

Our Winnipeg Consultation

December 4, 2017

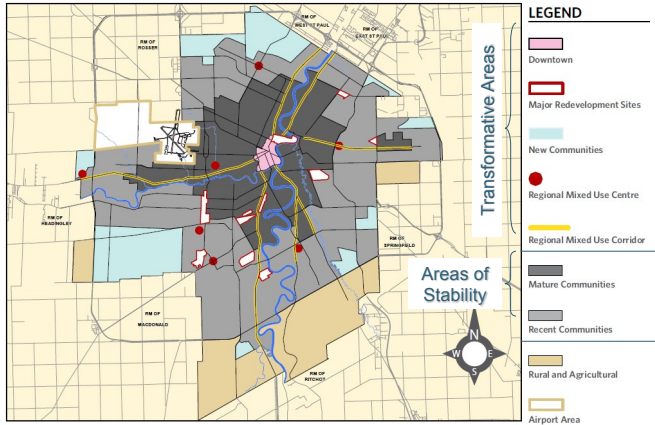
The City of Winnipeg is currently reviewing and updating OurWinnipeg, the City's long range plan that provides a vision and policies that influence the delivery of City services, how we get around the city, and decisions about how the city grows. As part of the first phase of engagement on the update, the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg invited its members and networks/coalitions/individuals it works closely with to a consultation to provide feedback to the OurWinnipeg Review Team.

The event was attended by 36 individuals, including students, staff of non-profit organizations, staff and volunteers from community coalitions including the Immigration Partnership of Winnipeg and Aboriginal Youth Opportunities, academics, and staff of healthcare organizations.

The event started with a presentation by the OurWinnipeg Review Team, below:

	<h2>What is OurWinnipeg?</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winnipeg's Development Plan, that establishes a vision and policies intended to direct the physical, social, environmental and economic development of our city today and as envisioned in the future.• Provides a 25 year vision for the entire city.• Provides broad policy direction that impacts all service areas.• Provides a framework for how we make big picture decisions. 
<h2>What is OurWinnipeg?</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>OurWinnipeg</i> was adopted in August 2011 and replaced <i>Plan Winnipeg 2020 Vision</i>.• Based on input from thousands of Winnipeggers as part of the SpeakUpWinnipeg public engagement program (April 2009 – June 2010). 	<h2>What is OurWinnipeg?</h2>  <p>Development Plan</p>  <p>Direction Strategies</p>   

What is OurWinnipeg?

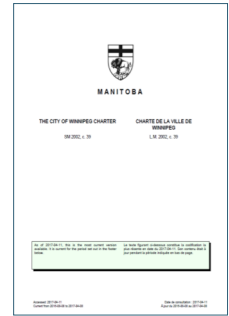


What is OurWinnipeg?



OurWinnipeg is required by The City of Winnipeg Charter and everything we do must be consistent with it.

City of Winnipeg Charter (Section 235)
 "The passing of a Plan Winnipeg by-law or a secondary plan by-law does not require council, any person, or any department or agency of the government, to undertake a proposal contained in the by-law, but **public works, undertakings and development in the city must be consistent with Plan Winnipeg or any secondary plan.**"

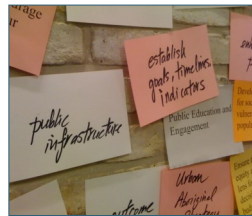


Review Process



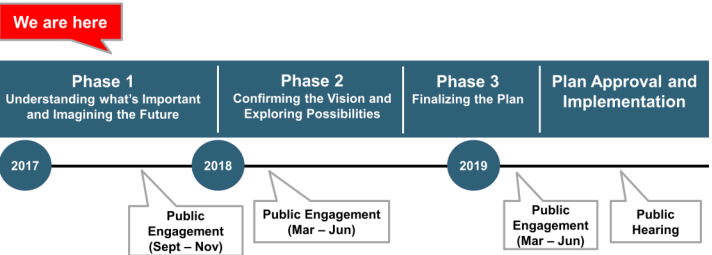
The Public Service recently initiated a review of OurWinnipeg

- Statutory Requirement – Update **required** by the City of Winnipeg Charter.



- BUT**, not just because we have to...
- Alignment with organizational vision and objectives.
 - Alignment with community vision and expectations.
 - Enhance, clarify and update the policy framework.
 - Ensure that the plan is responsive to changing social, economic and environmental conditions.

Review Process



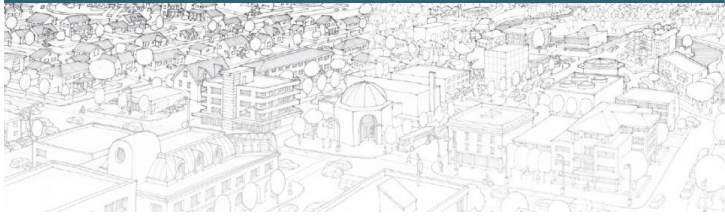
Review Process



Review Process



Review Process



- Community Advisory Committee
- Face-to-face conversations, presentations and workshops
- Informal pop-up consultations
- Background studies and reports

Review Process



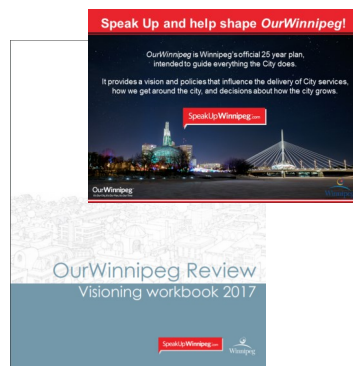
- Lenses
- Topic Areas



Review Questions



- What are the MOST IMPORTANT things the city and/or the community needs to:
 - Start doing?
 - Stop doing?
 - Keep doing?
 - Do differently?
- What do you know that would help us understand this topic better?



Following the presentation, attendees broke into table groups aligning with the OurWinnipeg Review consultation themes:

- How we Grow
- Getting Around the City
- Health and Safety
- Civic Engagement and Governance
- Quality of Life

Participants could choose two table themes throughout the event, and were asked to speak about their vision for Winnipeg relating to that theme, and what the City should continue, start, or stop doing so that vision can be achieved.

This report is a summary of the notes gathered from the discussions. They were summarized using coding of the information gathered, and meant to include everything that was discussed, even if contradictory. As a summary, the discussion notes were not analyzed to move information between themes even when there was overlap/duplication.

Health and Safety

The visions discussed for health and safety in Winnipeg include:

A Winnipeg where people are prioritized over cars. They get around through a great transit system, with bus shelters that are heated and well-lit. Pedestrians can be safe and healthy in every season, with connected pathways that are also properly lighted, and protected from wind and ice. There are commercial areas that are pleasant to walk through with little vehicular traffic. Communities are places people visit and stay in, not just places for people to drive through.

Winnipeg no longer has food deserts. Urban agriculture is encouraged. Winnipeg has an all year market with affordable produce that also serves as a public gathering place.

People are safer because they know each other and know how to deal with conflict. There are free gathering and meeting places in all communities. All Winnipeggers feel safe from discrimination and racism. Schools teach conflict resolution and there are accessible programs for youth. Indigenous and newcomer communities are engaged in meaningful ways on health and safety by City departments. First responders are trained, supported, and engage with the people they serve.

Health includes our physical environment. The health of our city is preserved through addressing climate change. Winnipeggers compost waste.

Low income Winnipeggers have equitable health and safety. Apartments and rooming houses are in decent condition and pest-free. The City actively addresses homelessness and the disparities people experiencing it face. Taxes are equitable and higher income Winnipegger pay a fair share so that programs to support low-income Winnipeggers can be realized.

To achieve this vision, the City should:

- Prioritize people over cars
 - ◆ Include active transit in all road fixes/changes
 - ◆ Increase access to services for seniors and people with disabilities, including better transportation in Winter
 - ◆ Provide free bus passes for young people
 - ◆ Provide pedestrian and transit access to parks and rivers
 - ◆ Create more urban (rather than suburban) zoning bylaws to flexibly encourage/require pedestrian oriented development
- Create bylaws that encourage community ownership and inclusion, for example, sidewalk clearing
- Create more meeting places, public amenities, and communicate about the amenities that exist
- Use community centres better/fund and support them to be a community space rather than forcing them to prioritize revenue generation

- Provide more affordable sports, including hockey, programs in evening for young people, drop ins for teens, and safe spaces
- Police to engage with people they serve, including following up with victims to let them know what is happening with their case
- 1st responders all receive sensitivity training and support to prevent post-traumatic stress disorder
- Proactively address bed bugs, especially pests impacting low income households
- Work together with the province on health care, including letting province know the impact of cuts and assisting with planning based on citizen needs
- Address the tax base as some people have under-assessed properties and therefore aren't paying their fair share
- Encourage more affordable housing through incentivizing people to home-share and taxing boarded homes
- Adopt sanctuary cities status
- Adopt Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Create community gardens and provide ongoing funding to manage them. Establish incentives for businesses to support gardens
- Require developments to include greenspace that can be used by residents
- Develop a composting program that is community based, supported by the city

To achieve this vision, the City should stop:

- Defunding community programming such as Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations, community development activities, and other neighbourhood groups
- Funding professional sports teams
- Cutting transit
- Militarizing the police force
- Ignoring human trafficking
- Creating barriers to downtown core
- Privatizing services

Getting Around in the City

The visions for getting around the city include:

A city where getting around is best done by bike, bus, and walking. Transportation planning is future-oriented, and integrated into community plans. Rapid transit can get you anywhere you want to go in Winnipeg faster than a car can. People can shift modes of transportation easily, from bike to busing, bus to rail, when they want. They know how to do this, because there is good signage and information. When buildings and neighbourhoods are developed, they are focused on pedestrian and transit access. People with disabilities can get around on public transit easily as there is universal design. They have priority seating at the front of the bus, which is respected and enforced so they can be confident to take transit.

Cycling infrastructure has advanced, with completed grade separated bike routes across the city. These routes are connected to each other, and with rapid transit.

Pedestrian travel throughout Winnipeg is more connected, safer, and accessible. Pedestrian access is prioritized for snow clearing so people can walk all winter. There is a major pedestrian corridor downtown, where there is shopping and no vehicular access.

To achieve this vision, the City should start:

- Move trains, use existing rail lines for rapid transit (LRT); create rapid transit in each of 5 spurs of major roads and more dedicated space for buses so they don't need to compete with cars. Heat rapid transit stations.
- Use Union Station as a transit hub
- Buy more electric buses
- Create more signage for transit. Signs should be larger, and help people find their way. Existing signs should be maintained better
- Encourage densification downtown and around transit systems
- People with disabilities should be have priority seating on transit. This needs to be enforced and part of the culture of riding
- Reducing fares for transit
- Snow clearing programs should be collaborating with community groups. Currently, snow angels doesn't partner well with community organizations. Existing initiatives are piece of the puzzle (e.g. youth employment program at Daniel Mac/St Matthews Community Association) but need coordination across the city
- Try more pilot projects – like Calgary has for active transport
- Create more connections between bike routes
- Actively address poverty
- Be prepared for autonomous vehicles, ridesharing, less car ownership
- Our economy depends on surrounding municipalities. There should be buses coming in from surrounding areas

To achieve this vision, the City should stop:

- Cutting services to transit
- Locating bike lanes on sidewalks
- Building/enhancing over/underpasses for cars – this will be never-ending and costly. Put that money into transit

Civic Engagement and Governance

The visions for civic engagement and governance included:

All Winnipeggers are prepared and resourced to be active citizens. This is done through formal education – high schools and universities – as well as through municipal institutions. There are many opportunities for people to learn how municipal governance impacts our daily lives.

Newcomers who are permanent residents are able to vote in municipal elections before they are citizens.

Municipal governance in Manitoba is more collaborative. There is a “capital region” approach to governance and planning in Manitoba. The City and Province have a good working relationship, with the Province supporting Winnipeg’s 2018 governance review to enhance democratic institutions in Winnipeg.

The Office of Civic Engagement continues to provide open and transparent information to the public. The City regularly reports back on what has been achieved by its plans, policies, and programs to assist with educated reviews on progress. The community engagement process for plans, policies, programs, and development applications is predictable, accessible, fair, and equitable. Barriers to participation are removed. There are formalized requirements for including marginalized communities in public engagement processes.

To achieve this vision, the City should continue:

- Providing regular updates on consultations from the office of civic engagement
- Working to implement the Indigenous accord
- Supporting the work of the Citizens equity committee
- Taking advantage of the connections and networks of existing community organizations for engagement and planning

To achieve this vision, the City should start:

- Use the 1919 General Strike as cultural mobilization tool in 2019
- Better communication with the public
- Formalize requirements for including marginalized communities, e.g. newcomer and Indigenous communities
- Advocate to the province for newcomers to vote in municipal elections, based on residency rather than citizenship
- For OurWinnipeg, the City should report back before moving to next 5 years. What did they achieve? Set targets and timelines for the next 5 years
- Applying a poverty lens to apply to policies: how are people in poverty impacted?
- City needs to exercise their clout at the provincial level
- Bylaw enforcement (Neighbour disputes) need to have a review processes (i.e. Appeal process)
 - ◆ Currently, bylaw enforcement is too slow and reactive
 - ◆ Bylaw enforcement should build community and should not be punitive
- Look to European Union groups e.g. DIEM25.org
- Look to the Leap movement
- Building systems literacy amongst youth and others. Include this in high school and post secondary
- Create “city hall” version of Manitoba youth parliament

- Implement Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and recognize the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

How We Grow

The visions for how we grow included:

It is time for Winnipeg to be bold in how it grows. Being bold means taking advantage of a huge opportunity and relocating the CP rail yards. It means preserving heritage while also increasing density with high quality design throughout Winnipeg. Being bold means building a Winnipeg for people, not for cars.

Winnipeg's growth is considerate of the environment. There is more opportunity for food production in the city, including urban farming, community and rooftop gardens. Winnipeggers take their commitments to climate change reduction seriously through composting, and creating more naturalized areas.

Winnipeg is growing because there are more newcomers moving to the city. Newcomers have opportunities to share their voices, to elect their local representatives, and to be employed by the City. The City of Winnipeg is a workplace that is reflective of its population. Winnipeg is also growing because of its Indigenous residents and First Nations communities around it. The City engages with First Nations communities to uphold its commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

As Winnipeg grows, there is a housing strategy that ensures housing meets the needs of all Winnipeggers, including new Winnipeggers. The neighbourhoods that make-up Winnipeg are increasingly connected, especially through active transportation.

To achieve this vision, the City should start:

- Providing money for community initiatives
- Providing information on resources for new Winnipeggers
- Creating more public spaces that provide riverbank access
- Naturalize storm water retention
- Creating more dog parks
- Increasing urban farming, more options for food production in the city, increased community gardens and rooftop gardens
- Engaging with First Nations communities
- Creating active transportation options including supporting winter cycling, creating more connected bike lanes, and making downtown more pedestrian friendly through creating pedestrian streets
- Adequately funding public transit
- Support more car co-operatives
- Supporting a greater diversity of housing, including housing that suits the needs of new Winnipeggers

- Encourage development that creates eyes on the street, through balconies and lighting
- Reduce surface parking lots
- Develop a Newcomer employment strategy, including a strategy to create a workplace that is reflective of the population
- Promoting and providing incentives for composting

Quality of Life

The visions for quality of life included:

Winnipeg is a connected city. It is connected through its people, who have accessible public meeting places and a variety of programs that bring them together. It is connected digitally through free Wi-Fi spots. And it is physically connected through pedestrian corridors, crossings, bike lanes, and free bus passes for children. There is equitable investment in infrastructure across Winnipeg from North to South.

Winnipeg is a safe city. People in all neighbourhoods feel safe. Police communicate with victims of crime; 311 provides good response to the public too. There is good snow removal so walking is safe in all seasons.

The environment is protected and preserved. The City is serious about reducing green house gas emissions. There is community composting, water reuse and preservation, and urban farming. Trees and green spaces in the city are protected. Residents are consulted and involved in caring for green space, and there are opportunities for recreation in these spaces.

Residents of Winnipeg are healthy. Youth, especially Indigenous youth, have mental health supports they want and need. They have access to child care in their neighbourhoods. They can access arts programs and benefit from public art. Residents have their voices heard by their elected representatives.

To achieve this vision, the City should start:

- Create/support more free meeting places, including through funding to community centres and libraries so they do not have to charge rent for every activity.
- Increasing connectivity of pedestrian corridors across neighbourhoods
- Developing a robust active transportation system with dedicated lanes/streets for pedestrian and cyclist commuters and better/safer pedestrian crossings
- Provide free bus passes to children so they can explore the city
- Provide digital connectivity - free Wi-Fi spots around the city
- Supporting activities that build relationships such as the human library
- Rethink truck routes. Currently there are transportation trucks in areas where pedestrians are e.g. downtown
- Prioritizing more communication between police and victims when theft happens
- Increasing visible police presence in areas of high crime; use identifiable cars rather than ghost cars

- Promoting access to child care
- Supporting community composting
- Decentralizing the water system, support grey water, rain water storage options
- Get serious about reducing green house gas emissions – vehicles particularly noted
- Increased snow removal, and resolving snow clearing complaints faster
- Protecting trees, green spaces/parks/urban space, and encouraging consultation and involvement in decisions regarding this green space.
- Work with and support Indigenous youth around mental health, and support community based organizations doing this work
- Winnipeg needs little, local programs/services instead of regional service centres
- Improve supports for addictions, need safe injection sites
- Urban farming
- Provide funding and incentives for arts organizations. They need reinvestment
- Enforce bylaws so that people clean up after their animals
- Increase the voices of community members not lobbyists
- Enhanced regulations for smoking – currently have them near buildings but not on the streets
- Implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. Implementation of UNDRIP within the city plan.

To achieve this vision, the City should continue:

- Hosting/participating in events like this consultation – community engagement
- Providing free leisure guide activities, music, art , culture
- Creating and promoting the river trail
- Services like golf courses, as they serve as stress relievers

To achieve this vision, the City should stop:

- Stop underfunding community centres. Currently there are not enough staff, volunteers responsible for too much.
- Don't cut public transit. Need enough space for people with disabilities, people with strollers etc.
- Cutting services and funding that impact low income people more than higher income people

The Social Planning Council will continue to participate in the OurWinnipeg review over the next 18 months, and share information about how to participate with its stakeholders. Additionally, interested community members can stay up-to-date through Speak Up Winnipeg.