Improving pedestrian safety by developing and implementing a pedestrian safety study and action plan.
- Supporting transportation and active transportation planning with land use policies that enable the City to meet mobility and transportation targets.
- Working with TransLink and the Province to advocate for high-capacity, fast, frequent and reliable rapid transit for the Broadway Corridor from Commercial Drive to the University of British Columbia.
- Pursuing the development and installation of a bike-share program in Vancouver's downtown and other high-potential cycling areas.

Key Strategies include:

- Make active transportation choices such as walking and cycling feel safe, convenient, comfortable and fun for all ages and abilities by: safer and more convenient bike routes, better bike parking and end-of-trip facilities, more dedicated pedestrian-priority spaces, streets and sidewalks that encourage active transportation, and improved safety through design, education and enforcement.

- Plan for complete communities to encourage increased walking and cycling and to support improved transit service by: planning for mixed-use areas with pedestrian oriented public spaces, planning for new development that supports existing and new transit infrastructure, and encouraging new housing choices in existing walkable neighbourhoods.
- Support transit improvements to increase capacity and ensure that service is fast, frequent, reliable, fully accessible and comfortable by: expanding transit services, improving transit experience, protecting future transit corridors and expanding measures to improve the reliability of transit services.
- Advance policies that encourage residents to reduce car ownership and use by: expanding support for car sharing; better management of on-street parking; unbundling the cost of parking from housing; and working with partners to encourage work-from-home and other programs that reduce the need for vehicle trips.
- Accelerate the shift to low- and zero-carbon-emission vehicles by: supporting electric vehicles with convenient charging stations and other infrastructure, and integrating electric vehicle use into City operations.

- Cambie Corridor Plan (2011)

The Cambie Corridor Plan focuses on opportunities to integrate development with transit and to build and enhance the existing neighbourhoods along the Corridor while supporting the City's goals of environmental sustainability, liveability, and affordability.

The following principles, generated with the community, provide overall direction for the future of the Cambie Corridor. They are intended to inform comprehensive planning along the Corridor, as well as shape and inform individual land use change and future detailed development.

Principles

1. Provide land use that optimizes the investment in transit
2. Provide a complete community
3. Create a walkable and cycleable Corridor of neighbourhoods seamlessly linked to public transit
4. Focus intensity and community activity at stations and other areas with strategic opportunities for sustainability, renewable energy and public amenity
5. Provide a range of housing choices and affordability
6. Balance city-wide and regional goals with the community and its context
7. Ensure job space and diversity

Directions

New developments should significantly assist in optimizing a shift in travel choice to walking, biking and taking transit.

Supportive land uses are those that:

- include high employee and residential densities, recognizing that the highest densities will be focused at stations and other areas with strategic opportunities for sustainability (i.e. large sites and significant district energy opportunities) and decrease with distance from these areas
- ensure adequate and appropriate job space
- encourage travel time outside of peak periods
- attract reverse flow travel
- encourage travel by walking and cycling

• EcoDensity Charter (2008)

The EcoDensity Charter commits the City to making environmental sustainability a primary goal in all city planning decisions while doing so in ways that also support housing affordability and livability.

Charter commitments include:

- Density and manage change in ways that enhance and reinforce a city of walkable, complete neighbourhoods; improve biking and transit infrastructure and movement and reduce and de-emphasize automobile use and ownership.

• Metro Core Jobs and Economy Plan (2007)

The Metro Core Jobs and Economy Land Use Plan is a major review of land use needs in the Metro Core over the next 25 years. The goal is to ensure that there is enough land supply – and transportation capacity – for future job growth.

Key policy directions include:

- Affirm the Metro Core's role as the major employment and cultural centre of the region and ensure adequate job space for future job growth, while meeting other city objectives such as affordable housing, sustainable transportation, cultural amenity and heritage revitalization.
- Support sustainable transportation objectives by focussing job growth in areas well-served by public transit, and by maintaining a balance between jobs and housing.
- Explore parking strategies and standards that support sustainable transportation modes; visitor and business/customer needs; and re-use of existing industrial buildings.



- Bicycle Plan (1999)

The Bicycle Plan identified action items to improve cycling in Vancouver, including a network of commuter and recreational bicycle routes throughout the City. The plan took into account extensive consultation with cyclists and residents, and analyzed what we needed to integrate cyclists into the transportation network.

The Cycling Routes are shown on Map 5 (page 65).

- CityPlan (1995)

CityPlan is a city-wide plan that includes directions on a range of topics from transportation to arts, from housing to community services.

The CityPlan vision for transportation is focussed around transit, walking, and biking as a priority.

Directions indicate that:

- Vancouverites want to put transit, walking, and biking ahead of cars to slow traffic growth in their neighbourhoods and improve the environment.
- A greater range of transportation choices will be available.
- Neighbourhood centres will bring more people closer to shops, services, and jobs, reducing their need to travel long distances.
- Although the car will continue to play an important transportation role, car use will be less convenient and more costly than it is today.

- Vancouver Greenways Plan (1995)

The Vancouver Greenways Plan presents an overview of the proposed Vancouver Greenways system, descriptions of its two major components (City Greenways and Neighbourhood Greenways) and an implementation strategy. Vancouver Greenways can be waterfront promenades, urban walks, environmental demon

station trails, heritage walks and nature trails. Greenways expand opportunities for urban-recreation, provide alternate ways to move through the City and enhance the experience of nature, community and city life.

Goals of a City Greenway are:

- Make walking more interesting
- Make cycling safer and more convenient
- Reduce the impact of the car

- Central Area Plan (1991)

The Central Area Plan is a policy framework specifically for the entire downtown peninsula, its waterfronts, the False Creek basin, and Central Broadway. It defines overall goals that embody a vision for the future growth and development of the central area while providing in-depth policies for key land use issues.

Goals in the Plan include creating a Walkable Central Area by enhancing the central area as a place where pedestrians move safely, easily and comfortably on all streets and where walking, supplemented by transit and bicycles, is the primary means of moving around.

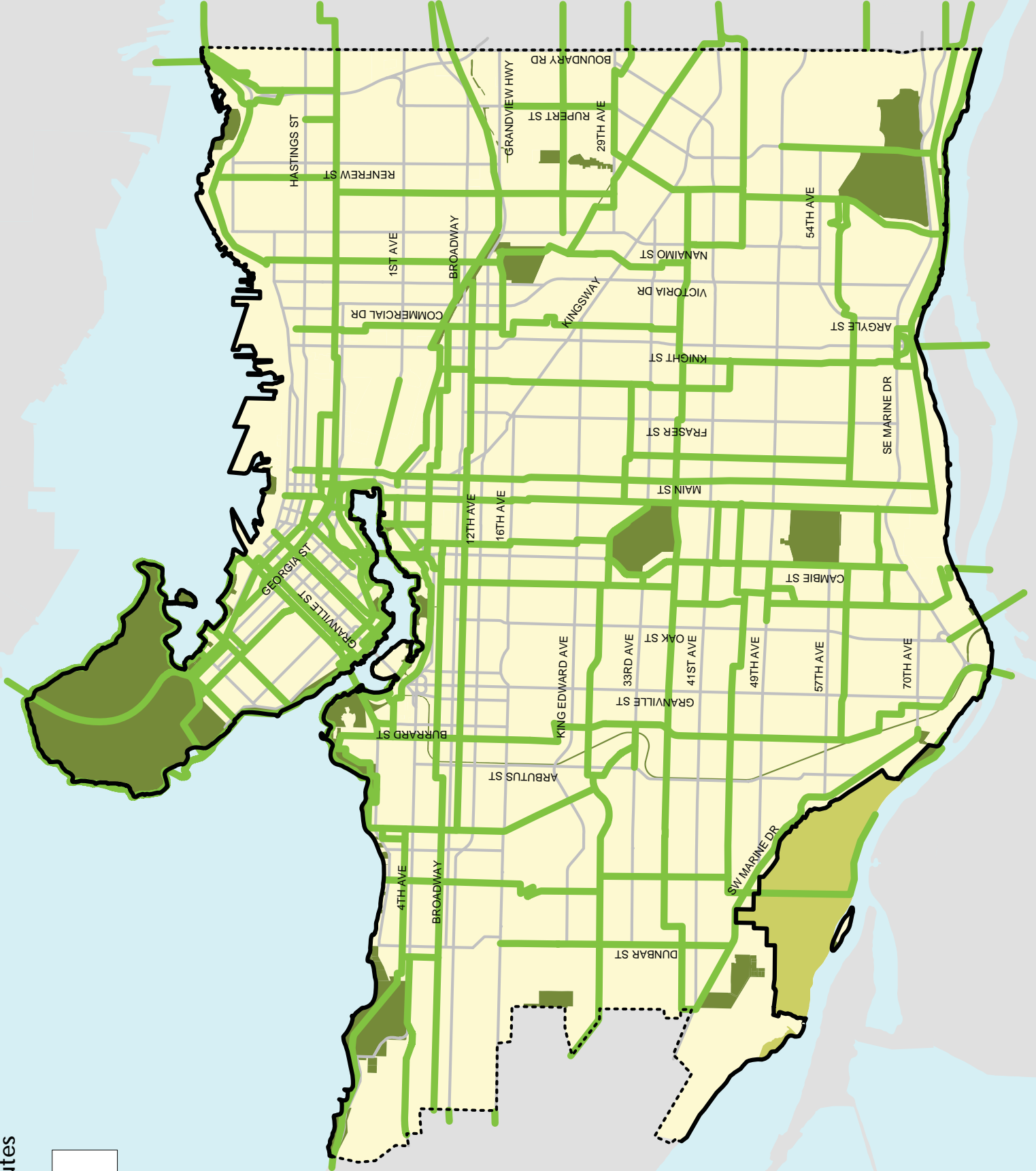
In addition, the plan identified further work to improve mode split; encourage more commuters to take transit; improve "in town" transit circulation; and improve pedestrian and bicycle networks.

- Community Plans (Ongoing)

Community plans are policy documents that provide guidance and direction on a variety of topics, including: land use, urban design, housing, transportation, parks and public spaces, social planning, cultural infrastructure, heritage features and community facilities.

Council policies require that community plans respond to city-wide plans and policies, including those relating to land use and transportation.

Map 5. Cycling Routes



- b) identify policies and actions that support the development and implementation of municipal and regional transportation system and demand management strategies, such as parking pricing and supply measures, transit priority measures, ridesharing, and car-sharing programs;

• Transportation 2040 (2012)

High-level policies and specific actions that support the development and implementation of municipal and regional transportation systems and demand management strategies include:

Transit Network

- Advance new and improved rapid transit
- Advance new and improved local transit
- Improve transit reliability and speed using transit priority measures
- Support increased water-based transit
- Support improved inter-regional transit

Transit Financing

- Support stable and equitable long-term transit funding sources
- Support effective fares that encourage transit use

Parking

- Use off-street parking requirements to support reduced auto ownership and use
- Support strategies that reduce the need for parking (e.g. eliminate minimum parking requirements downtown and near rapid transit stations)
- Separate parking and housing costs to increase housing affordability
- Approach parking as a shared district resource
- Design parking to be flexible and adaptable
- Make it easier for drivers to find available parking spaces
- Manage parking in neighbourhoods
- Provide accessible parking for persons with disabilities
- Support cycling, low-carbon vehicles, and car sharing
- Support efficient loading and servicing

Car Sharing

- Support increased car sharing
- Expand requirements and incentives for car sharing in new developments.
- Continue to make priority on-street locations available for car sharing.
- Adopt parking design guidelines for larger developments that enable non-residents to access on-site car-sharing vehicles.
- Support legislative and technological advances that facilitate peer-to-peer car sharing.

Other Demand Management Tools

- Support transportation demand programs that are employer-, institutional-, and district-based
- Support regional road or congestion pricing with revenue directed towards sustainable transportation improvements
- Support insurance options that reward drivers for driving less



c) identify policies and actions to manage and enhance municipal infrastructure to support transit, multiple-occupancy vehicles, cycling and walking.

• Transportation 2040 (2012)

High-level policies and specific actions to manage and enhance municipal infrastructure to support transit, multiple-occupancy vehicles, cycling and walking include:

Transit Network

- Advance new and improved rapid transit
- Advance new and improved local transit
- Improve transit reliability and speed using transit priority measures
- Support increased water-based transit
- Support improved inter-regional transit

Transit-supportive Public Realm

- Support a transit system that is easy to navigate
- Provide easy connections and comfortable waiting areas throughout the network

Transit Accessibility

- Support a universally accessible transit system with a goal of equal transit outcomes for people of all incomes, ages, and abilities

Transit Neighbourhood Impacts

- Reduce transit-related environmental and noise emissions
- Maintain transit streets to a high standard

Taxis

- Pilot and evaluate a program that allows taxis to travel in bus lanes.
- Continue to facilitate taxi loading and unloading at high-demand locations.
- Support incorporating taxis into Trans-Link's Compass Card system.

Car Sharing

- Support increased car sharing
- Expand requirements and incentives for car sharing in new developments.
- Continue to make priority on-street locations available for car sharing.
- Adopt parking design guidelines for larger developments that enable non-residents to access on-site car-sharing vehicles.
- Support legislative and technological advances that facilitate peer-to-peer car sharing.

Cycling Network

- Build cycling routes that feel comfortable for people of all ages and abilities
- Upgrade and expand the cycling network to efficiently connect people to destinations
- Maintain bikeways in a state of good repair
- Make the cycling network easy to navigate

The cycling network is depicted on Map 5 (page 65).

Cycling End-of-Trip Facilities

- Provide abundant and convenient bicycle parking and end-of-trip facilities

Multi-Modal Integration

- Make it easy to combine cycling with other forms of transportation
- Provide a public bicycle system



Pedestrian Network

- Make streets safer for walking
- Provide generous, unobstructed sidewalks on all streets
- Make streets accessible for all people
- Make streets and public spaces rain-friendly
- Address gaps in the pedestrian network
- Provide a blueprint for great pedestrian realm design
- Make the City easy to navigate on foot

Public Spaces

- Enable and encourage creative uses of the street
- Create public plazas and gathering spaces throughout the City



STRATEGY 5.2

Coordinate land use and transportation to support the safe and efficient movement of vehicles for passengers, goods and services

Role of Municipalities

5.2.3 Adopt Regional Context Statements which:

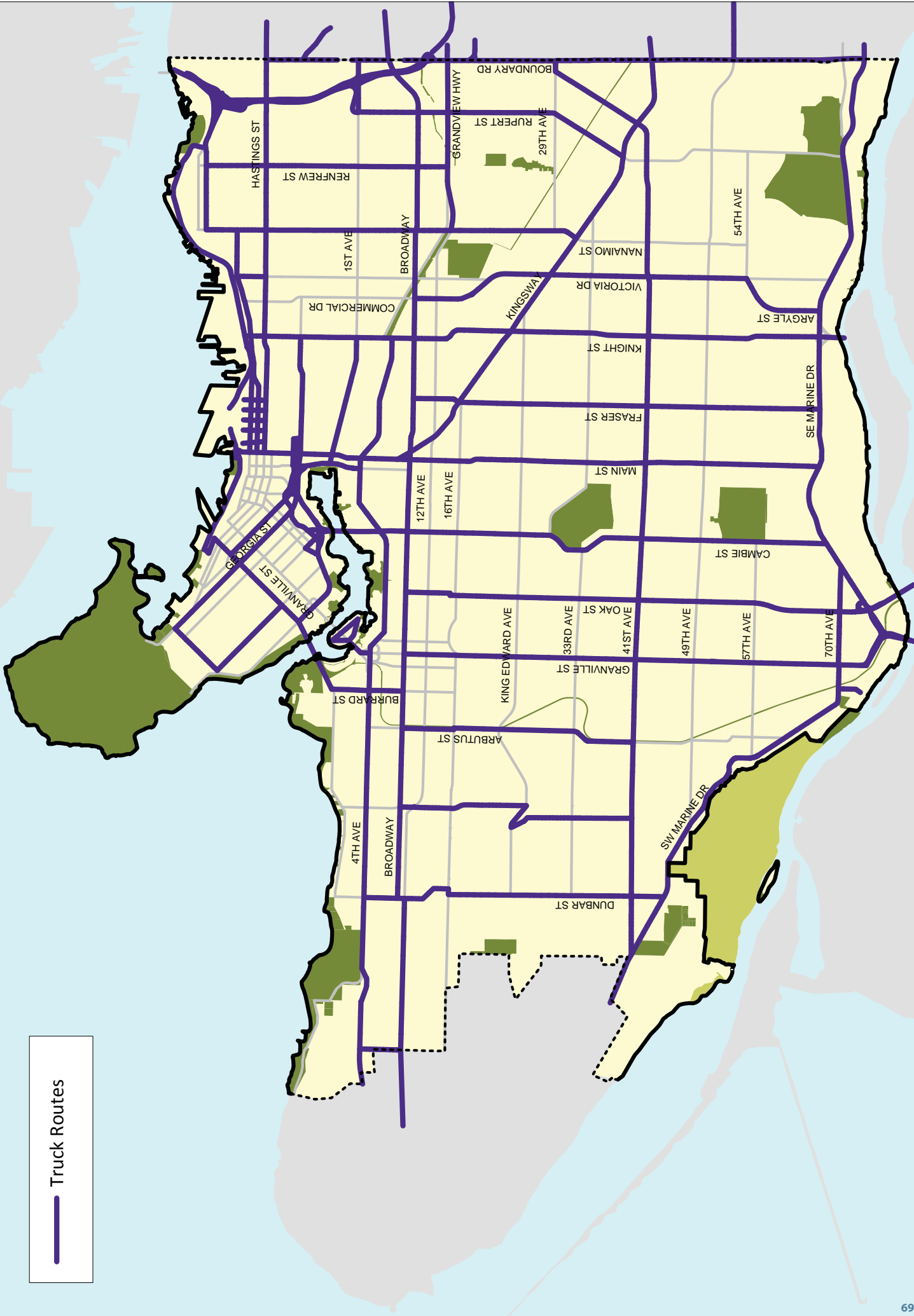
- a) identify routes on a map for the safe and efficient movement of goods and service vehicles to, from, and within Urban Centres, Frequent Transit Development Areas, Industrial, Mixed Employment and Agricultural areas, Special Employment Areas, ports, airports, and international border crossings;

Routes for the safe and efficient movement of goods and service vehicles are shown on Map 6 (page 69).

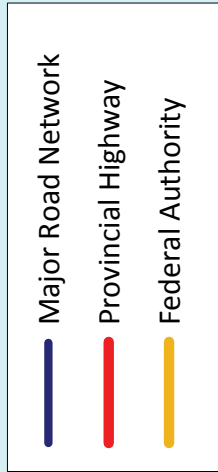
TransLink's Major Road Network is shown on Map 7 (page 70).

Map 6. Goods and Services Vehicle Routes

Truck Routes



Map 7. Major Road Network and Highways



b) identify land use and related policies and actions that support optimizing the efficient movement of vehicles for passengers, Special Employment Areas, goods and services on the Major Road Network, provincial highways, and federal transportation facilities;

• Transportation 2040 (2012)

High-level policies and specific actions to support optimizing the efficient movement of vehicles include:

Motor Vehicles

- Optimize network operations to manage congestion impacts
- Consider impacts to transit, commercial vehicles, and general traffic flow prior to reallocating road space
- Manage traffic to improve safety and neighbourhood livability

Taxis

- Pilot and evaluate a program that allows taxis to travel in bus lanes.
- Continue to facilitate taxi loading and unloading at high-demand locations.
- Support safe use of taxis for persons with disabilities.

Regional-and-Beyond Goods and Services Movement

- Support truck movement on key regional routes
- Protect and improve rail corridors for goods and passenger movement
- Support Port Metro Vancouver efforts to reduce port-related environmental and traffic impacts
- Support Vancouver International Airport as British Columbia's primary air gateway.
- Work with Translink to secure strategic additions to the regional Major Road Network.

Local Goods and Services Movement

- Maintain an efficient network of designated truck routes
- Provide for efficient loading and unloading
- Support low-impact goods and services movement and delivery
- Support local production and distribution to reduce the need for large-scale transport

Emergency Response

- Consider emergency vehicle access in street designs and traffic calming measures
- Provide up-to-date, readily accessible information on traffic calming measures and closures

• Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (2011)

Land use and related policies and actions that support optimizing the efficient movement of vehicles include:

- Supporting transportation and active transportation planning with land use policies that enable the City to meet mobility and transportation targets.
- Working with TransLink and the Province to advocate for high-capacity, fast, frequent and reliable rapid transit for the Broadway Corridor from Commercial Drive to the University of British Columbia.

Goods-Movement Actions include:

- protecting key goods-movement corridors (especially rail)
- encouraging low-impact goods movement such as low-carbon trucks and bicycle transportation
- encouraging the right-sizing of delivery and service vehicles.



- Major Road Network Administrative Report (1998)

The Major Road network report recognizes the importance of a Major Road Network (MRN) in order to provide for intra-regional mobility needs, including the movement of goods (e.g., food, business needs) and workers to Vancouver.



- c) support the development of local and regional transportation system management strategies, such as the provision of information to operators of goods and service vehicles for efficient travel decisions, management of traffic flow using transit priority measures, coordinated traffic signalization, and lane management;

- Transportation 2040 (2012)

High-level policies and specific actions to support the development of local and regional transportation system management strategies include:

Transit

- Advance new and improved rapid transit
- Advance new and improved local transit
- Improve transit reliability and speed using transit priority measures
- Support increased water-based transit
- Support improved inter-regional transit

Transit-supportive Public Realm

- Support a transit system that is easy to navigate
- Provide easy connections and comfortable waiting areas throughout the network

Integration with Other Modes

- Make it easy to combine cycling and transit trips
- Provide a public bicycle system
- Support improved integration with taxis

Road Network

- Optimize network operations to manage congestion impacts
- Continue to optimize network operations such as signal timings and rush-hour parking regulations to manage congestion while supporting other plan goals.
- Consider impacts to transit, commercial vehicles, and general traffic flow prior to reallocating road space.
- Monitor vehicle volumes to understand traffic trends and potential spare capacity. Where improvements to the walking and/or cycling environments are needed but the ability to reallocate road space is limited, consider alternative approaches such as property acquisition or building setbacks.
- Manage traffic to improve safety and neighbourhood livability

Parking

- Make it easier for drivers to find available parking spaces

Taxis

- Pilot and evaluate a program that allows taxis to travel in bus lanes.

d) identify policies and actions which support the protection of rail rights-of-way and access points to navigable waterways in order to reserve the potential for goods movement, in consideration of the potential impacts on air quality, habitat and communities.

- Transportation 2040 (2012)

High-level policies and specific actions to support the protection of rail rights-of-way and access points to navigable waterways include:

- Protect and improve rail corridors for goods and passenger movement.
- Develop and implement long-term rail corridor strategies to increase capacity and reliability for False Creek Flats, the Grandview Cut, and the north shore of the Fraser River.
- Advocate for improvements to the regional rail network to address major bottlenecks such as the New Westminster Rail Bridge.
- Advocate for the Port to re-open Clark Drive as the primary north-south access point for Port facilities, and to maintain McGill Avenue as the primary eastern access point.

- Industrial Lands Policies (1995)

The City has a key role in supporting the Port as a gateway to global markets through local land use and transportation policies. In land use planning, the City is protecting industrial and rail lands so that the Port and port-related jobs can continue to thrive.

Industrial areas that support rail and water-based goods movement include:

- Powell
- False Creek Flats
- South Vancouver

- Powell Street Overpass Project (Ongoing)

The Powell Street Overpass project allows for expansion and improved efficiency of the rail network, making it easier to move goods to and from the south shore of the Port by rail.



Regional Growth Strategy Implementation Framework

6.2.7 A municipality may include language in its Regional Context Statement that permits amendments to the municipality's Official Community Plan to adjust the boundaries of regional land use designations (or their equivalent Official Community Plan designation) within the Urban Containment Boundary, provided that:

- a) the municipality may re-designate land from one regional land use designation to another regional land use designation, only if the aggregate area of all proximate sites so re-designated does not exceed one hectare;
- b) notwithstanding section 6.2.7 (a), for sites that are three hectares or less, the municipality may re-designate land:
 - from Mixed Employment or Industrial to General Urban land use designation, if the site is located on the edge of an Industrial or Mixed Employment area and the developable portion of the site will be predominantly within 150 metres of an existing or approved rapid transit station on TransLink's Frequent Transit Network; or
 - from Industrial to Mixed Employment land use designation if the developable portion of the site will be predominantly within 250 metres of an existing or approved rapid transit station on TransLink's Frequent Transit Network;

provided that:

- the re-designation does not impede direct rail, waterway, road or highway access for industrial uses; and
 - the aggregate area of all proximate sites that are re-designated does not exceed three hectares;
- c) the aggregate area of land affected by all re-designations under section 6.2.7 (a) and (b) together cannot exceed two percent of the municipality's total lands within each applicable regional land use designation.

The Regional Context Statement ODP hereby permits such amendments.

- 6.2.8 A municipality may include language in its Regional Context Statement that permits amendments to the municipality's Official Community Plan to adjust the boundaries of the municipality's Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas, provided such boundary adjustments meet the guidelines set out in Table 3 (Guidelines for Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas) of the Regional Growth Strategy.

The Regional Context Statement ODP hereby permits such amendments.

- 6.2.9 Municipalities will notify Metro Vancouver of all adjustments, as permitted by sections 6.2.7 and 6.2.8, as soon as practicable after the municipality has adopted its Official Community Plan amendment bylaw.

The City will implement RGS policy 6.2.9.

- 6.2.10 If a municipality includes language in its Regional Context Statement that permits amendments to the municipality's Official Community Plan to adjust the boundaries of regional land use designations within the Urban Containment Boundary or the boundaries of Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas, as permitted by sections 6.2.7 and 6.2.8 respectively, the prescribed adjustments do not require an amendment to the municipality's Regional Context Statement. All other adjustments to regional land use designation boundaries will require an amendment to the municipality's Regional Context Statement, which must be submitted to the Metro Vancouver Board for acceptance in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act.

The Regional Context Statement ODP hereby permits such amendments.

