

APPENDICES

TOcore Engagement Report • Phase 2 • November 2016

APPENDIX 1. SUMMARY OF VISION STATEMENTS.....	1
APPENDIX 2. BUILDINGS & NEIGHBOURHOODS.....	3
APPENDIX 3. PARKS & PUBLIC SPACES	8
APPENDIX 4. MOBILITY	11
APPENDIX 5. COMMUNITY FACILITIES	14
APPENDIX 6. ECONOMY.....	18
APPENDIX 7. WATER & ENERGY.....	21

APPENDIX 1. SUMMARY OF VISION STATEMENTS

Draft Summary of All TOcore Vision Feedback

Over 100 vision statements collected from the toolkits, text messages, Tumblr, YES engagement, the survey and the TOcore stakeholder workshop were used in the vocabulary analysis below and the summary of this section.

Cross-cutting vision statements

Many participants indicated that they want the “good Downtown”, a Downtown that they can be proud of, a Downtown that connects to the rest of the city and stays interesting and unique, a Downtown that looks into the future and preserves its heritage, a Downtown that moves and attracts people, the place to work, live and play– a Downtown for all: inclusive, diverse, affordable, sustainable, vibrant, and safe.

Buildings and Neighbourhoods

Participants shared a vision of a Downtown comprised of unique mixed use neighbourhoods with beautiful architecture, wide sidewalks and greenery, rich history and heritage, and a wide variety of housing options for all.

Mobility

Many participants envisioned a Downtown where mobility focuses on people, where the most vulnerable road users feel safe and comfortable, and there is a variety of mobility options that are fully accessible and environmentally responsible. Participants expressed a high level of desire for affordable and reliable public transit, walkability, and continuous bike lanes within and outside Downtown.

Parks and Public Spaces

Feedback included a vision for the future of Toronto’s Downtown which included green parks and open public spaces. Many participants indicated that it was important that the future Downtown is not a concrete jungle, but a place of open spaces with trees, sun, and flowerbeds that bring people together in the core.

Community Services and Facilities

Many participants shared a vision of a Downtown that supports and welcomes people of all ages, gender identities, abilities, income levels, and ethnicities in every neighbourhood. Participants envisioned happy, healthy people -- families, active seniors, and engaged youth. Participants also shared a vision where there is no more homelessness and no one is left on their own to struggle with mental health issues, lack of food and shelter, and unemployment.

Economy

Downtown is the centre of a Canadian global city – with vibrant, diverse, and interesting retail that is affordable for everyone; free world-class museums and theatres; diverse bars and restaurants; dynamic nightlife; a comprehensive tourism strategy; and growing commercial lands that provide Torontonians with jobs.

Water and Energy

Many participants want to see a sustainable, resilient Downtown with clean air and clean water supported by smart technology and infrastructure.

APPENDIX 2. BUILDINGS & NEIGHBOURHOODS

Draft Summary of All Feedback

What participants said about how they use Downtown from a Buildings & Neighbourhoods perspective

Participants said they live Downtown in order to: be close to work, restaurants, and other destinations; visit different neighbourhoods; feel a sense of community (through neighbours and condo boards, for example), and; live in a green environment with narrow streets and a mix of buildings types and uses

Some participants, who grew up in towers, said they enjoyed the experience because they felt safe, could visit friends on other floors, played hockey in hallways, and walked to school with friends. Growing up in a tower helped them gain independence.

What participants said about what prevents them from enjoying Downtown from a Buildings & Neighbourhoods perspective

Affordability

Many participants said Downtown was increasingly unaffordable.

Lack of housing options

Many participants felt that the only housing options Downtown are increasingly unaffordable houses and condos (most of which aren't big enough for more than 2 people). The lack of affordable options where they could raise a family was a commonly cited barrier.

Too crowded, crammed, and busy

Many people said high rise condos make the city feel crammed. They felt there should be more open spaces between apartments and condos. Others felt Downtown was too crowded, full of people, and too noisy.

Construction

For some, Downtown feels like a giant construction site; it's not a pleasant environment to live in and sometimes doesn't feel safe.

Loss of heritage buildings

Many participants felt the loss of heritage buildings leading to a loss of unique character of Downtown neighbourhoods prevented them from enjoying Downtown.

Increasingly homogenous retail

Several people said that the loss of small, independent retail shops was making Downtown less interesting and attractive as a shopping destination.

Poor quality condos

Several participants said that some of the condos are too small and of substandard quality, which makes it unappealing to live Downtown.

Participants advice for Downtown from a Buildings & Neighbourhoods perspective

Size, shape, and quality of new buildings

Participants had a range of opinions about the size, shape, and quality of buildings. Several felt Downtown has too many tall buildings and said the City should be encouraging more low- and mid-rise buildings (ranging between 5 and 12 storeys). Some felt the mid-rise guidelines should be less rigid to promote more development on main streets. Others felt that more tall buildings should be located Downtown.

Another common suggestion was for more high-quality and varied architecture that would contribute to the city's character. Several participants were tired of "glass towers" and thought the skyline's aesthetic should be considered in the planning policies. Some said the City should regulate building size and shape to preserve more sight lines, especially to the lake and the islands.

Uses and spaces for condos

Many participants shared advice about how City Planning could encourage better designed condos, such as:

Interior space. Require condos to provide shared common areas or interior “public” space.

Community space and services. Offer developers incentives for providing community space in developments (such as clinics, childcare, schools, daycare, and places for dogs).

Flexible space. Require condos to be built with more flexible spaces that could be easily repurposed from one to another.

Accessibility and security. Require condos to incorporate security and accessibility features into their design (like posting security staff’s contact information or installing fire strobe lights for those with hearing loss). Design designated Wheel Trans drop-off / pick-up spots in front of condos.

Housing choices and affordability

Increasing the amount of affordable housing and creating more diverse housing offerings Downtown was one of the most common pieces of advice. Specifically, participants said the City should advocate other levels of government to promote affordable housing, support the creation of more co-ops (especially for young people, elderly people, artists, and musicians), and require developers to provide a percentage of units as affordable and/or rent-geared-to-income units.

Many participants also said the City should find ways to encourage and allow laneway housing.

Family-friendly, child-friendly, shared-housing friendly

Many participants thought it was important to encourage housing models that were friendly to families, children, and shared housing. They said the City should be striving to create more multi-bedroom units, support the development of more co-ops, and

reintroduce boarding house and dorm-style housing for young people. Buildings and neighbourhoods should be designed with safety in mind so they're child-friendly.

Walkable, diverse, mixed use neighbourhoods

Creating walkable, diverse, mixed use neighbourhoods was a common piece of advice. Some felt the City was approving too much residential development without balancing it with recreational, sports, community services, and employment uses. Some suggested specific places for employment uses, such as Dupont next to the rail tracks and the Portlands. Participants said City Planning should incentivize more mixed use development and should encourage diverse, mixed-income neighbourhoods. Some felt the City should encourage more mixed commercial-residential neighbourhoods (like Kensington Market). Some felt the City should encourage the re-use of Downtown laneways as public spaces (for coffee shops, for example).

Participants gave a range of opinions about areas designated Neighbourhoods. Some felt Neighbourhoods weren't sufficiently protected, with houses being demolished for "monster homes" that are out of scale and character with their neighbourhood. Others felt the City is over-protective of Neighbourhoods, and felt smaller-scale, infill intensification would be a good thing in these areas.

Participants also thought neighbourhoods could be improved by burying powerlines, integrating more commercial spaces in tower-in-the-park neighbourhoods; making sure neighbourhood cleanliness is prioritized; and making sure that Downtown neighbourhoods stay "urban and loud."

Heritage & identity

Most felt preserving heritage buildings and the unique identity of Downtown's buildings and neighbourhoods was very important (though a few felt heritage shouldn't be a barrier to the City's prosperity). Specific advice on how to preserve heritage and identity included finding creative ways to blend old buildings with new ones, fast-tracking Heritage Conservation District studies, encouraging the re-use of buildings rather than façade protection, and the recognition of diverse cultures and backgrounds. Another piece of advice was to enforce maintenance of heritage buildings on mains streets.

Small, local, independent retail

Many participants felt it was very important to preserve and encourage small, local, independent retail. Specific suggestions were to create disincentives to having empty storefronts, create affordable housing for retailers, and make sure smaller local businesses can flourish.

Engaged neighbourhoods

Participants shared advice that the City should find ways to encourage more community engagement in and stewardship of neighbourhoods, including providing guidance for condo boards about best practices for community building, hiring millennials to engage young people in neighbourhood planning, and creating community committees run by residents to address neighbourhood concerns.

Scale of development and broader planning issues

Several participants gave broader advice about changing Toronto and Ontario's planning framework, including enforcing stricter compliance with existing zoning and replacing or removing the Ontario Municipal Board as an approval authority.

APPENDIX 3. PARKS & PUBLIC SPACES

Summary of All Feedback

What participants said about how they use Downtown from a Parks and Public Spaces perspective

Participants identified a number of different types of parks and public spaces they use Downtown, including the waterfront, green spaces, public parks, schoolyards, and ravines.

What participants said about what prevents them from enjoying Downtown from a Parks and Public Spaces perspective

Lack of access

People said that some parks and public spaces (Don Valley, Cherry Beach, Exhibition Place) are difficult to access.

Rules and regulations

Some people said there are too many rules and regulations for parks and public spaces that restrict what people can do in them.

Overcrowded, dirty and unsafe

People said that parks and public spaces Downtown are often overcrowded which makes it difficult to find a place to sit and relax. People also said that public places downtown are often dirty and feel aggressive and unsafe, especially at night.

Lack of space for dogs

People said there are very few places to take their dogs Downtown, especially places where they can let them off their leash.

Participants advice for Downtown from a Parks and Public Spaces perspective

More public space Downtown

Many people said that the Downtown needs more public space and green space that is welcoming and encourages people to gather and interact with one another.

Investments into Downtown parks and public spaces

Many people said that parks and public spaces make Downtown liveable and therefore require ongoing investment. People suggested a number of ways to improve Downtown parks and public spaces, including more quiet places to sit, more trees, wider sidewalks, pedestrian only areas, walking and jogging paths, public washrooms, outside games, shaded playgrounds, free WiFi, and warmer swimming pools.

Ensure Parks and Publics Spaces are safe and clean

Several participants said that parks and public spaces in the Downtown need to be properly maintained to ensure they are inviting and safe for all users.

Public Art

Several participants said Downtown needs more interactive public art, especially in public spaces. Participants also said they would like to see more music and dance performances in public spaces Downtown.

Increase access and accessibility

Participants said parks and public spaces Downtown should be made accessible for everyone. They suggested designing for the most vulnerable users to ensure all users could have access. Participants also said that parks and public spaces should be easy to access by different modes of transportation, especially by transit and by foot.

Make public streets more pedestrian friendly

Several people said that public space Downtown should be designed to be walkable and safe for pedestrians, with wider sidewalks and less space for cars.

Plazas and squares

Participants said plazas and squares, not just parks, could be used to increase public space Downtown. They also said plazas and squares could use more trees, planters, and public events.

Connected parks and public spaces

Ensure parks and public spaces Downtown are well connected.

Continue improving the waterfront

People said they are happy the waterfront is being revitalized and want to see it continued in order to make it a destination. Some participants said Ontario Place should be re-imagined.

Family friendly space

People said Downtown needs family friendly public spaces with safe places for children to play and explore.

Plan for dogs Downtown

People said that plans for parks and public spaces need to include space for dogs, including off-leash areas. They felt that properly planned spaces for dogs could help to prevent conflict between different park users.

APPENDIX 4. MOBILITY

Draft Summary of All Feedback

What participants said about how they use Downtown from a Mobility perspective

Participants indicated that they walked, biked, took transit in Downtown and to/from Downtown. Many downtown residents walk and bike on a daily basis; and those who live outside of the core commute by GO transit and/or TTC. A smaller portion of participants indicated that they use personal vehicles as the preferred means to get Downtown.

What participants said about what prevents them from enjoying Downtown from a Mobility perspective

Congestion

Many participants said that Downtown was too congested. Many participants felt that too many cars in the core prevent them from enjoying Downtown, several participants cited construction as a major barrier to the traffic flow, and a few participants emphasized the need for more lanes on the roads. Many participants said that long times on the road prevented them from going Downtown more often.

Lack of safety and comfort

Many participants indicated that they felt unsafe to bike in or to Downtown, especially on the streets without proper infrastructure. Similarly, many participants said they did not feel safe or comfortable walking on narrow sidewalks. Several participants indicated they did not feel safe or comfortable moving around downtown, especially on the bike, in all four seasons.

Pollution

Several participants expressed their concern about increasing environmental pollution because of carbon dioxide emissions and construction.

Unaffordability and gaps in public transit service

Many participants emphasized the need for public transit improvements in the core, including more reliable service, expanded service network, more accessible fleet, and more affordable fares, especially for families and seniors.

Participant advice for Downtown from a Mobility perspective

Mobility focused on people

Many participants emphasized the need to abandon car-centric planning and move to mobility focused on people. Participants urged to start planning for the Downtown that de-prioritizes cars and puts pedestrians and cyclists first. Some of the most recurring suggestions include more pedestrian only zones in the core, more public streetcar-only streets, and achieving minimum grid of cycling infrastructure.

Mobility safe for all

Many participants emphasized the importance of creating safe conditions to move around Downtown for all – seniors and children, people of all abilities, families and single people, pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and drivers. Participants expressed a high level of desire to see more investments into proper cycling infrastructure and walkability.

Environmentally Responsible Mobility

Many participant indicated that it was important to have policies that promote environmentally responsible transportation options to reduce pollution and promote healthier life style. Participants said it was important to provide a good variety of shared mobility options, including bikeshare, public transit, rideshare, taxis, and ferries.

Participants suggested charging a toll to the cars coming into the city, implementing congestion charges for downtown, phasing out fossil fuel vehicles from the core, designating car-free days, or limit Downtown access by alternating license plate numbers.

Connectivity

Many participants emphasized the importance of connectivity within the Downtown core, between the Downtown and the rest of the city, and among all modes of transportation.

Improving Flow of Traffic

Participants suggested reducing congestion by making it convenient for everyone to bike, walk, and take public transit in the downtown core. Some of the most recurring suggestions include more continuous separated bike lanes, wider, greener sidewalks, more one-way streets and transit-only streets, and traffic calming mechanisms.

Other suggestions include optimizing traffic lights synchronization, reducing on-street parking, eliminating flashing hand at intersections, limiting construction effects on the roads and bringing back more driving lanes to Downtowns streets.

Improving Public Transit

Many participants urged the City to work with the Province to prioritize investments into public transit for the needed improvements. The top suggestions for public transit improvements include the increased reliability of service, affordability of fares, universal accessibility of the fleet, expansion of the network within and outside of the core, and a 24-7 access.

Several participants expressed a high level of support for Downtown Relief Line to alleviate congestion.

Integrating technology

Many participants thought it was important to be flexible and adaptable to new technology. Some of the suggestions included introducing mobile Wi-Fi in public transit and taxis and installing more electric car charging stations in the core.

APPENDIX 5. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Draft Summary of All Feedback

What participants said about how they use Downtown from a CS&F perspective

Participants mentioned a variety of community services and facilities they use Downtown. Some of the more common uses include child care, schools, community and recreation centers, health and mental health centres, ESL classes and newcomer supports, libraries, employment supports and shelters.

What participants said about what prevents them from enjoying Downtown from a CS&F perspective

Participants identified the following barriers that prevent them from enjoying Downtown to its fullest: lack of access to childcare, unaffordable and unreliable public transit, limited access to recreation facilities and places to be active, lack of physical accessibility, places that do not feel inclusive, lack of safety.

Participant advice for Downtown from a CS&F perspective

Making Downtown great for all

Many participants expressed their desire to see a diverse, safe, and welcoming Downtown for all. For many participants it meant ensuring that Downtown is affordable for people of all income levels, accessible to people of all abilities, safe for all genders with a variety of community activities for people of all ages from babies to seniors in every Downtown neighbourhood.

Many participants recommended the “cradle-to-grave” approach, where each neighbourhood has a cluster of community services and facilities that support people throughout different stages of their lives.

Several participants suggested making it a requirement for new developments to provide spaces for community services and facilities, such as schools, child care and community centres.

Connection to the rest of the City

Some participants highlighted the need for TOcore policies to be written in the context of the whole city. A few participants suggested diversifying city centres outside of the core and prioritizing neighbourhoods across the entire city. Others thought it was important to establish better communication between the city and the suburbs by reaching out to suburban communities and letting them know what's going in the core.

Social equity and diversity

Several participants thought it was important for the City to promote social equity and diversity in all aspects of planning for the future of the core. Some participants strongly recommended adapting the feminine lens in the planning and design of the Downtown. A few participants urged the City to increase the visibility and services for the LGBTQ community. Another recommendation was to foster a culture where the preservation of heritage does not mean a preservation of straight, white, male culture.

Affordable accessible public transit

Many participants said it was important to ensure affordable and accessible public transit for all people, including those who use community services and facilities and those who provide them, to get Downtown. The fares need to be lower, especially for those with disabilities and families; the fleet needs to be accessible, and the service needs to be reliable and run 24-7.

Addressing homelessness

Several participants emphasized the need to make sure that homeless people, especially those with mental health and addiction struggles have a safe place to go in the core. Participants indicated the need for shelters with employment supports, food banks and health centres nearby.

A few participants highlighted the need for trans-only shelters, in particular trans youth.

Family-friendly services

Many participants said they wanted to see more family-friendly services. Providing more child care spots at more affordable rates was one of the most cited priorities. Many participants also wanted to see more of family-sized condominium units, playgrounds and recreation services for children, youth, and seniors.

Engaging youth

Several participants emphasized the need for youth inclusion. Some participants said it was important promoting youth participation in planning; and others indicated the need for more youth-focused programming in the core.

Access to food

Several participants indicated it was important to ensure that everyone downtown has access to affordable and healthy food choices. Participants suggested to strategically locate affordable grocery stores in the core. A few participants suggested the need for urban farms, green roofs with community gardens, and “flash freezing” options for downtown dwellers.

Newcomer services

Several participants emphasized the need for newcomer and immigrant support services. Participants said that ESL courses are vital for newcomers, as language is an essential skill for employment. Participants also indicated the need for more diverse employment supports for new immigrants, and suggested that a newcomer with non-Canadian diploma be required to take an examination to confirm his or her diploma and therefore not be required to go to university again.

Schools

Several participants said it was important to ensure more schools for the growing downtown population. Participants suggested that the school boards, libraries and community and recreation centres work together to provide better education for students and more services and facilities for communities.

Safety

Several participants thought it was important to continue keeping Downtown safe for all. Some participants suggested increased police presence, while others emphasized the need for a softer, gentler police force.

APPENDIX 6. ECONOMY

Summary of All Feedback

What participants said about how they use Downtown from an economy perspective

Many participants indicated that they work Downtown, go to school, visit hospitals, go shopping, and come for arts, culture, and nightlife in the core. Participants said walkability and great access to public transit were some of the major attractions to being Downtown.

What participants said about what prevents them from enjoying Downtown from an economy perspective

Participants indicated that some of the key barriers that prevent them from enjoying Downtown to its fullest is unaffordability. Many participants felt that Downtown is getting more expensive – to eat, shop, participate in arts and culture, and to move around. Participants also felt that it is more and more difficult for small independent shops to stay in the core due to increasing rent.

Participant advice for Downtown from an Economy perspective

Keeping Downtown commercial

Several participants urged the City to keep the commercial focus for Downtown. Some participants said it was important to make sure that that Downtown is primarily a commercial centre of the City, as it is one of the main local and regional economic engines. Creating more jobs and maintaining economic vibrancy should be key priority for Downtown.

Investing in local businesses

Many participants expressed their desire to see more local businesses thrive Downtown. Many participants said that independent shops contribute to the vibrancy of Downtown neighbourhoods and serve as a big attraction.

Investing in people

Many participants thought it was important to invest into infrastructure that would train and provide hands-on experience for Torontonians, in particular, the youth. Some suggestions included youth hubs that provide young people with hands on jobs without any experience and foster a culture of innovation and technology, temporary work at urban farms, and jobs that raise awareness of nature in urban surroundings.

Keeping a great restaurant and bar scene

Many participants said they liked having a variety of bars and restaurants in the core. Participants suggested extending patios to animate Downtown streets and bring communities together. Participants also emphasized the importance of diversity in food choices – from high-end restaurants to dive bars to food trucks.

Promoting nightlife and entertainment

Several participants emphasized the importance of having a great night scene Downtown. Some participants suggested extending last call. Other participants suggested more activities for hot, humid summers in the City. A few participants highlighted the need for clean safe streets for people to enjoy night life and daylight events in the core.

Promoting arts and culture

Many participants talked about the importance of Downtown as the arts and culture centre of the city. Participants suggested more free events and activities at the museums, parks, squares, and the waterfront, such as free museum days, summer concerts, moving screenings, yoga, zumba, and dancing with live music. Other participants suggested creating more cultural spaces, art venues, and spaces for innovation from old factories and abandoned buildings. Participants also recommended installing more art on the streets and in public spaces.

Strengthening Tourism

A few participants said it was important for Toronto to have a comprehensive tourism strategy to attract Canadian and foreign visitors. Many participants said it was important to attract Toronto residents outside of the core, as well.

APPENDIX 7. WATER & ENERGY

Summary of All Feedback

Vision

Feedback around a vision for energy and water / resilience and sustainability in Toronto focused on achieving climate resiliency with green infrastructure and zero carbon emissions in public and private spaces.

What participants said about how they use Downtown from an Energy and Water perspective

None specifically

What participants said about what prevents them from enjoying Downtown from an Energy and Water / Resilience and Sustainability perspective

Participants identified environmental pollution as a barrier to enjoying Downtown.

Participant advice for Downtown from an Energy and Water / Resilience and Sustainability perspective

Advice for Downtown focused on promoting the use of sustainable and renewable energy, materials and systems. Respondent suggestions included more use of solar and geothermal power, along with community owned power generation stations, and the development of a climate change framework. Comments also encouraged water and energy conservation and education, with suggestions like reducing night lighting in public buildings.

Feedback also included making recycling easier for residents and encouraging the reuse, repurposing and recycling of materials. The creation of more community gardens and green roofs were frequent suggestions, along with environmentally friendly building development, reducing traffic and cars, and improving transit Downtown. Suggestions for reducing vehicle emissions included carbon emissions or road use taxes and higher fines for idling. Improvements to street infrastructure were suggested, including

installing more water fountains, removing overhead wires, and reducing the amount of street poles. Other advice included installing new water pipes and providing public access to water filtration stations.