

Jane Finch Initiative: Community Advisory Committee Meeting



6:00-8:00pm, November 21st, 2023

OVERVIEW

On November 21st, 2023, a Jane Finch Initiative Community Advisory Committee (CAC) 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 process and it was held online over Zoom. The agenda and project background can be viewed in the appendices.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Present an overview of the Draft Secondary Plan and Urban Design Guidelines
- Present an update on the Bike Share implementation plan

WHAT WE HEARD

This section includes the summaries of the feedback collected from the large group and small group discussions during the Zoom meeting.

Key Themes

Discussion on Draft Secondary Plan and Urban Design Guidelines

- Concerns about winter maintenance and infrastructure, including environmentally responsible ways to maintain accessible walkways through winter.
- Questions about the City's ability to link the timing of new development to the provision of adequate infrastructure, parks, and other amenities. Concern that new development would outpace the hard and soft infrastructure needed to support it.
- Ensuring livability for residents (including newcomers), as density increases. Need to align growth with services, especially healthcare.
- Creating pet-friendly spaces, including improving the quality and quantity of amenities for dog owners. Also, pet waste receptacles support maintaining beautiful spaces for all.
- The need to improve facilities and access to programming at local community centres.

Bike Share Toronto Implementation

- Support for Bike Share network expansion in the area
- Suggestions to align the Bike Share expansion with educational opportunities, including virtual and in-person demonstrations, collaborations with the 15 Tobermory

Summary Report by the Jane Finch Community and Family Centre

Bike Hub.

- Concerns about security, including addressing vandalism and theft.

Recorded Feedback

Planning Open House Content Discussion

- Salt is terrible for the trees! Find alternative, green ways to clear sidewalks
- Walkways should be maintained through winter. Many residents primarily walk to get around
- Encourage heated sidewalks to ensure they are clear of snow and ice
- Does the City have the enforcement ability to stop a building from going up if the infrastructure is lacking?
- Can the City ensure that the community will be supported in terms of parks and other things?
- How can we ensure liveability for residents, including new residents, as density increases?
- We need dog off-leash areas, there are none in the area right now
- Growth and services must come together
- Social infrastructure needs to be not maintained but improved
- We are lacking amenities for dog owners
- There is a need for dog off-leash areas and dog parks
- The existing splash pads are too far to walk from Jane and Finch
- Dominica Di Luca Rec. Centre is valued as a heritage space
- Domenico Di Luca keeps cancelling all the programs I try to sign my kids up for. The Centre is not functioning well.

Discussion on Bike Share Toronto Implementation

- Desire for stations nearer to Jane and Sheppard.
- It is good that there are stations at Jane and Lawrence.
- Consider “end-to-end” trips, making sure that people can cycle from their homes to their destinations.
- It should be possible to pay for bikes without a credit card
- Need for more alignment with other transportation options
- More programming is needed to encourage people to use Bike Share and cycling in general. Involving and partnering with groups like the Bike Hub at 15 Tobermory would be helpful.
- Including something like a QR code for a video tutorial on how to use the Bike Share bikes would be useful.
- In-person demonstrations on using Bike Share bikes would be helpful.
- The Bike Share stations can easily be vandalized with graffiti or other damage
- How secure are the bikes? Is there some kind of a tracking system or a GPS to address potential theft?

- Response from Bike Share representative: yes, all bikes are equipped with GPS trackers. Users are always encouraged to dock their bikes, and to never leave them unattended.

APPENDIX A: AGENDA

6:00 Participants Join
6:05 Welcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introductions, land acknowledgement, agenda [JFC] ● Housekeeping: December meeting update
6:10 Open House Boards & Secondary Plan Update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6:10 - 7:25 Open House Boards & Secondary Plan Update [All]
7:25 Bikeshare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7:25 - 7:55 Bike Share Presentation and Q&A [Bike Share]
7:55 Closing Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next steps & things to look out for [JFC] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CAC roles in the November Open House ○ Update on the CDP Actions ○ JFC to share materials & contacts in follow-up
<p>Attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3 City of Toronto representatives: Leah Birnbaum, Zahra Joseph-Wilson, Dan Rosen ● 2 Jane Finch Community and Family Centre representatives: Clara Stewart Robertson, Denelle Carvalho ● 1 Bike Share Toronto representative: Cristina Valente ● 13 Community Advisory Committee members: Maize Blanchard, Jennifer Boakye, Veronica Eastman, Devayani Chitnis, Sharon Taylor, William Ballard, Kemisha Thomas, Christine Le, Edna Cofles Gualtero, Maria B, Kayzie Sutton, Terryl Knox, Mena Hervieux

APPENDIX B: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The City of Toronto's Jane Finch Initiative is a resident-informed project to plan for the future of the Jane and Finch area. Together, we are developing a community development plan and a land use plan so that residents and businesses are supported as the area changes over time with the opening of the Finch West LRT.

The [Jane Finch Initiative](#) is a resident-informed project to plan for the future of the Jane and Finch area and to determine 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](#)), centered on the intersection of Jane Street and Finch Avenue West.

The Jane Finch Community and Family Centre are supporting the City's community engagement process by facilitating community consultations.

The initiative involves three integrated streams of work:

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