

**Jane Finch Initiative:
Community Advisory
Committee Meeting No. 10
May 17th, 2022
6-8pm**



Summary Report by the Jane Finch Community and Family Centre

BACKGROUND

The [Jane Finch Initiative](#) is about planning for the future of the area and how best to leverage the investment in light rail transit (LRT) for the benefit of local communities. It is a collaborative community planning exercise in 'Neighbourhood 24 - Black Creek' and 'Neighbourhood 25 - Glenfield-Jane Heights' (see [Neighbourhood Profiles](#)), centred on the intersection of Jane Street and Finch Avenue West.

The initiative involves three integrated streams of work:

- 1) **Comprehensive engagement** (ongoing)
- 2) A **community development plan** including a local economic opportunities plan;
- 3) An update to the **land use planning framework**.

The City is working in collaboration with the Jane Finch Community and Family Centre who will support community engagement and facilitate different community consultations to collect feedback.

MEETING SUMMARY

On May 17th 2022 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, the Jane Finch Initiative 10th Community Advisory Committee meeting was hosted by the Jane Finch Community and Family (JFCF) Centre with support from the City of Toronto. This consultation is part of the Jane Finch Initiative's comprehensive engagement stream and it was held online over Zoom. The agenda and event materials can be viewed in Appendix 1 and 2 on pages 5-12.

The purpose of the event was to:

- Update members on the status of the Update Downsview project, especially as it relates to Jane and Finch,
- Receive feedback on the Ideas Report, and
- Collect ideas, advice, and suggestions to guide Phase 2 engagement.

ATTENDEES:

- 2 JFCF centre staff: Denelle Carvalho, Elise Antoniadis;
- 5 City of Toronto Staff: Zahra Joseph-Wilson, John Patrick Smith, Dan Rosen, Alicia Rinaldi, Sundus Balata

- 10 Community Advisory Committee members: Christine Le, Devayani Chitnis, Jennifer Boakye, John Romano, Kemisha Thomas, Maria B., Sharon Taylor, Terryl Knox, Troy Budhu, William Ballard, Mena Hervieux

Meeting Summary

- Denelle Carvalho shared welcoming remarks and a land acknowledgement
- Sundus Balata and Alicia Rinaldi shared updates on the status of the Update Downsview project and responded to members' questions and comments on the project.
- Zahra Joseph-Wilson shared an update on the status of the Jane Finch Initiative
 - [The Ideas Report](#) and [Summary of Engagement](#) reports went through Etobicoke York Community Council and the economic and community development committee, then were presented to City Council.
 - Staff received direction to use the Ideas Report at the basis for Phase 2 consultation.
- Members were asked to share feedback on the Ideas Report and Summary of Engagement Report.
- Zahra Joseph Wilson shared the high level engagement plan for the remainder of Phase 2.
- All attendees were divided into two breakout rooms to begin a brainstorming exercise on Phase Two engagement.
 - Breakout room facilitators Elise Antoniadis and Denelle Carvalho introduced the breakout room exercise and the Jamboard medium.
 - Members were invited to share ideas and suggestions in response to prompts.
 - Breakout room facilitators ensured that all comments were noted on the Jamboard.
- Members returned to the main Zoom meeting room. City of Toronto staff left the meeting.
- Denelle Carvalho hosted a roundtable discussion on the Community Advisory Committee. Members were invited to share their thoughts on the groups, and ideas for improving meetings in the future.
- The meeting concluded at 8:00pm.

WHAT WE HEARD

This section includes the summaries of the feedback collected from the discussions during the Zoom meeting. City staff responded to the questions asked in this section

- Q: What funding or resources will be designated for affordable housing within the Update Downsview project?
 - Response from Alicia Rinaldi: There will be an affordable housing requirement. Making sure that there are affordable housing is a priority for

the secondary plan. This will be reflected in the staff report being sent to the Planning and Housing committee by May 24th.

- Q: Was there consultation with Housing Cafe regarding the rent geared to income housing development
 - Response by Alicia Rinaldi: there has been engagement with Housing now and other groups, but Alicia is not sure if there was a specific meeting with Housing Cafe.
- Q: What percentage of land development, public spaces, etc. that will be designated for the Indigenous community?
 - Response by Alicia Rinaldi and Sundus Balata: There has not been a percentage designated, but they are actively engaging with the Indigenous community, and this is a component of every aspect of the consultation process. Hoping that resources and priority areas will be designated through the consultation process.
- Q: What will be the effect on congestion along Sheppard Avenue, and is there a plan to address the increase of traffic
 - Response by Alicia Rinaldi: There will be a significant impact on traffic along Sheppard. The effect and response is addressed in the Transportation Master Plan, a part of the Master Environmental Servicing plan. More information on this will be shared on Monday June 20th at 6:30pm at the virtual public meeting. As part of a statutory requirement, an environmental impact assessment on the MESP and Transportation Master Plan will be completed. The public is encouraged to attend the June 20th meeting as many options will be presented and discussed by the traffic consultant, and the public will be invited to participate.
- Comment: How will Update Downsview impact access to education programs at Downsview Park?
 - Response by Sundus Balata : Looking to increase the number and diversity of programs and services so that everyone benefits from this redevelopment.

The main questions asked of the CAC members in breakout rooms are listed below. See Appendix 2, page 7, to view all feedback shared in the Jamboard slides.

- Which demographics groups were reached effectively in Phase 1 engagement, and who has not yet been engaged?
- How can we better engage with seniors, youth, non-english speakers, and people without access to the internet
- What should be priority areas for thematic workshops in Phase 2? How should these workshops be executed?
- Where should pop-up engagement workshops be held? How can we incorporate accessibility considerations in in-person events?
- How should we address developments that have already begun the application process?

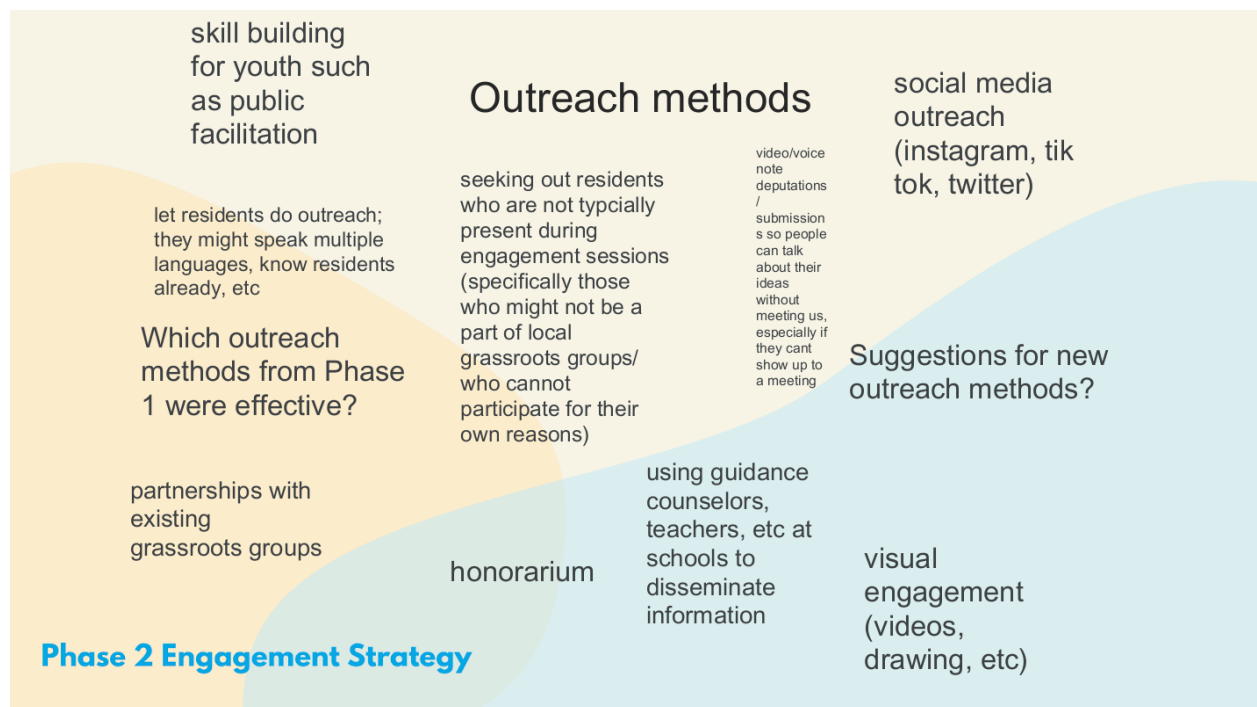
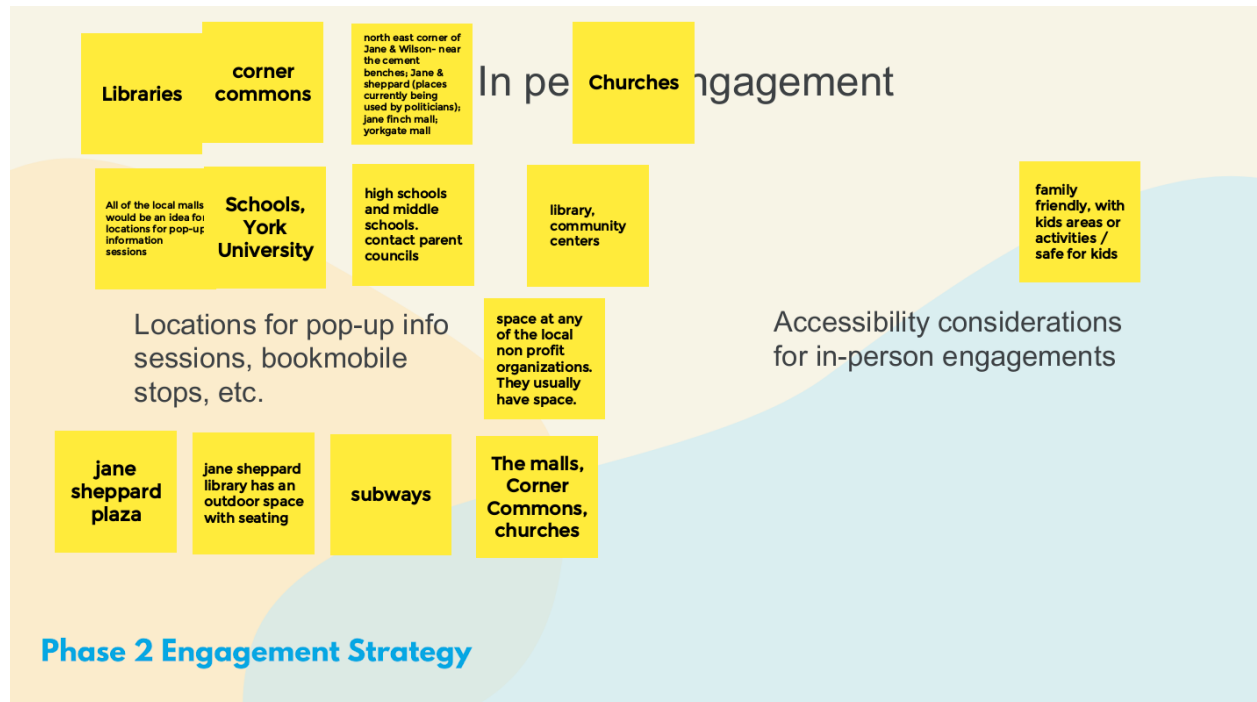
APPENDIX 1: AGENDA

6:00 Participants join
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screenshare welcome slide (Denelle)
6:05 Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, and agenda (Denelle)
<p>We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit and is within the territory of the Dish With One Spoon treaty.</p> <p>We are all Treaty people. Many of us have come here as settlers, immigrants, newcomers in this generation or generations past. We'd like to also acknowledge and honour those who came here involuntarily, particularly those who are descended from those brought here through enslavement.</p>
6:10 Downsview presentation (Alicia and Sundus)
6:20 Q&A
6:40 Updates on JFI work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on status of Ideas Report & Engagement Summary Report (CoT)
6:45 Feedback on ideas report & engagement summary report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion prompt- Do members feel the reports accurately represented the discussions & feedback collected in Phase 1?
6:55 5 minute break
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screenshare break slide (Denelle)
7:00 Present ideas from co-design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JFC shares main topics of discussion from internal co-design sessions (Denelle) • CoT shares engagement arc & three beats (Zahra) • Divide attendees into breakout groups (Denelle)
7:05 Small group discussion on Phase 2 engagement (Breakout groups)
<i>Discussion prompts</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout room facilitators introduce purpose of small-group discussion (Denelle, Elise) • Members to discuss topics, facilitators to ensure all ideas are written in the jamboard
7:35 Return to the main room, City staff leave.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank members for participation • City staff exit the zoom call
7:40 Roundtable discussion on the CAC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion prompts TBD (based on responses to CAC survey)

Roles	
Facilitator	Denelle
City staff attending	Zahra Joseph-Wilson Dan Rosen John Smith
Other Attendees	Alicia Rinaldi Sundus Balata (Update Downsview) Elise Antoniadis
CAC members	Christine Le, Devayani Chitnis, Jennifer Boakye, John Romano, Kemisha Thomas, Maria B, Sharon Taylor, Terry Knox, Troy Budhu, William Ballard, Mena Hervieux

APPENDIX 2: Jamboard





what's worked:

- residents leading the process
- not just being the face, but helping creating the content and contributing to the project outputs
- going to the bus stops early in the morning and at night when people are coming home
- handing out food, coffee, more casual conversations
- bbq
- social activities

festival atmosphere

making sure that people who might not feel comfortable speaking publicly have a space to share and participate in the engagement process

Space for learnings, suggestions, and techniques from other engagement processes in the community

resident ownership over the process

efficiency does not equal effectiveness

what can be improved:

- recognizing different learning styles and preferences
- thinking about what works best for both residents and the developers
- simplify technical concepts for residents in the area
- videos explaining concepts to scale the concept to someone who might not be familiar with the project

vaccine engagement at jane and finch worked really well

resident ambassadors who are leaders in their own community who have social capital within the community

residents talking to their peers and friends opens up for better input from the larger community

define an elevator pitch on JFI so everyone understands how to explain the process to residents

Phase 2 Engagement Strategy

Existing development applications

jane finch
mall

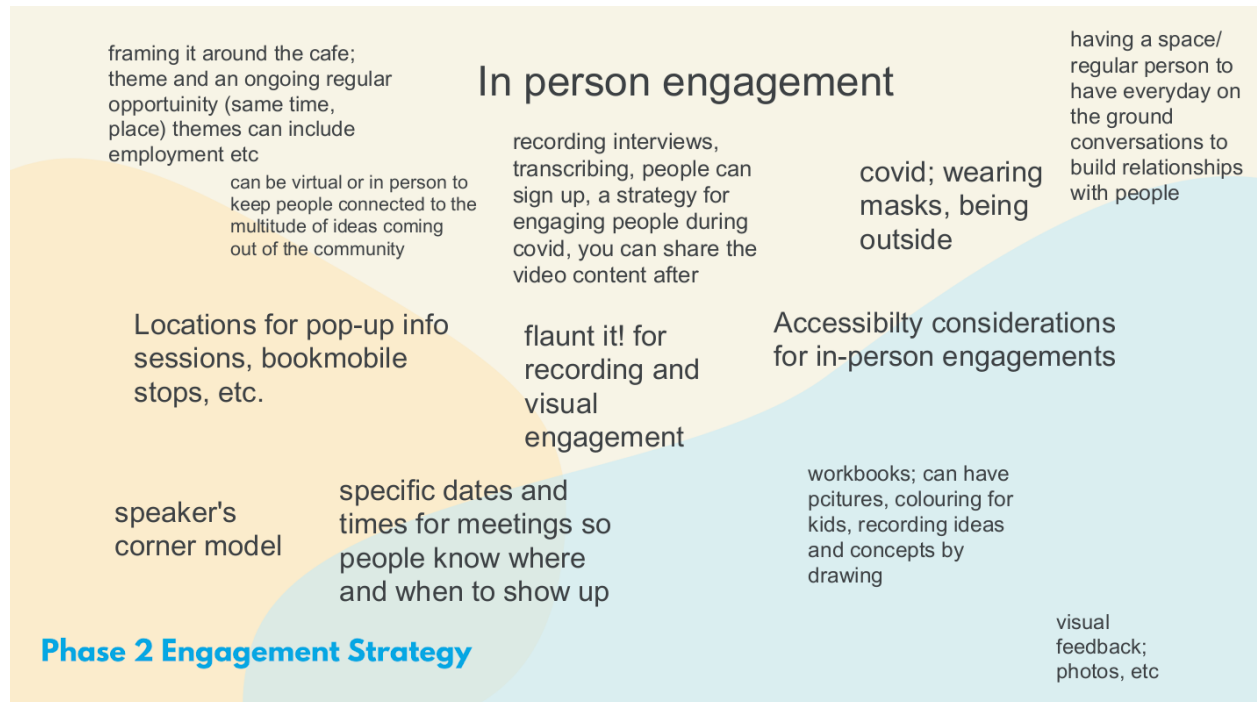
updates from
planners on
applications

Thoughts on addressing already-
planned developments & future
applications for development in
Phase 2

making applications
accessible for the
everyday reader

yorkgate
mall

Phase 2 Engagement Strategy



Demographics

invisible homeless;
people sleeping at
friends or who move
around a lot

Which demographics did
we reach effectively in
engagements & who was
left behind?

Renters; talk to tenant's
union/organisations?

Consulting renters and
their issues and
struggles, what they
need in future
development, keeping
them in the
conversation for
development
applications

How can we better
engage with seniors,
youth, non-english
speakers, people without
access to internet, and
other demographics
missed in Phase 1?

Connecting
with
community
language
centres

Children; partner
with a class or a
program to build
trust and include
them in the JFI
process (under 12)

someone who
represents a certain
ethnic group/the
larger community
should do outreach

Residents from certain
community
organizations can
connect with residents
from the community
they represent

Phase 2 Engagement Strategy

Outreach methods

BlogTO

**Local
news
outlets**

Contact
through radio.
98.7FM,
105.5FM

**social
media
ads**

get local
organizations
spread the
word through
newsletter

**TTC
ads**

Which outreach
methods from Phase
1 were effective?

The
downsview
advocate -
both online &
print

Suggestions for new
outreach methods?

Phase 2 Engagement Strategy

Learnings from other engagements

Could wait until we know who the developers are & understand their approach to engagement. Ex. walking tours

Space for learnings, suggestions, and techniques from other engagement processes in the community

Phase 2 Engagement Strategy

Existing development applications

also have the developers come to community meetings for the community can engage with them.

developers might have 3d models to view

Getting developers to come to CAC meetings to update members on their plan

Jobs are been offered to all postal code of Jane and Finch

Thoughts on addressing already-planned developments & future applications development in Phase 2

having meaningful conversations

We need to make sure the developers are accountable.

AIC: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/application-information-centre/>

Phase 2 Engagement Strategy