

# **Jane Finch Initiative: June and July 2022 Information and Feedback Sessions:**

- **Corner Commons, June 24th, 2022, 2-6pm**
  - **Driftwood Community Centre, July 21, 2-6pm**
  - **Oakdale Community Centre, July 26, 2-6pm**
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**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.

## **ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY**

From 2-6pm on June 24th, July 21st, and July 26th, 2022, the Jane Finch Initiative Information and Feedback Sessions were hosted by the Jane Finch Community and Family (JFCF) Centre and City of Toronto staff. These consultation events are a part of the Jane Finch Initiative's comprehensive engagement stream and were held in-person at the Corner Commons community space, the Driftwood Community and Recreation Centre, and Oakdale Community Centre.

The purpose of the events was to:

- Inform residents of the Jane Finch Initiative
- Collect notes on residents' concerns, interests, and valued features
- Distribute flyers and booklets about the Jane Finch Initiative

## **ATTENDEES:**

- 3 JFCF centre staff: Denelle Carvalho, Clara Stewart Robertson, Elise Antonialdis
- 5 City of Toronto Staff: Leah Birnbaum, Andrea Raymond Wong, Gary Miedema, John Smith, Alyssa Krantzberg
- 1 Community Advisory Committee member, Maize Blanchard

## HOW WE ENGAGED

City staff members and Jane Finch Centre staff members hosted a table at the Corner Commons community space, the Driftwood Community . Flyers, booklets, and refreshments were distributed to community members, and community members had the opportunity to share feedback either in writing, or directly with staff in informal conversation.

## WHAT WE HEARD

This section includes the summaries of the feedback collected from the discussions during the feedback and information session.

The main questions asked of the participants were the following:

- What matters to you about how this area of the city might change with the LRT coming in?
- What do you think about Corner Commons? What would you add to a public space like this if it were permanent?
- How do you get around the neighbourhood? Does it depend on the type of activity you are doing?
- What features of this neighbourhood do you love? What would you want to have change?

## ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

- 140 popsicles and drinks handed out to community members on a hot day
- Informal discussions with about 60 people
- Handed out flyers about the Jane Finch Initiative and invited people to get in touch through email or phone if they would like to provide their input or have questions
- 11 people signed up to receive e-updates about the Jane Finch Initiative
- Discussions touched on the following topics:
  - The need to improve transit connectivity and frequency, including access to the new LRT from neighbourhoods with dead end roads, more frequent busses at night
  - Pedestrian safety for all ages, especially around unsafe intersections, narrow sidewalks and unease walking at night.
  - Traffic safety, including red light cameras, designated bike lanes, more speed bumps, and safer intersections.
  - The value of the shops and services in the mall, and the role of the Jane Finch Mall as a community space

- Public space and the need for casual gathering spaces outdoors, and organized community events in parks and public spaces.
- Appreciation for the existing community services and community spaces, including the winter and summer programs at Driftwood Community Centre, after-school programs, arts programming. There is a desire for additional programming at community centres to serve more people, and a concern that some programming and services have been lost
- Concerns about safety in public spaces and for kids walking to school
- Local job opportunities
- Concerns about gentrification and affordability, especially affordability of housing, programs, stores, and services.