Form of Development Approval: Delegation of Authority

Bill 18 – Vancouver Charter Amendment Act

November 26, 2024



Background

BILL 18 - Vancouver Charter Amendment Act (No 2.) 2024

More closely aligns Vancouver Charter with Local Government Act

- → Authorizes Council to delegate authority to approve the form of development (FOD)
- Requires City to adopt a city-wide Official Development Plan (ODP)
- Prohibits public hearings for housing applications consistent with an ODP
- Permits Council to consider applications consistent with an ODP at Council (instead of a Public Hearing)
- Requires Council to create a new development procedure by-law

What is Form of Development?

Refers to the physical design of a development including height, density, and massing

Intended to establish the basic physical design parameters for a development such as public realm interface or neighbourhood fit

Regulated through CD-1 by-law and Conditions of Approval for rezonings



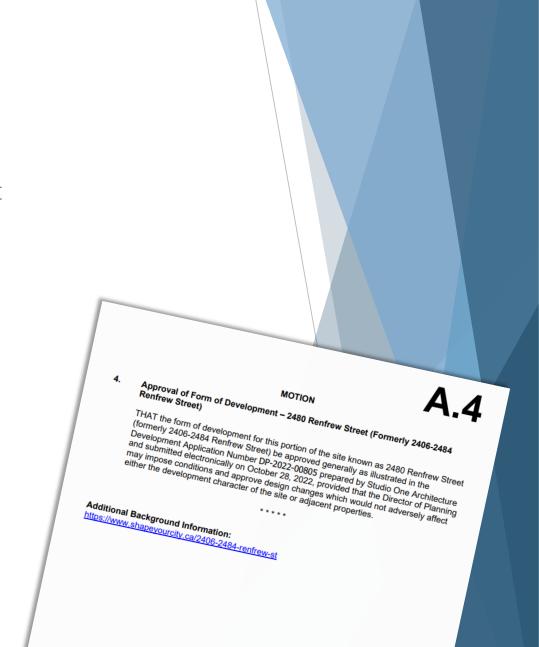
Current FOD Approval Process

Vancouver Charter:

- Requires Council to approve the form of development
- Including *every* CD-1 form of development

Administrative Motion

- Prior to issuing the development permit
- Regularly approved on consent
- Time consuming



Proposed FOD Approval Process

- Council to delegate approval authority to the Director of Planning
 - Decision to be made through regular and established staff processes
 - Director of Planning must be satisfied the FOD reflects the project and conditions approved by Council
- Effective:
 - Jan 1, 2025

Conclusion

- Council to delegate approval authority to the Director of Planning
 - FOD administrative motions removed from Council agendas
- Improved processing times
 - Fewer administrative steps
 - More certainty with permitting issuance timing

