

Cambie Corridor Youth Engagement

The youth engagement process, as part of the Cambie Corridor Planning program, aims to engage youth leaders in two high schools in the Corridor area. Eric Hamber Secondary is located near 33rd Avenue, and Churchill Secondary is located near 57th Avenue, both are two blocks west of Cambie Street.

In late May and early June 2010, two workshops were completed to gather youth perspectives on the Corridor, with emphasis on mobility – how, where and why youth move around the Corridor. Specifically, the workshops were designed to engage youth on how they use Cambie Street; find out what is not available in their neighbourhood and/or in need of improvement; and, if there were a new Canada Line Station near their school, how might it change their mobility patterns.

To do the workshop, the Cambie Corridor Planning program partnered with the Vancouver School Board. The workshops were completed over the lunch period at the respective school. The following are the notes from the workshops.

Churchill Secondary - May 26, 2010

26 youth in attendance

1) Why do you use the Canada Line, and how do you get to the Canada Line/Cambie Street (time/frequency/method)

The youth noted that the ways they get around can be a combination of methods, and depends on if they're alone or with friends or family, weather, destination, and the day of the week. Most of the students drive or are driven to school, with a few students walking and taking the bus.

Many of them use the Canada Line on a 'regular basis'. They use it to go:

- Downtown – volunteer, Vancouver Public Library, school events
- Richmond – shopping, eating
- School
- Oakridge Mall as a destination
- Shops around Broadway, Cambie and 16th – these areas have more variety of shops, food.
- Gym
- Field trips
- Volunteering
- Connect with friends who live along Canada Line
- Connect with 49th Bus
- Music Lessons – Cambie and 16th



2) What is not available in your community/what would you improve?

Recreation:

- Community Centre that is closer
 - Marpole CC - - no consulting of youth, program
 - Doesn't service majority of youth
 - Minimal programs like badminton
- Structured programs (at YMCA, not at Marpole CC because it's for young children)
- Karaoke
- Pool
- Improve walking path along 49th
- 54th Avenue is a popular walking route – but needs improvement such as sidewalks and traffic calming
- Traffic signal is needed at 54th and Cambie
- Improve park use at Cambie Park (Cambie and 54th) to engage students and residents

Shops and stores

- Jugo juice at all the Canada Line stations is not a good choice for affordable drinks
- Places to print/photocopy
- Vegetarian restaurant
- Restaurants in general (quick and easy and cheap)
- No youth related shops in Oakridge
- Oakridge Mall is too small with too much adult stuff; also too expensive and fancy
- Oakridge Mall 'sucks' – it's for old people
- Churchill students do not have anywhere to eat – no convenience stores, restaurants (closest place to eat is 49th/Oak)
- Ice cream shop, restaurants, convenience stores, art store, dollar store, stationary, coffee/bubble tea
- Need more variety of shops, meeting places and areas to eat
- Strengthening services around 49th Ave Station would make sense

Transit:

- No bus stop in front of school – have to walk to 49th, Cambie or Oak

Other:

- Would like more direct outlets to help out/give back to the community
 - participate in existing events
 - coordinate an event for the public (build more of a community)
 - Main Street has Diwali/Vaisaki, Oak Street has VanDusen Garden events
- Tutoring services are currently located in Kerrisdale and not in this area

3) If there were a Canada Line station at 57th, how would it change your getting around?

- Some said this would not make a difference about how youth use the Canada Line
- Others said that they would use the new station
- The idea of planning ahead is good. Growth around a new station would be good to have new stores such as bubble tea, sushi, subway restaurant
- It would shorten the amount of time it takes to get to places and this would be a positive thing

Eric Hamber Secondary - June 1, 2010

32 youth in attendance

1) Why do you use the Canada Line, and how do you get to the Canada Line/Cambie Street (time/frequency/method)

Most of the youth drive or are driven to and from school, while some take the bus and walk, and only a few students bike. Asked why people do not walk more, one participant said “some parents don’t let students walk or take the bus to school”. The youth said it is for safety concerns especially for girls, but they say the safety issue is a non-issue as there are lots of students who travel together to and from school. One participant also said there is a lack of sidewalks and cross walks in the areas around the school.

Students seemed to be split among using King Edward and Oakridge Stations.

Those that use the Canada Line, go to the following locations and destinations:

- Downtown – hang out, shopping
- Richmond – piano lessons, shopping, restaurants
- Dragon Boat practice at Science World
- Bowling at Marine and Fraser
- Musqueam Golf Course
- Stanley Park
- Metrotown - shopping

Students may take transit one way vs. both way for after school activities (Home, Oakridge Mall, volunteer positions- elementary schools, blood donor clinic, Douglas Park Community Centre, Bonsor Community Centre in Burnaby). Transportation choice may depend on mood at the time or number of people travelling together.

Weekend travel habits differ from weekend day travel, and depend on whether travelling alone or with family. Families tend not to use transit, and cited the cost, convenience and time as the factors to determine if they will use transit.

2) What is not available in your community/what would you improve?

Recreation:

- Walking and cycling paths connecting to Riley Park Community Centre are needed
- Community Centre should be closer to Hamber
- We need recreation facilities for swimming and bowling
- More place to hang out
- QE Park is a destination for tourist but to youth it is an obstacle for connection (Community



Centre and school should be better connected)

- Youth do not know how to make good use of the space at QE Park
- Increase local use of QE park should be explored
- Hot yoga, Bowling, Go-carting, Aquarium
- Nothing to do for older kids in the community – very few extracurricular activities

Shops/Stores:

- Different kind of grocery stores
- Movie rental store
- Need more healthy food and cheap places to eat. There are too many fast food options
- Few options/choices during lunch due to distance from schools to restaurants
- Would like to see a nicer shopping strip in the neighbourhood. Smaller version of Robson Street.
- Community coffee shops – these coffee shops are different than chain coffee shops as they act as better public gathering spaces and encourages people to get to know one another.

Transit

- Bus route running east and west is needed for people going to Hamber – there was a petition organized in 2009 asking for the 33rd Bus to go through to Hamber
- Taking bike on Canada line is not easy – the elevator is out of the way to bring the bike on board
- Buses are infrequent and always packed

3) If there were a Canada Line station at 33rd, how would it change your getting around?

- It would be easier for students and people living near 33rd and a good connection to QE Park.
- More services should accompany the future station (shops, restaurants – not fast food convenience stores, office supplies)
- Also cited other transit issues (33rd bus does not connect with their school)