

FALSE CREEK FLATS

PHASE 1.2: COMMUNITY GROUP MEETINGS

1 OVERVIEW

The City is undertaking a two phase Work Program for land use and transportation planning in the False Creek Flats. The planning process is directed towards:

*Work
Program*

- Better integration of the western and southern I3 areas of the Flats into surrounding neighbourhoods;
- Articulating longer-range land-use and transportation directions for the Flats including an overall economic development perspective; and
- Maintaining and strengthening the Port and Downtown servicing role of the I2 area in the eastern Flats.

A number of issues and opportunities will need to be negotiated to meet these goals. Various consultations, studies, and initial plans have been completed and/or are underway to help inform the planning process.

Phase 1

Phase 1 of the program is essentially a scoping task. It is focussed on developing consensus on the scope and process for longer range vision development in Phase 2. Phase 1 involves consultation with a number of stakeholders/stakeholder groups and interested parties to explore various short and longer term goals, objectives and issues, and how they fit within the land use and transportation planning process. A critical component of Phase 1 will be on identifying what is to be addressed in the Phase 2 visioning process with particular attention to which current and other possible proposals could move ahead simultaneous with Phase 2 vision planning. The key intended product outcome of Phase 1 is a Terms of Reference for Phase 2 Visioning.

*Community
Meetings*

Obtaining an understanding of different stakeholders' views, concerns, issues, wishes and desires is a key step in the Phase 1 process. To that end, the City organized a series of preliminary, interest-based discussions and community group meetings with the aim of developing a working list of issues, ideas, opportunities and constraints which will serve as input to later scheduled multi-stakeholder workshops. Summaries of various consultations are currently being prepared by Staff. This report summarizes the purposes of four community meetings, the participants involved and the information gathered. An outline of next steps is also provided.

2 PURPOSE

The City of Vancouver's purpose in holding various discussions and meetings was threefold:

1. Provide information and background regarding False Creek Flats land use, transportation, and the Phase 1 Scoping process;
2. Obtain a sense of the views and issues related to land use and transportation planning in the Flats from the perspectives of different community groups; and
3. Help prepare staff and stakeholders for next steps including participation in June Stakeholder Workshops

3 PARTICIPANTS

The search for potential participants focussed on people most likely to be affected by planning decisions and/or who could provide information useful to future vision and planning for the site. More specifically, the City's community-based meetings¹ focussed on four community neighbourhoods surrounding the Flats: Mount Pleasant, CityGate/Strathcona, Downtown East Side, and Grandview/Woodlands. Representatives from local resident associations, community centres, local area networking groups, Business Improvement Associations (BIAs), NGOs (e.g., those concerned with employment, history/heritage, education/learning, stewardship, youth, arts, safety), and First Nations were invited to participate. Thirty people confirmed agreement to participate; twenty-four actually participated. A full list of invitees and participants/organizations is included in Appendix A.

4 THE MEETINGS

Meetings were designed to meet the following objectives:

- a. Provide 'the Story' of the Flats in terms of current state, in process and possible future plans (policies, ideas, proposals);
- b. Explore participants' issues, concerns and ideas regarding current and future planning;
- c. Obtain recommendations for information exchange, consultation and participation in the ongoing planning process.

Learning about respondents' attitudes, feelings, beliefs, experiences and reactions to planning options and opportunities was the key task. Interaction among participants enriched information available to both staff and participants and helped to determine what issues were most salient and why. A brief summary of the discussion outcomes follow.

¹ Note that, concurrent with City planning of Phase 1 & 2, a series of Flats-related community-based workshops were held just prior to, and independent from, the City's meetings. These workshops were conducted as part of an NGO visioning project funded by a VanCity Community Solutions Fund grant. While the objectives of these independent workshops were somewhat different from City meetings' objectives, in the main, issues and concerns expressed in both series of meetings were similar. A summary report of the NGO workshops is provided in Appendix E