

The Following *CityPlan* Directions Provide a Checklist for Community Visions:

**Strengthen neighbourhood centres**

Provide shops, jobs, and services close to home, and create safe, inviting public places to meet and socialize.

**Improve safety and better target community services**

Identify ways to increase safety; to better provide community services; and to use arts and cultural activities to support community identity and participation.

**Reduce reliance on the car**

Make it easier to get around on foot, by bike, and by transit.

**Improve the environment**

Suggest ways to improve air quality, conserve water and energy, and reduce waste.

**Increase the variety and affordability of housing**

Find ways to help meet the housing needs of community residents of all ages and incomes.

**Define neighbourhood character**

Define what aspects of neighbourhood character, heritage, and appearance to retain, and decide the character of new development.

**Diversify parks and public places**

Meet park needs, and identify a variety of designs, activities and locations for all kinds of public places, from play areas to greenways and gathering places.

**Involve people and redirect resources**

Find new ways to involve people and to redirect resources to bring CityPlan Directions and the Community Vision to life.

# Vision Background

## An Overview of the Community Vision Program

The Vision is based on *CityPlan: Directions for Vancouver* which was adopted by City Council in 1995 as an overall vision for the city. In July 1996 City Council approved the Community Visions Program as a way of bringing CityPlan's city-wide directions to the community level. The program Terms of Reference describe the ground rules and process for creating a Community Vision. The program asks each community to implement CityPlan Directions in a way and at a scale and pace that suits the community.

## What is This Vision?

This Vision describes the kind of community that people who live and work in Riley Park/South Cambie (RPSC) want it to become over the next 10 to 20 years, and how CityPlan Directions should be implemented in RPSC. It identifies what people value and want to preserve, what improvements are needed, and how change should occur. It will be used at City Hall to help set priorities for capital projects, direct City programs and services, and make decisions affecting this community. It also provides an opportunity for community organizations and individuals to act on Directions that the community has endorsed.

## How was this Vision Created?

The Vision Directions were developed by people who live and work in RPSC. The program began in October 2003 with community outreach and a weekend Visions Fair in February 2004. The heart of the process was a series of intensive public workshops from April to June 2004, where over 400 people spent many hours developing ideas and options on a variety of topics. From these sessions, Vision Directions were created and published in the Community Vision Choices Survey which was distributed to all households, businesses, and property owners in May 2005. In addition, a random sample of households was given the same survey. Over 1900 people responded to the survey to create a shared Vision for the future. In November 2005 the Vision Directions that were supported by survey respondents were approved by City Council.

A Community Liaison Group, which was composed of a wide range of community volunteers, provided continuity throughout the process, served as a 'watchdog' to ensure that community input was carried through, and advised staff on community outreach and other matters.

## Making the Vision Happen

The Community Vision sets broad Directions for the future. Some of these Directions will happen almost immediately, others over many years. Some Directions will help to set priorities and to direct funds within the wide variety of existing tools and programs like capital plans, zoning, traffic calming, business improvement area assistance, bike-ways, and greenways. The Vision will help to set priorities and to direct funds to programs which achieve the Vision over time.

Some Vision Directions are translated into actions and projects through more detailed planning — for example: to identify the specific location and design of new types of housing, and to design improvements to community shopping areas. The Vision also provides the community with a framework for action and volunteer initiatives. Continued community involvement will be necessary to set priorities and provide leadership over the life of the Vision. Combined action by the City and the community is the key to making the Vision happen.