

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting #2

On January 14, 2020, the City of Toronto hosted the second Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting for the Danforth Planning Study. The meeting was held at Monarch Park Collegiate in the cafeteria, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. The agenda for this meeting is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Introduce new SAC members, and confirm the role of the SAC;
- Provide a presentation on the Revised Terms of Reference and the Area Profile Report;
- Provide a summary of the community feedback received to date;
- Discuss and test the approach to Community Meeting #2, scheduled for January 27, 2020.

In total, 23 SAC members attended the meeting. A list of members in attendance for meeting #2 is attached to this summary report as **Appendix 2**.

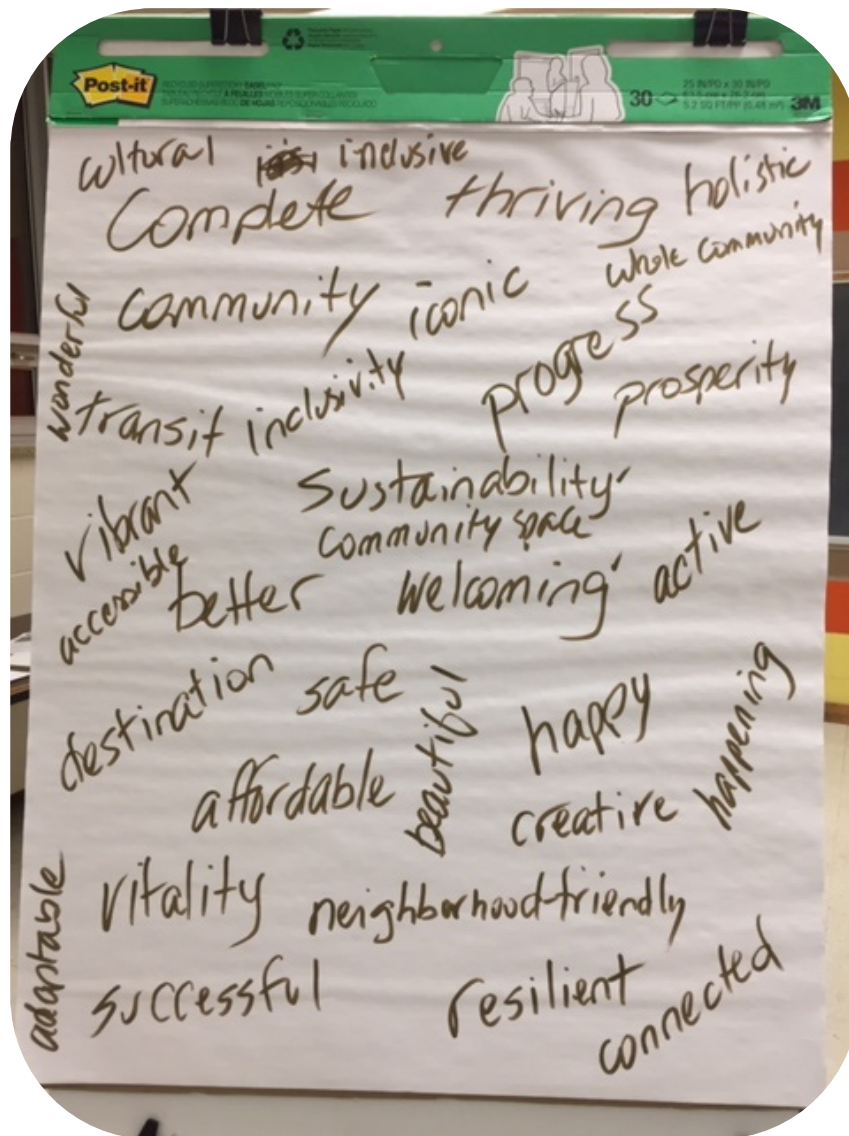


1. Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Bradford and Councillor Fletcher each provided opening remarks and welcomed committee members.

The meeting started with a First Nation land acknowledgement.

SAC members introduced themselves, and provided a word to describe Danforth in the future. The following is a list of the words provided:



2. Role of SAC

An overview of the SAC was provided, and members were reminded of their roles and responsibilities, which include: acting as a sounding board to provide advice on study materials and process, to represent their community/organization perspective, to listen, be heard, and to be respectful and open minded when working together. A recap of SAC meeting #1 was given, including how the comments and feedback that emerged from the first meeting has been addressed. To address the feedback the City heard from SAC members regarding the engagement process:

- The City will meet with the TTC through technical meetings.
- Interest group meetings will be used to engage with housing and homelessness groups, school communities, and religious communities.
- Requests have been sent out by the City to indigenous groups to understand how they would like to be involved in the study process.
- The City has reached out to accessibility groups to request interested from representatives in joining the SAC.
- The expression of interest from Community Meeting #1 resulted in 30 applicants. The City conducted interviews with many of these applicants, with the goal of identifying new members who would add to the diversity of the committee. Five (5) new members have been added from these applicants. These are unaffiliated members, who come from diverse backgrounds with interests ranging from youth, safety, community health, and local business owners.
- The City will engage with seniors groups through interest group meetings.

It was noted that a list of members' names and groups will be included as part of the SAC meeting notes. The full names of members will also be updated on the SAC #1 meeting notes.

It was suggested that SAC members should identify any potential conflict of interest prior to each meeting. It was noted that the SAC is not a decision making body, and stakeholders by their very nature will have an interest in the study area. The City will look into this concern and report back on findings.

It was requested that meeting materials be sent in advance of meetings (up to 1 week), and if members have the ability to add items to the agenda. The City confirmed that materials will be sent out as early as possible. A standing "other matters" agenda item can be included at the end of each meeting to allow members to raise points not on the itemized agenda.

3. Study Update and What We Heard

An update on the Study was provided which included:

- An overview of the Study Terms of Reference including project study components, and a brief explanation of the scope of each component and an overview of the work plan and key deliverables.
- An overview of the input received from Community Meeting #1 and how it was used to update the Study Terms of Reference.
- A presentation on the Area Profile Report, highlighting the key topics and findings from the report. This included the planning framework, historical context, demographics, transportation context, and the next steps of the planning study.

The following comments and questions were raised:

Study Terms of Reference

- It was asked by a member what constitutes as “Retail” in the Retail and Economic Study component. It was explained by the City that office, arts and culture, and services were all part of “retail and economic activities”. This needs to be clarified in the terms of reference.
- Since arts and culture is part of the retail and economic study, members felt that arts groups should be engaged as part of the study process.
- The updated terms of reference will be posted to the study website.

Community Meeting #1 Themes

The following feedback was provided by SAC members on the reporting of meeting themes:

- Word clouds were used to display common themes and words used in public feedback as part of the presentation to the SAC. It was suggested by the SAC that these clouds should not be used at the public meetings, as they can be misleading because of the size of the words do not necessarily reflect how commonly the words were used.
- The word “tactical urbanism” was used as part of meeting themes. SAC members expressed that this is not plain language and a different word should be used when presented to the public. This change will be made for the final community meeting materials.

Area Profile Plan

The following feedback was provided by SAC members on the Area Profile Plan:

- Ensure that the background collision and mobility data is explained. It was suggested that this information be provided for the whole corridor at the Open House.
- Review the mode share data and provide an explanation about the extent of the data and how it was developed.
- Provide sources for all data and information presented.
- Explain how the different study area boundaries were created.
- Provide a road hierarchy map that identifies the Danforth in the context of the overall street network.
- It would paint a clearer picture if income data was separated. Although the report shows that 6.9% of the population as unemployed, when you look solely at new immigrants, this number can be as high as 50%.

4. Activity #1 – Area Profile Report Reflection

The SAC members were asked to answer two questions about the Area Profile Report: what stands out to you? And what surprises you? The following is what members felt stood out or was surprising:

- How stable the neighbourhood is – population growth and jobs has not really changed that much over the time period.
- That active transportation and transit accounts for 50% of travel modes in Ward 14. There is some clarification needed about whether these are local trips (within the Ward).
- Household income distribution: Study area is overrepresented on the highest, second lowest, and lower and middle income brackets; and the implications this may have on services.
- 30% of housing in the area is apartments with 5 or more storeys was surprising, as this number was higher than expected.



5. Community Meeting #2

A presentation was provided on the proposed format and activities for Community Meeting #2, scheduled for January 27, 2020. SAC members were given the opportunity to try the activities and provide their feedback on how they can be refined and improved for the community meeting. The following are the SAC general comments about the meeting:

- Re-visit the sign-in process to avoid congestion.
- Ensure that all materials use plain language, use legible fonts and sizes.
- The online survey should be interactive and interesting. It was suggested that the survey needs to be able to record where respondents live to validate the input received.
- Take attendance at each station to gauge participation and the level of interest in each topic.
- Call the event an Open House to help spread out attendance.
- Have staff at the activities helping people participate.
- Suggested that information be provided for the whole corridor at the Open House.

6. Activity #2 - Mapping

The following are the general comments received for this activity:

- Have more than 1 map.
- It was noted as unclear how the team will use the information when it is a mix of broad comments and very specific ones.
- Review the prompt questions being asked particularly related to the economic component to make sure they are the right questions.
- The probing questions were determined to be helpful, however, they needed to be refined for the community meeting.



7. Activity #3 – What we heard

The following are the general comments received for this activity:

- Spread out the posters to avoid congestion.
- The panels are too broad with grouping everything into 3 categories, and there may be the risk of not capturing a diversity of responses.
- Find a way to limit each person to 3 dots.
- Give the public an opportunity to provide explanations for their choices.
- The complete streets panel has too many themes related to cycling.
- This exercise seems to rank the feedback themes, which may result in smaller issues being overshadowed.
- The value of ranking these themes and how the ranking might be used was questioned.



8. Comment Forms

The following is a summary of the feedback received from the comment forms provided to each SAC member:

- The agenda was too full for the limited time
- Members would like to see more time given to discussion
- Members would like more information about timelines, deliverables and concrete next steps

9. Closing & Next Steps

- All members were reminded that only one person from each organization should participate at each meeting. Alternate members are welcome to be observers at the meeting. Observers will sit at the back of the room. Space will be provided at the end of the agenda where feasible to take comments/question from observers.
- It was agreed that meeting notes from SAC meeting #1 will be revised to add member names and reflect that the SAC is both a group of stakeholders and a sounding board. SAC members expressed that they are interested in seeing more progress on the study including more content, clarity on the specific steps and actions the study will take and clarity on how public input will be used

APPENDIX 1 – Agenda**AGENDA**

ITEM	TIME
Welcome and Introductions	6:30 PM – 6:45 PM (15 mins)
Presentation: Role of SAC	6:45 PM – 6:55 PM (10 mins)
Presentation: Study Update and What We Heard	6:55 PM – 7:25 PM (30 mins)
Group Activities #1 & #2	7:25 PM – 7:45 PM (20 mins)
Presentation: Engagement and Community Meeting #2	7:45 PM – 7:50 PM (5 mins)
Group Activity #3	7:50 PM – 8:20 PM (30 mins)
Presentation: Next Steps	8:20 PM – 8:30 PM (10 mins)

APPENDIX 2 - Attendance

Councillors

Councillor Bradford
Councillor Fletcher

Business Improvement Areas:

Susan Puff, The Danforth BIA
Billy Dertilis, Danforth Mosaic BIA
Colin Johnson, Danforth Mosaic BIA
Louis Dapergolas, Danforth Village BIA
Mary Fragadakis, Greek Town BIA

Residents' Associations

Elektra Simms, Beach Hill Neighbourhood Association
Audrey Kvedaras, Danforth East Community Association
Roula Panagiotopoulos, Danforth Residents Association
Susan Weiss, Logan Green Field
Stephen Jack, Playter Estates Residents Association
Susan McMurray, The Pocket Community Association

Cycling Groups

Mary Ann Neary, 32 Spokes
Dr. Marco Lo, Doctor's for Safe Cycling
Gerry Brown, Ward 14 Bikes

Historical Groups

Anita Millar, Historical Group (Dawes Road)

Community Services

Nasima Akter, Bangladeshi Community Association
Kegan Harris, Neighbourhood Link
Constantine Iliopoulos, Tobias House
Malcolm Barrington, Woodgreen Community Services

Unaffiliated Members

Elaine Glynn, Unaffiliated Member
Erin Gamelin, Unaffiliated Member
Gelila MeKonnen, Unaffiliated Members
Jackie DaSilva, Unaffiliated Member
Kathleen Peak, Unaffiliated Member

Staff and Project Team:

City of Toronto

Heather Inglis Baron, Project Manager, Transportation Services
Jacquelyn Hayward, Director, Project Design and Management, Transportation Services
Lynda Macdonald, Director, Community Planning, Toronto and East York District
Mike Major, Manager, Economic Development
Liz McFarlane, Heritage Planner
Paul Mule, Senior Planner, Community Planning

Office of Councillors

Susan Serran, Executive Assistant, Office of Councillor Fletcher
Daryl Finlayson, Policy Advisor, Office of Councillor Fletcher
Rishab Mehan, Chief of Staff, Office of Councillor Bradford

Dillon Consulting Limited

Daniel Hoang, Dillon Consulting Limited
Karla Kolli, Dillon Consulting Limited