

Downtown Eastside (DTES) Residential Development Capacity Estimates

The residential development capacity of a neighbourhood, or how much new housing could be constructed in the area, can be estimated in two ways – by looking at development capacity or zoned capacity.

Development Capacity Model (estimate to 2041)

This is the City’s standard approach for estimating growth. The model is a supply-based approach that forecasts to 2041. It is based on actual rates of development and takes into account constraints in identifying redevelopment sites (e.g. Rate of Change Policy for Rental Housing). It also reflects existing City land use policy in addition to current zoning.

Zoned Capacity Calculation

The zoned capacity calculation is in response to the February 2012 Council motion requesting these estimates. This model is a supply-based approach that has no time constraints. It ignores existing City land use policy and is simply a “build-out calculation” that assumes the maximum residential floor space could be built on each site based on existing zoning.



For the Downtown Eastside community planning process, which is currently underway, the following estimates are based on existing policy and current zoning rather than any potential outcomes of the planning process.

Zone	2011		Development Capacity Model to 2041		Zoned Capacity Calculation	
	Population Estimate*	Dwelling Count†	Population Estimate**	Dwelling Estimate	Population Capacity**	Dwelling Capacity
Duplex (RT)	2,548	1,641	2,660	1,700	3,620	2,300
Apartment (RM)	155	86	160	90	160	90
Mixed Commercial/Residential (FC-1)	266	381	310	420	380	520
Heritage (HA)	4,769	4,726	6,160	5,940	16,200	15,600
Downtown District (DD)	875	1,111	1,450	1,700	2,770	3,250
Industrial (I & M)	148	246	1,920	1,900	1,920	1,900
Comprehensive Development (CD-1)	4,779	3,614	5,200	3,960	5,200	3,960
Downtown Eastside Oppenheimer (DEOD)	4,937	5,066	7,700	7,560	10,790	10,600
Total	18,477	16,871	25,560	23,270	41,040	38,200

Disclaimer: The table reflects a set of calculations as of October 2012. As zoning and policy is subject to regular change, the table only reflects a point in time.

* Population figures are estimated as zoning district boundaries and census blocks do not match. Data is based on Statistics Canada Census 2011 and includes a four per cent undercount.

† Dwelling count is calculated from BC Assessment records and City of Vancouver development tracking.

Assumptions used in the estimates of future DTES population and number of dwellings

A number of assumptions factor into the estimates of future population and dwellings. Illustrated examples comparing the two models are included on the next page.

1. DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY MODEL TO 2041

- a) Estimates include projects: completed since 2011, under construction, and approved for development but not yet started. These all represent population capacity. Examples in the Downtown Eastside include the The Flats at 219 East Georgia Street and the Keefer Block at 189 Keefer Street.
- b) Potential development site units are estimated at the average size of a Downtown Eastside unit built in the past 10 years in each zone.
- c) Apartment (RM) zones currently have a restriction on the redevelopment of property which requires 100 per cent replacement or ‘zero rate of change’ of existing rental housing. This restriction applies to all projects with six or more dwellings. Stratified development was excluded from development consideration. Capacity in the RM zones was

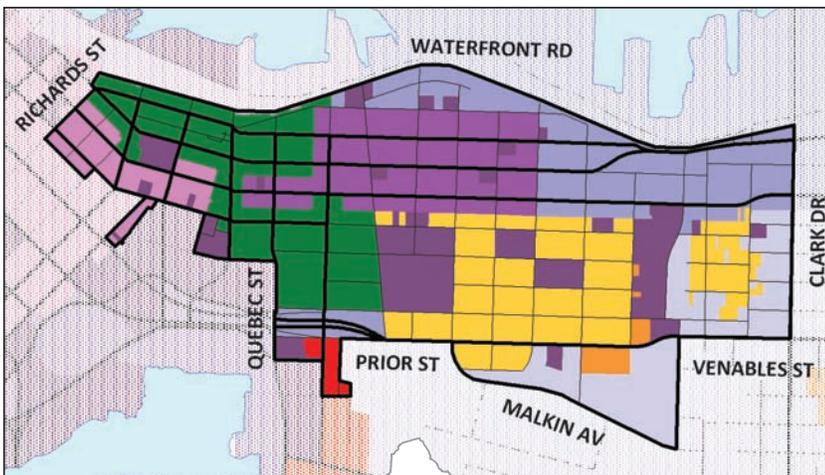
calculated by applying the rate of development experienced in the past 10 years to the remaining RM development sites.

- d) Heritage (HA) zones have no maximum permitted density. Capacity was estimated at the average density of HA developments built in the past 10 years.

2. ZONED CAPACITY CALCULATION

- a) Parks, schools, and institutional sites were removed from calculations.
- b) It is assumed that every existing land parcel is built to its maximum permitted residential density.
- c) Development is unconstrained by time.
- d) Existing policies for retention and protection of heritage and single room occupancy hotels (SROs) as well as existing rezoning policies were not taken into consideration.
- e) Zoned capacity was calculated at the current zoned permitted density. If a developer seeks a rezoning and Council approves it, then the capacity would increase and is not reflected in the capacity table.

Downtown Eastside Zoning Map



	RT - Duplex
	RM - Apartment
	C/MC - Mixed Commercial/ Residential
	I/IC - Light Industrial
	M - Industrial
	HA - Historic Area
	CD-1 - Comprehensive Development
	DD - Downtown District
	DEOD - Downtown Eastside/ Oppenheimer

Comparing the City's Development Capacity Model with Zoned Capacity Calculation

Example 1: St. Paul's Hospital

Development Capacity Model to 2041



Assumes the site remains a hospital with 4,700 jobs.

Zoned Capacity Calculation



Assumes the site would be redeveloped with residential units for 2,500 people, resulting in the loss of 4,700 jobs.

Example 2: Laneway Housing

Development Capacity Model to 2041



Assumes growth of 10,000 people by 2041 based on actual rate of development of 230 units per year.

Zoned Capacity Calculation



Assumes all laneway houses would be redeveloped, adding 88,000 people but it could take 300 years to build out.

Example 3: Little Mountain

Development Capacity Model to 2041



Assumes build-out based on recently adopted policy which allows rezoning and redevelopment to create 1,475 to 1,625 units.

Zoned Capacity Calculation



Assumes no rezoning as the Little Mountain policy is not taken into account. Illustration represents development at existing zoning which allows approximately 970 units.