

**Jane Finch
Initiative: Community
Advisory Committee Meeting
September 20, 2022
6:00-8:00pm**



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 September 20, 2022, the Jane Finch Initiative 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 Jamboard frames can be viewed in Appendix 1 and 2 on pages 6 and 7 of this document.

The purpose of the event was to:

- Inform members of the Community Benefits Framework, and receive input on the process.
- Inform members of the JFM+ Visioning Process, and receive input on the future of the Jane Finch Mall site.
- Inform members of work being done by Jane Finch Centre staff on local hiring opportunities, and receive input on opportunities for advancing this work.

ATTENDEES:

- 4 JFCF centre staff, Clara Stewart-Robertson, Amadeo Ventura, Anna-Kay Brown, Denelle Carvalho

- 3 City of Toronto staff, Leah Birnbaum, Dan Rosen, John Smith,
- 6 JFM+ staff and community animators, Keisha St. Louis-McBurnie, Craig Lametti, Carmen Smith, Terry Knox (also attending as a CAC member), Christine Le (also attending as a CAC member), and Troy Budhu (also attending as a CAC member).
- 12 Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members: William Ballard, Devayani Chitnis, John Romano, Susel Munoz, Maize Blanchard, William Lopez, Mena Hervieux, Maria B, Kayzie Sutton, Terry Knox, Christine Le, and Troy Budhu.

HOW WE ENGAGED

- Denelle Carvalho shared welcoming remarks and a land acknowledgement.
- Dan Rosen and John Smith shared a presentation on the Community Benefits Framework at the City of Toronto.
- Keisha St. Louis-McBurnie, Craig Lametti, Carmen Smith, Terry Knox, Christine Le, and Troy Budhu shared a presentation on the visioning process for the future of the Jane Finch Mall site.
- Anna Kay Brown Shared an update on the work being done by the Jane Finch Centre on local hiring in long term care, transit, and York University.
- Time was allotted for breakout rooms
 - Breakout room facilitators introduced the exercise and the Jamboard medium.
 - Members were invited to share ideas and suggestions.
 - Breakout room facilitators ensured that all comments were noted on the Jamboard.

WHAT WE HEARD

This section includes the summaries of the feedback collected from the discussions during the Zoom meeting. Notes were provided after the meeting.

- Question: How does the Community Benefits Framework connect to the Jane Finch Initiative?
 - Response from City staff: Community assets and public realm areas will be identified in the secondary plan, and other recommendations based on ideas, feedback and policy levers identified in the Jane Finch Initiative can be progressed.
 - *Additional note from City staff: One of the directions in the JFI Ideas Report is to “explore community benefits hiring and training opportunities in public sector infrastructure projects.” While there are no immediate specific City infrastructure projects for community benefits to be attached to, staff will evaluate any opportunities arising from upcoming capital and*

infrastructure upgrades. The City will also encourage other levels of government and public institutions to implement community benefits as part of their investments and procurement. More generally, a key principle of a new Secondary Plan and Community Development Plan is that neighbourhood change and development will provide benefits to existing residents.

- Question: How are communities informed about the benefits and opportunities?
 - Response from John Smith: Just as with other social development engagement processes happening in other parts of the city, there is a need to have ongoing engagement both throughout the development of the plan and in the long-term.
 - *Additional note from City Staff: The Ideas Report directs staff to assess and strengthen workforce development supports in Jane and Finch, and to explore the potential of a local workforce intermediary to support hiring and training opportunities, including community benefits. Improved communications about employment and training opportunities will be a key function and will be explored through the CDP process*
- Question: How can we track the impact of community benefit initiatives? It is important to ensure that the success of benefits is being measured.
 - Response from City staff: Right now, there are multiple monitoring tools that can be used track progress and the achievement of targets. As an example, several tools are being used to monitor employment outcomes related to casino expansion in Rexdale. After a JFI Secondary Plan and Community Development Plan are adopted, an ongoing monitoring process of key neighbourhood indicators will be implemented to track outcomes, informed by the community engagement process.
- Question: Is the City thinking about providing support for the workforce development, or would this be the responsibility of developers?
 - Response from City staff: This would primarily be the responsibility of developers, but the City's Community Benefits Framework Office has varying amounts of authority and leverage depending on the specific development. There are also situations in which City and Provincial agencies (such as TCHC) have the ability to support local workforce development within their institutions.
- Question: When the expansion to the Jane Finch Mall is completed, is there a plan to increase the amount of parking spaces available?
 - Response from Jane Finch Mall Consultants: The mall is not planning on expanding. Instead, they are looking at a complete renovation of the entire site over time. There is an intent to generally maintain retail spaces and expand community services. Based on the research done by the transportation consulting team, there are already enough parking spots available. As development progresses, existing spots will be moved underground. Note that many people already walk or take transit to access the mall.
- Comment: There is an issue with pigeons in the west side of the parking lot, and the amount of pigeon defecation is a significant eyesore and is rarely cleaned.

- Response from Jane Finch Mall Consultants: Thank you. This feedback will be shared with the owners and management at the mall.
- Question: What retail opportunities will be available at the new mall?
 - Response from Jane Finch Mall Consultants: A common message is that there is a desire to retain the small, independent, locally owned stores, but also create space for fancier chain stores.
- Question: Has there been any thought on the redevelopment of the Yorkgate Mall?
 - Response from Jane Finch Mall Consultants: The JFM+ team is not able to speak on the Yorkgate Mall redevelopment as these are separate projects.
 - *Additional note from City staff: There is an application for a tower on the site of the Yorkgate Mall. Details on the application are available here: <http://app.toronto.ca/AIC/index.do?folderRsn=uO5cKwzLB06R%2FJa%2B0v4F4w%3D%3D>*
- Question: When will the construction begin on the Jane Finch Mall site?
 - Response from Jane Finch Mall Consultants: The owners don't currently have a development partner, so we are still relatively early in the process. It will definitely be after the completion of the Finch West LRT.

Community Benefits Framework Breakout Room

- Comments:
 - Social capital and social networks are tangible assets in certain sectors.
 - Workforce intermediaries as a Community Benefits Approach.
 - Community Benefits outcomes at the long-term care facility and at the Community Hub and Centre for the Arts.
 - The City should consider the timeline for the impact of the community benefits.
 - Concern that plans will not change with the needs of the community over the next few years.

JFM+ Breakout Room

- Comments:
 - Learning Enrichment is undergoing development. This can inform the JFM+ process.
 - How will the redevelopment impact traffic?
 - Response from Jane Finch Mall Consultants: The developer will be required to do this analysis as a part of their application to the City for permission to build.
 - Active transportation surrounding and on the site should be a priority.
 - Concern about gentrification and the types of shops and services that the new redeveloped mall will have. Affordable retail and grocers should be maintained, not replaced by fancier shops.

- The JFM+ process should think about new ways to continue to support the community, rather than just adding residential and retail spaces.
- The mall has historically been prominent, but now there is growing competition.
- Concern that the redevelopment will take too long and would like to see some changes happening soon
- The McDonalds drive through has had a negative impact on the traffic and poses a hazard to pedestrians.
 - Response from Jane Finch Mall Consultants: The City would not support having drive-throughs as a part of the redevelopment changes.

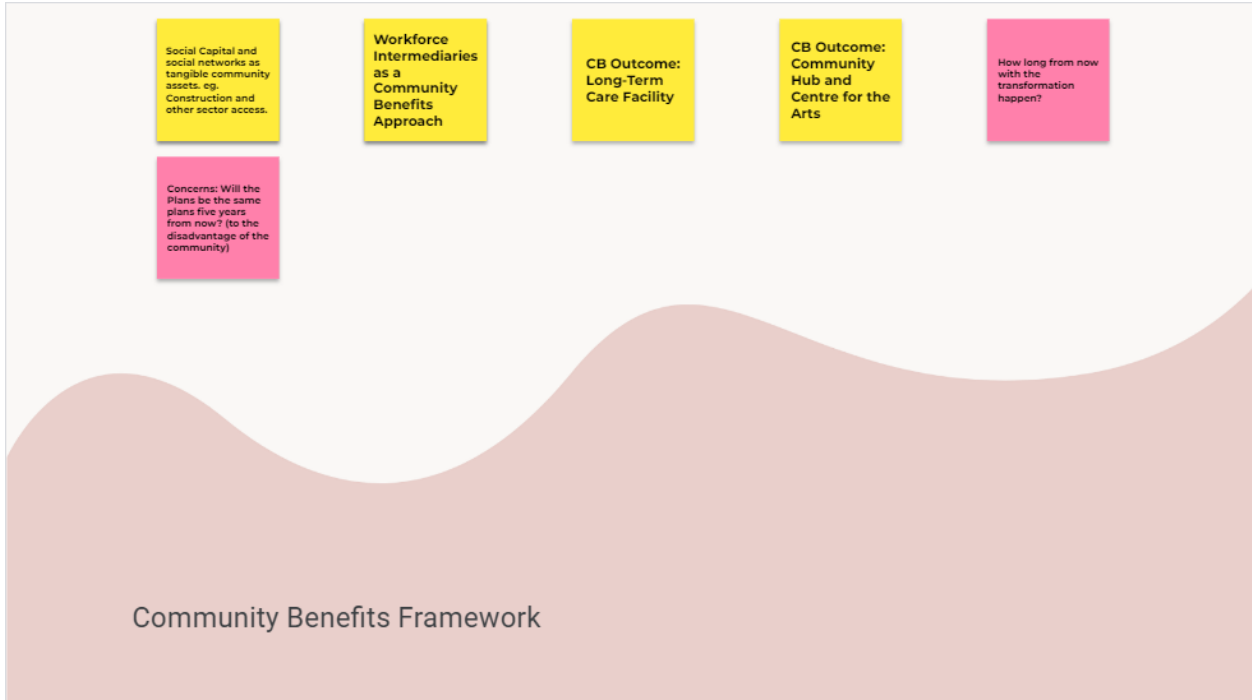
Local Hiring Breakout Room

- Comments
 - The engagement strategy should consider youth at risk, including youth dealing with mental health challenges and dealing with the justice system.
 - Ontario Works data should be taken into consideration.
 - There is interest in seeing how this work will involve and support single parents.

APPENDIX 1: AGENDA

6:00 Participants Join
6:05 Welcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions, land acknowledgement, agenda [Denelle] <p>*Begin recording</p>
6:10 Community Benefits Framework
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 minutes: Presentation [Dan and John]• 5 minutes: Q&A [All]
6:30 JFM+
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 minutes: Presentation [Urban Strategies]• 5 minutes Q&A [All]
6:50 Local Hiring Introduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 minutes: Update on local hiring [Anna-Kay]
6:55 Introduce Breakout Rooms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 minutes: Introduce breakout rooms [Denelle]
7:00 Enter Breakout Rooms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 minutes: Session 1• <i>Return to main room</i>• 20 minutes: Session 2
7:45 Closing notes and next steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closing notes TBD [Denelle]

APPENDIX 2: Jamboard



Does the strategy address youth at risk? Such as mental health and youth dealing with the justice system.

Is Ontario Works data taken into consideration in this report?

There is interest in seeing how this work involves single parents.

Hiring Strategy Framework: It is a 40-page document that looks into various age groups and their needs and circumstances. It is a wholistic document that looks into conditions and strategies.

The Document looks into opportunities tied to postal codes and the different pocket areas needing help.

An outreach report has been produced on youths that have criminal records.

Long-term care facility: to be completed in early 2023. The Ontario Accelerated project allows fast construction through the bypassing of municipal procedures. What does hiring look like at this facility?

Currently doing outreach with folks working in long-term facilities to gain knowledge of what the work looks like and what is necessary for local residents to work at the long-term facility.

Finch West Maintenance and Storage Facility: Possibility of 3 bodies that will be working from there - Metrolinx, TTC, and Mosaic (contractor). Working on what local hiring will look like for this location.

York Anchor: Giving feedback on policies that target the local community for hiring.

Local Hiring