



City of Maple Ridge

COUNCIL WORKSHOP AGENDA

April 09, 2024

11:00 AM

Virtual Online Meeting including Council Chambers

The purpose of the Council Workshop is to review and discuss policies and other items of interest to Council. Although resolutions may be passed at this meeting, the intent is to make a consensus decision to send an item to Council for debate and vote or refer the item back to staff for more information or clarification.

The meeting is live streamed and recorded by the City of Maple Ridge

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Territory Acknowledgement

The City of Maple Ridge carries out its business on the traditional and unceded territories of the Katzie (q̓ícəy̓) First Nation and the Kwantlen (q̓'wɑ:n̓λ'ən̓) First Nation.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes

Council Workshop – February 27, 2024

Special Council Workshop – March 5, 2024

4. PRESENTATIONS AT THE REQUEST OF COUNCIL

5. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy

Update on the development and outcome of the City of Maple Ridge Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION:

For discussion, and council feedback.

- 5.2 Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan Update and Proposed Next Steps
Update on the on-going work for the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan and next steps for Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That staff continue to review the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan, as outlined in the report titled, "Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan Update and Proposed Next Steps", dated April 9, 2024.
2. That staff proceed with Public Engagement Option 1, as outlined in the report titled, "Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan Update and Proposed Next Steps", dated April 9, 2024.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. BRIEFING ON OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST / QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL

8. MATTERS DEEMED EXPEDIENT

9. NOTICE OF CLOSED MEETING

- 9.1 The meeting will be closed to the public pursuant to Sections 90(1) and 90(2) of the *Community Charter* as the subject matter being considered is related to the following:

- Section 90(1)(b) – personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for a municipal award or honour, or who has offered to provide a gift to the municipality on condition of anonymity.
- Section 90(1)(d) – the security of the property of the municipality;
- Section 90(2)(b) – the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party.

Any other matter that may be brought before the Council that meets the requirements for a meeting closed to the public pursuant to Sections 90(1) and 90(2) of the *Community Charter* or *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

10. ADJOURNMENT

CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
FEBRUARY 27, 2024

The Minutes of the Council Workshop Meeting held virtually and hosted in the Blaney Room on February 27, 2024 at 11:00 am at City Hall, 11995 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, British Columbia for the purpose of transacting regular City business.

<i>PRESENT</i>	<i>Appointed Staff</i>
<i>Elected Officials</i>	S. Hartman, Chief Administrative Officer
Mayor D. Ruimy	C. Mushata, Corporate Officer, Director of Legislative Services
Councillor K. Carreras	
Councillor O. Dozie (11:18 am)	<i>Other Staff as Required</i>
Councillor J. Dueck	M. Best, Interim Director of Planning
Councillor S. Schiller	C. Bevacqua, Clerk 3
Councillor J. Tan	A. Grochowich, Manager of Community Planning
Councillor A. Yousef	J. Khaira, Manager of Engineering Design & Construction
	Z. Lifshiz, Director, Strategic Development, Communications and Public Engagement
<i>ABSENT</i>	C. Neufeld, Manager of Parks Planning & Development
	V. Richmond, Director of Parks & Facilities
	D. Samson, Interim Fire Chief
	T. Thompson, Director of Finance
	T. Westover, Director, Economic Development

Note: These Minutes and a video of the meeting are posted on the City's Web Site at <https://mapleridge.primegov.com/public/portal>

Note: Councillor Carreras and Councillor Dozie joined the meeting virtually.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 11:05 am

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

The Mayor provided the territory acknowledgement.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

2.1 Approval of Agenda

R/2024-WS-008

Moved and seconded

THAT the agenda of the February 27, 2024, Council Workshop Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Minutes

R/2024-WS-009

Moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the January 30, 2024, Council Workshop Meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. **PRESENTATIONS AT THE REQUEST OF COUNCIL** - Nil

5. **UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

Councillor Dozie joined the meeting virtually at 11:18 am

5.1 Housing Needs Interim Report Results

Matt Thomson, Urban Matters, provided a presentation and responded to questions of Council. The Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of Council and the Manager of Community Planning provided information regarding next steps for the Housing Needs Assessment.

Recess 11:55 am – Reconvened at 12:00 pm

5.2 Urban Forest Management Strategy Update

Staff report dated February 27, 2024 for information and discussion. The Director of Parks & Facilities gave a brief introduced to the item and introduced the consultants.

Amelia Needoba, Principal, Senior Urban Forester, Diamond Head Consulting Ltd. provided a presentation and responded to questions of Council.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE** – Nil

7. **BRIEFING ON OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST/QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL** – Nil

8. **MATTERS DEEMED EXPEDIENT** – Nil

9. **ADJOURNMENT** – 12:55 pm

D. Ruimy, Mayor

Certified Correct

C. Mushata Corporate Officer

CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE
SPECIAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2024

The Minutes of the Council Workshop Meeting held virtually and hosted in the Blaney Room on March 5, 2024 at 11:32 am at City Hall, 11995 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, British Columbia for the purpose of transacting regular City business.

<i>PRESENT</i>	<i>Appointed Staff</i>
<i>Elected Officials</i>	S. Hartman, Chief Administrative Officer
Mayor D. Ruimy	C. Mushata, Corporate Officer, Director of Legislative Services
Councillor K. Carreras	
Councillor J. Dueck	<i>Other Staff as Required</i>
Councillor S. Schiller	M. Best, Interim Director of Planning
Councillor J. Tan	A. Grochowich, Manager of Community Planning
Councillor A. Yousef	C. Howes, Acting Deputy Corporate Officer
	Z. Lifshiz, Director, Strategic Development, Communications and Public Engagement
<i>ABSENT</i>	E. Lovas, Planning Assistant 2
Councillor O. Dozie	M. McMullen, Manager of Development & Environmental Services
	R. Ollenberger, Manager of Development Engineering
	P. Purewal, Senior Manager, Corporate Communications and Public Engagement
	T. Thompson, Director of Finance
	M. Rezaei, Planner 1

Note: These Minutes and a video of the meeting are posted on the City's Web Site at <https://mapleridge.primegov.com/public/portal>

1 CALL TO ORDER – 11:32 am

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

The Mayor provided the territory acknowledgement.

2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Agenda

R/2024-WS-010

Moved and seconded

THAT the agenda of the March 5, 2024, Special Council Workshop Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3 PRESENTATIONS AT THE REQUEST OF COUNCIL - Nil

4 ***UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS***

4.1 Orphan Lot Strategy

The Interim Director of Planning provided a presentation and responded to questions of Council.

Recess 12:19 pm – Reconvened at 12:31 pm

4.2 Legislative Changes Pertaining to Public Hearings

Staff report dated March 5, 2024.

The Manager of Community Planning provided a presentation and responded to questions of Council.

5 ***CORRESPONDENCE*** – Nil

6 ***BRIEFING ON OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST/QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL*** – Nil

7 ***MATTERS DEEMED EXPEDIENT*** – Nil

8 ***ADJOURNMENT*** – 1:19 pm

D. Ruimy, Mayor

Certified Correct

C. Mushata Corporate Officer

TO: His Worship Mayor Dan Ruimy
and Members of Council
FROM: Chief Administrative Officer

MEETING DATE: April 9, 2024
FILE NO: 01-0640-30
MEETING: Workshop

SUBJECT: Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on the development and outcome of the City of Maple Ridge Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy and will be supplemented by a presentation from staff.

Development of the Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy is a key result of the Accessible BC Act, which is a new provincial law, passed in June 2021. The Accessible BC Act establishes a legal framework to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to the full and equal participation of people with disabilities in BC by enabling the development of accessibility standards and introducing new accessibility requirements for government and prescribed organizations. As per the Accessible BC Act, the following six principles are strongly recommended for consideration in the development of the strategy:

1. Inclusion
2. Adaptability
3. Diversity
4. Collaboration
5. Self-determination
6. Universal design

These principles have been factored into the Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy.

Effective September 2023, public sector organizations will be required to establish the following:

- An Accessibility Committee (Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (MACAI) – completed)
- An Accessibility Strategy (Draft Strategy attached)
- A mechanism for community feedback on Accessibility ([Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness | Maple Ridge, BC](#))

Link: Accessible BC Act [Accessible British Columbia Act \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

For discussion, and council feedback.

DISCUSSION:

a) Background Context:

In 2022, the MACAI applied for and received a grant through Plan H, BC Healthy Communities, to engage the community in an extensive year long engagement process. A cross-departmental staff working group was created to guide the development of the engagement process.

The development of the Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy included reviewing key municipal strategies, council strategic plan and the Accessible BC Act. The MACAI and cross-departmental staff group developed the project key principles and engagement processes, targeting citizens with diverse-abilities, lived/living experiences, caregivers, newcomers, First Nations, LGBTQ2S+ community, and supporting organizations.

Through an extensive 1-year community engagement process, led by city staff, a draft Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy has been developed based on the information and feedback from the community.

Citizens were asked to participate in a multitude of information gathering processes, including online and paper surveys, focus groups, individual interviews, strategically placed post-it boards, and pop-up engagement at local community celebrations. Individualized invites were sent to the targeted groups mentioned above, along with an open call to the community for feedback. In total it is estimated that approximately 500 citizens were involved in and contributed to the year-long engagement.

The goals and strategies of the Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy include:

1. Built Environment
 - Parks and Open Spaces
 - Community Access (Walkability/ Roadways)
 - Building and Facilities
 - Public/ Private Transportation
2. Civic Participation/ Programming
 - Civic Participation (Programming)
 - Social Inclusion
 - Civic Participation (Events and Festivals)
 - Civic Participation (Public Art)
 - Civic Participation (Financial Access)
3. Education, and Awareness
 - City Led Grant Opportunity
 - Awareness Training
4. Employment and Volunteerism
 - Employment
 - Volunteerism
5. Communication, Information, Technology and Engagement
 - Civic Communication
6. Governance and Policy Design
 - Policy Review/ Development and Engagement
 - Council Engagement
 - Local Government Advocacy

The Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy is built on the 7 Principles of Universal Design, which considers the needs of all persons, is highly inclusive, can be used by all, to benefit all. For more detailed information regarding the 7 Principles of Universal Design, please see the attached draft strategy.

b) Strategic Alignment:

The development of the Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy aligns with Council's Strategic Plan (2023-2026) priorities for:

- Liveable Community
 - Develop infrastructure that positions the city to provide accessible and sustainable services while accommodating growth.
- Engaged, Healthy Community
 - Provide a diversity of inclusive and accessible recreation opportunities.
 - Build and celebrate community pride & connections to foster sense of belonging.
 - Ensure the safety and enhance the well-being of residents.
- Governance & Corporate Excellence
 - Identify and commit to opportunities for the city to move forward on a path of Truth and Reconciliation.
 - Deliver an exceptional customer experience across City services.

Additionally, the Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy is linked to the City's strategy performance management framework, OKRs (Objectives and Key Results), in several important ways:

- More than 12 current OKRs are linked to, or directly advance, the City's Accessibility and Inclusiveness goals. As these projects are implemented, they will also be advancing or informing progress on the Accessibility and Inclusiveness strategy.
- Development of future OKRs will be informed by the action plan emerging from the Accessibility and Inclusiveness strategy.
- Outcomes of OKR initiatives, as well as lessons learned, can inform future updates to the Accessibility and Inclusiveness strategy.

This link between the strategy and the OKR-based performance management system helps to ensure that the strategy is:

- Linked to executable and measurable initiatives (both current and future).
- Aligned with the City's strategy performance management system and therefore aligned with progress on Council's Strategic Priorities.
- Flexible to leverage OKR outcomes and lessons-learned from the OKR-focused initiatives as those projects are implemented.

c) Citizen/Customer Implications:

All citizens and customers will benefit from an accessible and inclusive City of Maple Ridge, fostering connectedness and belonging.

d) Interdepartmental Implications:

A cross-departmental working group, consisting of representatives from Parks and Facilities, Economic Development, Engineering, Planning, Bylaws, Human Resources, and Intergovernmental Relations, has been involved throughout the process of the development of the Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy. Additionally, as we move forward with the implementation plan, city departments that may be impacted will be consulted.

e) Business Plan/Financial Implications:

The development of the Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy was a key strategic goal in the 2022/23 Business Plan, Council's Strategic Plan, and the 2023 Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan.

Priority implementation actions that require additional funding support will be brought forward as part of the annual business planning process in 2025 and beyond.

f) Policy Implications:

As we move through the implementation of the strategy, we may identify policy implications. If new or existing policies are affected, staff will bring recommendations to council for review, discussion, and approval.

CONCLUSION:

The Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy has been drafted. The next steps include updating the strategy to include council feedback and the development of the priority implementation plan before bringing the strategy back to Council for endorsement.

As per the Accessible BC Act, the strategy and pending implementation plan will be reviewed and updated every 3-years.

TC for PF

Prepared by: **Petra Frederick,**
Coordinator, Recreation Access

TC

Reviewed by: **Tony Cotroneo,**
Manager, Community Recreation

AM

Approved by: **Cidalia Martin**
Director, Recreation Services

SAH

Concurrence: **Scott Hartman**
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- (A) Draft City of Maple Ridge Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy
- (B) Accessible British Columbia Act



Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy



Maple
Ridge

***The City of Maple Ridge respectfully
acknowledges that we are on the
traditional territories of the Katzie (q̓ícəy̓)
and Kwantlen (qʷa:n̓λ'ən̓) First Nations.***

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR REGARDING CMR COMMITTEMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS – please leave a blank page – message will be added after the report to council is endorsed

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness facilitated a yearlong engagement process, inviting feedback from residents regarding the City's accessibility, inclusiveness, and diversity. The findings served as a guide to identify decisions, policies and planning practices in recreation delivery, social supports, and community design, to ensure equitable access.

The City of Maple Ridge is dedicated to the vision of an accessible and inclusive community by:

- Removing physical barriers for individuals at risk of exclusion due to access issues that impede community participation.
- Removing social barriers to create environments where individuals can share experiences, seek support, and discover opportunities for personal growth and wellness.

The City of Maple Ridge Council Strategic plan¹ highlights the importance of an 'Engaged, Healthy Community' that 'provide[s] a diversity of inclusive and accessible recreation opportunities, [and] build[s] and celebrates community pride, and connections [that] foster sense of belonging' among our residents and visitors.

The City recognizes the importance of equitable participation and is dedicated to the removal of barriers, to ensure inclusivity wherever possible; in public infrastructure, city programs and services, communications, and policies; demonstrating positive leadership, advocacy, and community partnership.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The City of Maple Ridge extends appreciation to all who have contributed to the Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy. Approximately 500 individuals shared feedback on their lived experiences, providing recommendations to this strategy.

Thank you to all our stakeholders, residents, community support staff, committees of Council and staff who contributed to this process.

ABOUT MAPLE RIDGE

On the traditional lands of Katzie First Nations and Kwantlen First Nations, Maple Ridge is located in the northeastern section of Metro Vancouver, between the Fraser River and the Golden Ears Mountains. Maple Ridge is surrounded by the beauty of nature, offering both urban and rural living opportunities, which lends reason why many residents call Maple Ridge home.

¹ City of Maple Ridge, BC., Council's Strategic Plan, (2023-2026) [Council Strategic Plan | Maple Ridge, BC](#)

With a population of 93,628 in 2021, Maple Ridge is one of the fastest growing municipalities in the region, and it is estimated that by 2033 the population will be nearing 118,250 people. It is projected that between 2021 to 2033 the city population will grow by 26%.

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION IN MAPLE RIDGE

The City of Maple Ridge strives to ensure that all residents and visitors are welcome and endeavors to build a community that is accessible, inclusive, and diverse. The City is committed to exploring, identifying and removing barriers that may prevent people from participating to help ensure people are valued and involved in all aspects of community life. We recognize individual differences and strive to create a community where everyone feels welcomed, supported, and accepted.

KEY PRINCIPLES

The City of Maple Ridge Accessibility and Inclusiveness strategy is built on the following key principles:

Diverse-ability	The term Diverse-ability embraces the uniqueness and potential in every human being, disabled or non-disabled. Diverse-abilities refer to physical, cognitive, developmental, learning, and/or neurological differences, or diversity, in ability levels.
Inclusion	All people have the right to engage and be included in all aspects of community life, regardless of their abilities, diverse-abilities, or health care needs. Furthermore, customers have the right to access services and programs and be respected, appreciated, and treated as valuable and participating members of the community.
Accessibility	Refers to the absence of barriers that prevent individuals and/or groups from fully participating.
Diversity	All people understand that each individual is unique and recognizes individual differences which include but are not limited to: heritage, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical/emotional abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies.
Collaboration	All stakeholders are involved and committed to the single goal of 'creating an inclusive and welcoming community'.
Equity	Ensures that everyone gets the supports they need. This is the concept of 'affirmative action', thus producing equity.

GUIDING THE WORK

The purpose of the Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy is to identify, remove and prevent barriers that affect individuals' interacting with City services and employment. As we continue to build an accessible, inclusive, and welcoming Maple Ridge, staff will be reviewing and considering City of Maple Ridge Council Strategic Plan, and City endorsed community strategies and policies, along with the following existing, federal and provincial legislations.

- UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Canadian Human Rights Act;
- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;
- Government of Canada Bill C-81 – Barrier-free Canada.
- Government of Canada Bill C-16 – Rights of trans gender and gender diverse Canadians
- Canadian Race Relations Foundation Act
- BC Human Rights Code;
- Accessible Canada Act; (and)
- Accessible BC Act

ACCESSIBLE CANADA ACT²

The Accessible Canada Act (ACA) is a federal law that aims to make Canada Barrier-free by 2040. The ACA was passed in 2019 and requires the federal government and regulated entities to identify, remove and prevent barriers facing people with disabilities. The legislation focuses on seven priority areas:

1. All person must be treated with dignity regardless of their disabilities;
2. All person must have the same opportunities to make for themselves the lives that they are able and wish to have regardless of their disability;
3. All person must have barrier-free access to full and equal participation in society, regardless of their disabilities;
4. All person must have meaningful options and be free to make their own choices, with support if they desire, regarding of their disabilities;
5. Laws, policies, programs, services and structures must take into account the disabilities of persons, the different ways that persons interact with their environments and the multiple and intersecting form of marginalization and discrimination faced by persons;
6. Persons with disabilities must be involved in the development and design of laws, policies, programs, services, and structures; and
7. The development and revision of accessibility standards and the marking of regulations must be done with the objective of achieving the highest level of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

² Government of Canada: Accessible Canada Act IS. C. 2019 c. 10 [Accessible Canada Act \(justice.gc.ca\)](https://www.justice.gc.ca/accessible-canada-act)

ACCESSIBLE BRITISH COLUMBIA ACT³

The Accessible British Columbia Act became law in June 2021, working towards improving opportunities for persons with disabilities and to ensure their involvement in identification, removal, and prevention of barriers to their full participation in all aspects of life in BC.

The Accessible British Columbia Act requires government and prescribed organizations to meet the following three (3) requirements:

1. Establish an accessible advisory Committee;
2. Develop an accessibility plan; and
3. Create a public feedback mechanism.

Included in the Accessible BC Act are six principles that must be considered in the development of the strategy. These same principles were also used in the initial development of the legislation.

1. Inclusion: ensuring that everyone is included and has equal opportunities.
2. Adaptability: Ensuring that services and facilities are adaptable to meet the needs of people with disabilities.
3. Diversity: Recognizing and respecting the diversity of people with disabilities.
4. Collaboration: Encouraging collaboration between the government, businesses, and the public to promote accessibility.
5. Self-determination: Empowering people with disabilities to make their own decisions and live independently.
6. Universal design: Ensuring that services and facilities are designed to be accessible to everyone, regardless of their abilities.

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

The City of Maple Ridge Council Strategic Plan⁴ (2023-2026) set five strategic priorities that will guide the decisions and actions of the city. Included in the five priorities are:

- Livable Community
- Climate Leadership & Environmental Stewardship
- Engaged, Healthy Community
- Diversified, Thriving Economy
- Governance & Corporate Excellence

³ Accessible British Columbia Act, SBC 2021, C19 [Accessible British Columbia Act \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/accessible-bc)

⁴ City of Maple Ridge, BC., Council's Strategic Plan, (2023-2026) [Council Strategic Plan | Maple Ridge, BC](#)

ENDORSED COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

Additionally, the City of Maple Ridge Council has created and endorsed several strategic plans that help guide the ongoing development and implementation of the Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy. The strategies reviewed and cross referenced are:

- Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan (2023)
- Strategic Transportation Plan (2023)
- Maple Ridge Housing Needs Assessment (2021)
- Dementia Friendly Communities (2018)
- Maple Ridge Youth Strategy (2018)
- “Walking Together” Cultural Plan (2018)
- Maple Ridge Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2016-2021)
- Age Friendly Community Dialogue and Action Plan (2015)

ENDORSED POLICY(IES)

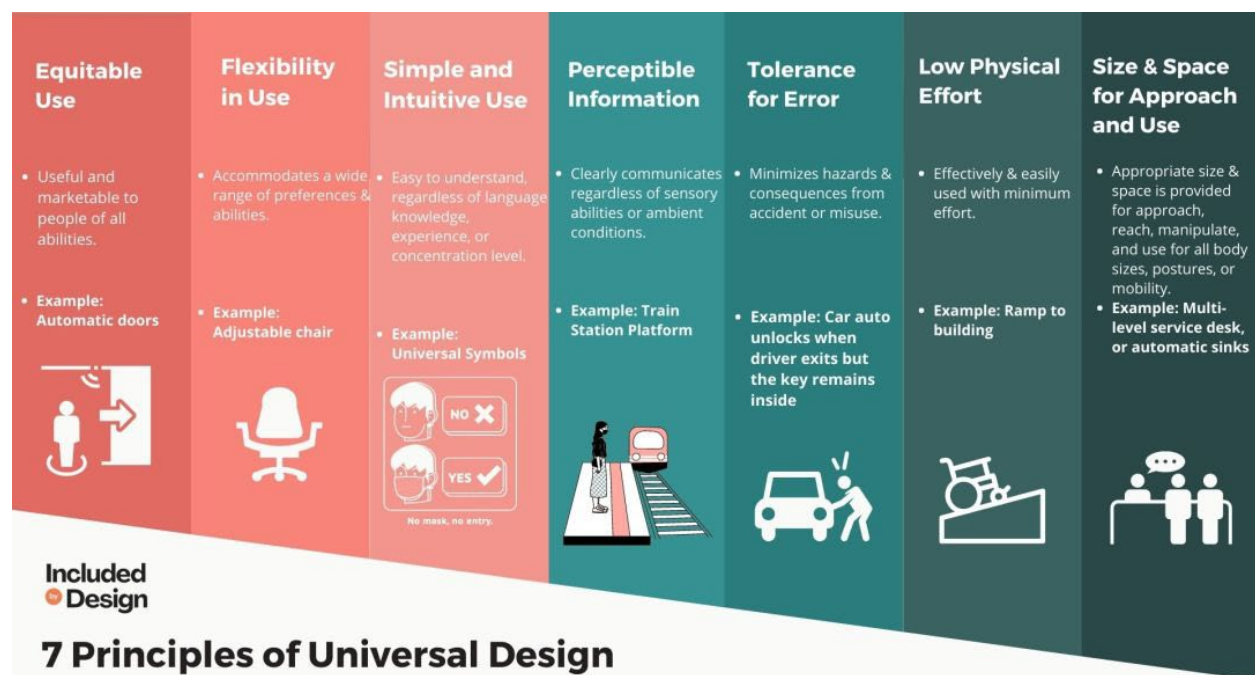
Recreation Access Policy (4.23) - all citizens/ residents should have equal and inclusive access to engage in quality recreation opportunities in their community and steps will be taken to facilitate such access.

7 PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN⁵

The 7 Principles of Universal Design was originally defined by a working group of architects, product designers, engineers and environmental design researcher led by Ronald Mace (a wheelchair user, himself), in 1997. According to the Centre for Universal Design, the principles “may be applied to evaluate existing designs, guide the design process and educate both designers and consumers about the characteristics of more usable environment.”

The 7 Principles of Universal Design considers the needs of all persons, is highly inclusive and strives to ensure that the environment is functional for everyone without requiring adaptation or specialized design. The principles are flexible, adaptable, safe and efficient and ensure that what ever is created is usable by all people, regardless of age, disability, or other factors. In essence, Universal Design, promotes equality within the community, ensuring that everyone can participate fully and comfortably.

The following 7 principles form the basis of universal design and creates a universal experience for every citizen:



Retrieved from: Universal Design 101 - [Universal Design 101 - Included by Design](#)

Please note that the Principles of Universal Design address the built environment and offer guidance to better integrate features that meet the needs for as many users as possible. It is also essential to ensure that economic, cultural, and gender needs are considered throughout any new and existing design.

⁵ Centre for Excellence in Universal Design, National Disability Authority, 2007 [The 7 Principles | Centre for Excellence in Universal Design](#)

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The Accessibility and Inclusiveness strategy was created based on feedback and contributions from the residents and stakeholders within the City. The project provided several means of engagement for priority populations to be involved; based on the individuals' own personal needs and abilities. Individuals had the opportunity to share their living experiences through:

1. Focus Groups
2. Online Surveys
3. Community Events
4. Individual conversations



ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

The outcome of this process is a set of recommendations that outline the direction for the CMR Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy. The recommendations provide a vision for the City and are organized into **6** categories.

1. Built Environment
2. Civic Participation/ Programming
3. Education, Awareness and Public Safety
4. Employment and Volunteerism
5. Communication, Information, Technology and Engagement
6. Governance and Policy Design

Included in each objective are potential actions and coexisting related City policies/strategies. As our community continues to grow and develop; new objectives, actions, recommendations, and directions can emerge and become part of the strategy. It will be important that we continue to review and adapt the actions, recommendations, and direction, while at the same time ensuring we are maintaining the accessibility and inclusiveness needs of the community.

Additionally, it is important to note that not all recommendations and actions are within the municipal jurisdiction and in these situations the city will advocate to the appropriate provincial and federal bodies to ensure the voice of our citizens are heard.

Furthermore, some of the objectives listed are either in progress or completed, however still captured to ensure transparency with the community, and are identified.

1. BUILT ENVIRONMENT

To create livable spaces for all residents and visitors, we need to consider how we design and access our roads, sidewalks, parks, facilities, homes, businesses, etc. Well-designed built environments help ensure that individuals are able to access **City services** with ease, comfort, and safety. Efforts will be made to ensure that all infrastructure (existing and new) incorporates the Universal Design Principles and creates opportunities for social connectedness, which supports individual and community well-being.

Although Maple Ridge is known for its natural beauty, the City recognizes not all residents are able to access parks, trails, dykes, or provincial campground without means of transportation, including public transit. Studies indicate that ensuring access to natural surroundings provides communities with the therapeutic and sensory benefits nature provides and can positively impact mental health, physical health and social well-being.

Objectives and Actions

1.1. Parks and Open Spaces

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Developing accessible outdoor spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When renovating or building new parks, design for all ages (Children/ youth, adults, and older adults) and incorporate opportunities for both accessible and/or adventure play.• When renovating Destination and Signature parks, include accessible picnic tables, washrooms (including accessible washrooms), parking, access paths/ trails, scooter/wheelchair parking and electrical charging stations, etc.• Look for opportunities to create neighbourhood spray parks with accessible and interactive spray features.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan
b. Develop a variety of Community Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and build a variety of community gardens that are accessible and inclusive, (accessible garden beds, social seating, parking, traditional/ ethnic food growing, scooter/ wheelchair parking and electrical charging stations etc.)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within existing municipal parks and/or municipal land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Progress – One new garden identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood schools (partnership) 		
c. Parks and Open Spaces Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an accessibility scan of outdoor parks and playgrounds. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan
d. Wayfinding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate wayfinding standards in destination and signature parks and trails (contrasting colour, raised lettering, language translation, use of simple language use of picture symbols, etc.) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan • Walking Together – Maple Ridge Culture Plan • The Maple Ridge Heritage Plan
e. Gathering Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create neighbourhood gathering places that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe, • Accessible, • Inclusive, • Free to attend/participate, • Multi age appropriate. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan
f. Universal/ accessible walking/ nature trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop accessible and sensory based nature trails that will meet the needs of our diverse populations (universally accessible) • Develop urban loop walking routes with an emphasis on accessible paths. • Consider public, private and active transportation options. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation Trails Strategy (Future Strategy)

1.2. Community Access (Walkability and Roadways)

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Tactile warning indicators and audible pedestrian traffic signals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to utilize tactile warning materials as per current professional standards. • Continue to utilize audible signals and amber crossing signals as per current professional standards. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Transportation Plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to utilize current professional standards to ensure persons with mobility aids have adequate crossing times at controlled intersections. 		
b. Clear and unobstructed sidewalks/ crosswalks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design sidewalks that meet or exceed the subdivision and servicing bylaw to allow for the unobstructed use of mobility aids etc. (Advocate 3rd party utilities to keep sidewalks unobstructed of utilities etc.) • Design sidewalks that are constructed of materials that promote a trip free surface. • Routinely inspect and maintain crosswalks and sidewalks as per municipal standards. • Design crosswalks and sidewalks that are equipped with letdowns to accommodate a variety of mobility aids. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Transportation Plan
c. Active Transportation Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue strategic investments in active transportation infrastructure comprising of: • Bike lanes, cycle paths, sidewalks and multi-use paths; • Access points to local walking trails (dykes etc.) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Transportation Plan
d. Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore lighting options to increase safety along streets, paths, bike lanes etc. 		

1.3. Buildings and Facilities

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) Building Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enquire and work towards having all CMR facilities Rick Hansen Foundation (RCR) certified. • Include RHF certification standards on all new CMR building projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 civic buildings – certification pending • 3 staff working towards certification requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Strategic Plan

b. Accessible Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage new developments to include adequately designed accessible parking (over height, side loading etc.) • Encourage new developments to include adequate accessible parking based on the location/ amenities and demographic needs of the surrounding area. • Advocate for accessible parking to be located at new and existing shopping area • Explore opportunity to offer 1- or 2- hours free parking access at civic centres 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-Street and Loading Parking Bylaw
c. Accessible/ gender neutral Public Washrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to provide a combination of accessible, gender-neutral, and gender specific public washroom access in all new public builds (IED – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) • Provide an adequate number of accessible washroom stalls with minimum turn radius requirements to accommodate scooter and electric wheelchair dimensions. • Explore auto flush technology that better supports persons with sensory. • Ensure access to accessible washrooms and changerooms allow for adequate turn radius (unobstructed access). 		
d. Wayfinding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate wayfinding standards in all facilities (contrasting colour, raised lettering, brail, language translation, use of simple language use of picture symbols, etc.) • Ensure that signage meets the Rick Hansen Accreditation Standard (height, size etc.) 		

e. Scooter/ Wheelchair Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to provide a safe and secure space for scooter and wheelchair parking and charging stations. 		
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1.4 Public/ Private Transportation

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Translink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with TransLink to ensure adequate scheduling and accessible bus service throughout the city: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Maple Ridge • Silver Valley • Fair grounds (festivals and events) • Green spaces and nature trails (dykes, Maple Ridge Park, etc.) • Ensure that all buses and bus stops are accessible for all users. • Ensure that bus route and stop information is readily available and easily accessible (print and digital format). • Look for opportunities to provide awareness and training for persons with mobility aids, when using public transit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loading/ unloading, • Tie downs, handrails etc. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified in the TransLink Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Area Transport Plan

2. CIVIC PARTICIPATION (PROGRAMMING)

The City of Maple Ridge provides an open and welcoming environment for all residents and visitors, encouraging individuals to participate in social, civic, and economic opportunities, programs, and services. Programs and services are built on equity and understanding that everyone has their own diverse needs. Building programs and services based on respect and inclusion is the right thing to do and is the responsibility of the whole community.

2.1. Civic Participation (Programming)

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Inclusive/ Diverse programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to offer gender neutral active programming for all ages. • Look for opportunities to offer social inclusion that promotes EDI (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, Recreation, Culture Master Plan
b. PRC Registration Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review program registration process to ensure equitable access for all community members. (online vs in person registration) • Review and consideration for individuals deaf and/or hard of hearing 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, Recreation, Culture Master Plan
c. Adaptive Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to offer a variety of Try-It events that promote accessibility. • Look for opportunities to offer adapted swim programs. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, Recreation, Culture Master Plan
d. Neighbourhood Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for opportunities to deliver neighbourhood specific programming includes adequate and alternate transportation (public and/or private). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, Recreation, Culture Master Plan
e. Cost of Programming and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore programming opportunities that minimize the cost of service/ programming. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, Recreation, Culture Master Plan
f. Volunteer/ Mentorship Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to develop volunteer task for persons with diverse-abilities (opportunity to give back to the community) 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to develop a volunteer program supporting persons with diverse-abilities. (e.x. Leisure Buddies). 		
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2.2. Social Inclusion

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Intergenerational Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with organizations to encourage intergenerational opportunities to create connections across age generations through events and programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alouette Men's Shed and GMYC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Friendly Action Plan
b. Social Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop drop in social opportunities for all populations (EDI – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) and age groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children, • Youth, • Young adults • Adults • Older Adults • Explore funding/ grant opportunities to support EID social programming. 		

2.3. Civic Participation (Events and Festivals)

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Events and Festivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to have a lens at festivals and events that aim to bring all people together (diversity, inclusion, accessibility etc.), for all ages etc. 		Walking Together – Maple Ridge Culture Plan
b. Opening Ceremonies and Official speeches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider options to offer American Sign language at opening ceremonies for festivals and events. • Consider equipment is accessible for all participants and attendees (stage access etc.). 		Walking Together – Maple Ridge Culture Plan

c. Pathways and sidewalks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that event/festival related vehicles are cleared from the pathways and sidewalks prior to the start of the event/festival 		
d. Cooling/ Resting/ Sensory Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and offer Sensory Friendly Space/ tent for individuals who are neurodiverse. • Offer misting tents at summer festivals/events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make note of accessibility for wheelchair and scooter users to participate (surfacing). 		
e. Event Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage that events and festivals are in areas with good transportation routes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking, including accessible parking that is well marked and clear of event vehicles. • Public transportation. • Other modes of transportation. 		Strategic Transportation Plan
f. Training and Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate joint accessibility and awareness training within festival/event planning quarterly meetings. 		
g. Wayfinding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate access and signage for participants to find: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washrooms and Accessible washroom • Information/ first aid tent/ lost person tent • Event happenings (day of schedule/event map) 		Walking Together – Maple Ridge Culture Plan
h. Promotion community events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide multiple communication sources inviting citizens to all community events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print material • Digital material • Social media 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop promotional material with simple (plain) language, minimal print, and in multiple languages 		
i. Neighbourhood Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer smaller scale neighbourhood events that will bring neighbours together 		Walking Together – Maple Ridge Culture Plan

2.4. Civic Participation (Public Art)

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Public Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer inclusive and diverse opportunities for arts and culture that represents the history of Maple Ridge • Create opportunities for residents to participate in large scale public art projects. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Art Policy

2.5. Civic Participation (Financial Access)

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Financial Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current PRC Financial Assistance program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet and/or exceed current best practices. • Online process. • In person process. • Promote and improve access for all residents accessing financial assistance to participate in PRC programming. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with community partners, building partnerships for direct referral to sport and recreational subsidy programs (PRC Financial Access, Jumpstart, Kidsport) • Create an easy to access resource guide that highlights all agencies and organizations that offer low cost/ no cost social and recreational services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan

3. EDUCATION, AND AWARENESS

The City of Maple Ridge is committed to ensuring that all staff have the appropriate tools and knowledge to support the needs of our diverse community.

Objectives and Actions

3.1. City Led Grant Opportunity

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Accessible/ Inclusive/ Diverse Grant Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore opportunities to develop a grant program for local businesses to improve their physical accessibility, and/or inclusive/ equitable access for all customers.• Explore opportunities to develop a grant program for local festivals and events to enhance accessibility at community events and festivals		

3.2. Truth and Reconciliation

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Building relationships with First Nation Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with Intergovernmental Affairs Unit to support the exploration of opportunities to work with our First Nations partners.• Inform the work of Intergovernmental Affairs Unit to contribute to consistent engagement protocols with First Nations Council and First Nation serving organizations to foster meaningful and respectful communication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Progress - \$15,000 grant Plan H	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Strategic Plan (2023-2026)

3.3. Awareness Training

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Staff Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide staff with the tools and training to support all populations within our community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversability / Neurodiversity/ Mental Health etc. • Translation technology • Community resources • Interacting with diverse populations (use of language) • Multicultural training • Provide resources to better support LGBTQ2S+ users and population 		
b. Kindness Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-develop with partners and promote a community kindness campaign focusing on the acceptance of all populations (reducing stigma about topics such as mental health, substance use, homelessness, LGBTQ2S+ and disability related topics.) 		
c. Adaptive Equipment (Staff Training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide staff with the education and training regarding onsite adaptive equipment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceiling lifts, • Change tables • Weightroom equipment • Etc. 		

3.4. LGBTQ2S+

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. LGBTQ2S+ Community Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for opportunities to identify and create more LGBTQ2S+ crosswalks though out the town 		

4. EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEERISM

The City of Maple Ridge provides both employment and volunteer opportunities through a fair practice recruitment process. Residents are recruited and invited to participate on a variety of Committees of Council. In addition, many of our festivals and events are planned and delivered by volunteer boards. Without the strength of our volunteers, the City of Maple Ridge would not be who we are today.

Objectives and Actions

4.1. Employment

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Hiring Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review hiring process to ensure inclusive and diverse opportunities.		
b. Workplace accommodations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide managers and supervisors with resources that allow for the creation of a supportive, diverse and inclusive workplace (work-place accommodations).		
c. Employment Fairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate in local employment fairs.		

4.2. Volunteerism

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Civic Volunteering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and promote volunteer opportunities that promote opportunities for accessibility and inclusion.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modified jobs• Buddy job• etc.• Explore opportunities to develop a volunteer program supporting persons with diverse-abilities. (e.x. Leisure Buddies).		
b. Event Volunteering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and promote volunteer roles that promote opportunities for accessibility and inclusion.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modified jobs• Buddy jobs		

5. COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGAGEMENT

Communication and information are integral to community living. Being able to access community information allows for individuals to build a sense of community pride. Accessible and inclusive communication is about developing many communication tools, and includes, translation, simple language, pic symbols, large print, screen reader technology, etc.

Objectives and Actions

5.1. Civic Communication

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. City Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options to include translation and use of simple language. • Explore options to incorporate picture communication symbols, large print formats. • Explore options to include technology that supports screen readers. • Explore layouts that promote ease of use, minimal layers, quick access etc. 		
b. Translation Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options to provide staff with adequate translation technology for verbal and/or written communication. • Explore options to provide print resources in multiple languages based on current immigration statistics 		
c. Use of Plain Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all communication (written) is presented in plain and simple language. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies • Bylaws • Etc. 		
d. Close captioning/ sign language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options to include either close captioning and/or sign language in audio/video communications 		

e. Printed Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to offer print options for the Recreation guide, including drop-in schedules and registered programs. • Explore opportunities to offer print options for individual drop-in schedules. • Explore opportunities to offer print options for individuals applying for services (recreation and city hall). • Explore opportunities to create a print option (welcoming package) for newcomers to Maple Ridge, outlining civic services, roles, and responsibilities. 		
f. Application/program forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure inclusive language on all program/application forms (e.g., Guardian vs mom/dad; gender neutral language, etc.) 		

6. GOVERNANCE AND POLICY DESIGN

As a local government, it is important to ensure that all residents, regardless of ability, race, gender etc. can participate in community life. A community that embraces equitable participation will be a stronger and united community. "Nothing about us, without us!"⁶

Objectives and Actions

6.1. Policy Review/Development and Engagement

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore best practices, tools, training to develop a community engagement processes that includes accessibility, inclusion and diversity:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provide multiple forms of engagement (focus groups, surveys, open house, etc.)- Ensure engagement material is available in multiple languages and/or provide translation services.- Provide opportunities for individuals to speak with staff 1:1 (focus questions, survey completion).		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Participation and Engagement Framework
b. Recreation access Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and update the Recreation Access Policy to ensure it meets the needs of the community and customers		

⁶ Rick Hansen Foundation, APN2023 [Homepage | Rick Hansen Foundation](#)

6.2. Council Engagement

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Committees of Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities to encourage and include the inclusive and diverse population on committees of councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Progress – MACAI membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committees of Council Policy
b. Municipal Advisory Council on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (MACAI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a portal of open communication for individuals experiencing accessibility and inclusiveness issues. Explore opportunities to promote the work of MACAI within the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed – active portal on MACAI website 	
c. Council meeting videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer council videos with closed captioning and/or American Sign Language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed – Closed Captioning offered on all recorded council meetings 	

6.3. Local Government Advocacy

Objective	Action	Progress	Related Policy(ies)
a. Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for affordable rental housing for all individuals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals/ Families Seniors Rental units that allow pets 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official Community Plan Housing Action Plan
b. Mental Health advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for local mental health services for all ages. 		
c. LGBTQ2S+ Services	7. Advocate for LGBTQ2S+ services to support all ages.		
d. Health Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for medical resources to be made available in print: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctor directories (all specialties) Medical procedures and follow-up instructions. Advocate for medical offices to offer a variety of communication modes: 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to access voice communication. • Digital communication • Advocate and explore opportunities to increase Foundry services to school age children (child mental health supports). 		
e. Community Navigator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate and/or support community organizations to develop a process to support individuals who are seeking specialized services based on their needs: • Opportunity for one stop supports and/or resources 		
f. Newcomers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for more English language learning classes 		

NEXT STEPS

The Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy is specific to addressing accessibility and equity within our community with the aim of improving the overall social and emotional wellness across the city. It is recognized that many of the initiatives within this strategy are cross referenced within other departmental strategies and workplans. Therefore, it will be imperative that all city departments work together to strive and achieve an inclusive and welcoming community.

Engage Lead Agencies and Organizations

Moving forward with the implementation of the Accessibility and Inclusiveness Strategy will be in part dependent on city departments and our partnerships and relationships with community agencies and organizations. As we work through an implementation process city staff, community partners and agencies will be consulted and invited to collaboratively work on prioritizing the goals and objectives outlined within the strategy.

Review of Strategy

As per the BC Accessibility Legislation, the Accessibility and Inclusiveness Plan will be reviewed every three years to ensure we are meeting the ongoing and growing needs of the community and to measure our success in improving accessibility and inclusiveness.

Additionally, some of the goals and objectives listed within the strategy are in progress, nearing completion or completed. Goals and objectives that are in progress, nearing completion or completed will be highlighted and reported out on. MACAI will provide council with an annual update.

This Act is current to March 19, 2024

See the [Tables of Legislative Changes](#) for this Act's legislative history, including any changes not in force.

Accessible British Columbia Act

[SBC 2021] CHAPTER 19

Assented to June 17, 2021

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Part 1 — Interpretation

Definitions

1 In this Act:

"accessibility committee" means a committee under section 9 [*accessibility committee*];

"accessibility plan" means a plan under section 11 [*accessibility plan*];

"barrier" has the meaning given to it in section 2 [*barriers*];

"director" means the director designated under section 21 [*director*];

"disability" means an inability to participate fully and equally in society as a result of the interaction of an impairment and a barrier;

"impairment" includes a physical, sensory, mental, intellectual or cognitive impairment, whether permanent, temporary or episodic;

"Indigenous peoples" has the same meaning as in the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#);

"provincial accessibility committee" means the government's accessibility committee;

"technical committee" means a committee under section 15 [*technical committees*].

Barriers

2 (1) For the purposes of this Act, a barrier is anything that hinders the full and equal participation in society of a person with an impairment.

(2) For certainty and without limiting subsection (1), barriers can be

(a) caused by environments, attitudes, practices, policies, information, communications or technologies, and

(b) affected by intersecting forms of discrimination.

Part 2 — Recognition and Accountability

Division 1 — Recognition

Minister to promote accessibility

3 (1) The minister must promote accessibility in British Columbia.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the minister may, subject to the regulations, pay a grant to a person for the purpose of identifying, removing or preventing barriers.

Recognition of AccessAbility Week

4 The prescribed week in each year is AccessAbility Week throughout British Columbia.

Recognition of sign languages

5 Sign languages are recognized as the primary languages for communication by deaf persons in British Columbia, including, without limitation,

(a) American Sign Language, and

(b) Indigenous sign languages.

Division 2 — Accountability

Annual reports

6 (1) The minister must publish a report for each fiscal year of the government that describes the actions taken in that year by the minister and the provincial accessibility committee to implement this Act and the regulations.

(2) A report under subsection (1) for a fiscal year must be published by September 30 in the following fiscal year.

Independent reviews

7 (1) The minister must, by appointing a person in accordance with subsection (2), initiate a review of the effectiveness of this Act and the regulations

(a) by March 31, 2026,

(b) within 5 years after the first appointment, and

(c) at least every 10 years thereafter.

(2) An appointment under subsection (1) must require the person appointed to

(a) carry out the review in accordance with terms of reference, if any, specified in writing by the minister,

(b) in carrying out the review, consult with representatives of at least the following groups:

(i) persons with disabilities;

(ii) individuals and organizations that support persons with disabilities;

(iii) Indigenous peoples;

(iv) individuals and organizations that are subject to or affected by Part 3 [*Accessible Organizations*];

- (v) individuals and organizations that are subject to or affected by the regulations, and
- (c) submit to the minister a report that sets out
 - (i) the findings of the review, and
 - (ii) the recommendations, if any, of the person appointed on how to improve the effectiveness of the Act and the regulations.
- (3) The minister must lay a report under subsection (2) (c) before the Legislative Assembly as soon as practicable and, promptly after doing so, must publish the report.

Part 3 — Accessible Organizations

Application

8 This Part applies to the following organizations:

- (a) the government;
- (b) a prescribed organization and an organization in a prescribed class of organizations.

Accessibility committee

9 (1) An organization must establish a committee to

- (a) assist the organization to identify barriers to individuals in or interacting with the organization, and
- (b) advise the organization on how to remove and prevent barriers to individuals in or interacting with the organization.

(2) An accessibility committee must, to the extent possible, have members who are selected in accordance with the following goals:

- (a) at least half of the members are
 - (i) persons with disabilities, or
 - (ii) individuals who support, or are from organizations that support, persons with disabilities;
- (b) the members described in paragraph (a) reflect the diversity of persons with disabilities in British Columbia;
- (c) at least one of the members is an Indigenous person;
- (d) the committee reflects the diversity of persons in British Columbia.

Provincial accessibility committee

10 (1) The provincial accessibility committee is to consist of up to 11 members appointed by the minister in accordance with section 9 (2) [*accessibility committee*] and this section.

(2) An individual may be appointed under subsection (1) for a term of up to 4 years and may not be appointed for more than 2 consecutive terms.

(3) The provincial accessibility committee is subject to the direction of the minister.

Accessibility plan

11 (1) An organization must develop a plan to identify, remove and prevent barriers to individuals in or interacting with the organization.

(2) An organization must review and update its accessibility plan at least once every 3 years.

(3) In developing and updating its accessibility plan, an organization must consider the following principles:

(a) inclusion;

(b) adaptability;

(c) diversity;

(d) collaboration;

(e) self-determination;

(f) universal design.

(4) In developing its accessibility plan, an organization must consult with its accessibility committee.

(5) In updating its accessibility plan, an organization must

(a) consider any comments received under section 12 [*public feedback*], and

(b) consult with its accessibility committee.

Public feedback

12 An organization must establish a process for receiving comments from the public on

(a) the organization's accessibility plan, and

(b) barriers to individuals in or interacting with the organization.

Part 4 — Accessibility Standards

Division 1 — Accessibility Standards

Accessibility standards

13 (1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations respecting the identification, removal or prevention of barriers.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations under that subsection in relation to any of the following:

(a) employment;

(b) delivery of services;

- (c) the built environment;
- (d) information and communications;
- (e) transportation;
- (f) health;
- (g) education;
- (h) procurement.

(3) For certainty, the authority to make regulations under this section is not limited by Division 2 [*Standards Development*].

Division 2 — Standards Development

Standards development

14 If the minister directs the provincial accessibility committee to develop a proposed accessibility standard, the committee must

- (a) develop the proposed accessibility standard in accordance with
 - (i) this Division and the regulations, if any, and
 - (ii) any general or specific directions of the minister, and
- (b) submit the proposed accessibility standard to the minister.

Technical committees

15 (1) The minister may establish a technical committee to assist the provincial accessibility committee to develop a proposed accessibility standard.

(2) The minister may appoint any of the following to a technical committee:

- (a) members of the provincial accessibility committee;
 - (b) other individuals as the minister considers necessary or advisable.
- (3) A technical committee is subject to the direction of the provincial accessibility committee.

Consultations

16 In developing a proposed accessibility standard, the provincial accessibility committee must consult with representatives of at least the following groups:

- (a) persons with disabilities;
- (b) individuals and organizations that support persons with disabilities;
- (c) Indigenous peoples;
- (d) organizations that might be affected by the standard;

(e) ministries of the government that might be affected by the standard.

Accessibility principles

17 In developing a proposed accessibility standard, the provincial accessibility committee must consider the following principles:

- (a) inclusion;
- (b) adaptability;
- (c) diversity;
- (d) collaboration;
- (e) self-determination;
- (f) universal design.

Relevant laws, standards and norms

18 In developing a proposed accessibility standard, the provincial accessibility committee must consider

- (a) relevant laws of British Columbia,
- (b) relevant standards enacted or proposed in other jurisdictions, and
- (c) the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Rights of Indigenous peoples

19 In developing a proposed accessibility standard, the provincial accessibility committee must consider

- (a) the rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and
- (b) the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Publication and recommendation of proposed standards

20 The minister must

- (a) publish a proposed accessibility standard developed and submitted under section 14 [*standards development*], and
- (b) after making any changes to the proposed accessibility standard that the minister considers necessary or advisable, recommend to the Lieutenant Governor in Council that a regulation based on that standard be enacted under section 13 [*accessibility standards*].

Part 5 and 6

Not in force

21-27 [Not in force.]

Part 7 — General

Accessible formats

28 A person who is required under this Act to publish a record must, on request, provide the record in a prescribed accessible format

- (a) at no charge, and
- (b) within a reasonable period of time.

Remuneration of provincial committees

29 In accordance with the general directives of Treasury Board, the minister may

(a) reimburse or pay an allowance to members of the provincial accessibility committee or a technical committee for reasonable travelling and out-of-pocket expenses necessarily incurred in carrying out their duties, and

(b) pay remuneration to

- (i) members of the provincial accessibility committee, or
- (ii) members of a technical committee who are
- (A) members of the provincial accessibility committee, or
- (B) persons with disabilities.

Consultants and specialists

30 (1) The minister may, for the purposes of this Act, engage or retain consultants or specialists that the minister considers necessary and may determine their remuneration.

(2) The Public Service Act does not apply to a person engaged or retained under subsection (1).

Section 5 of *Offence Act* does not apply

31 Section 5 of the Offence Act does not apply to this Act or the regulations.

Regulations

32 (1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations referred to in section 41 of the Interpretation Act.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations as follows:

- (a) respecting any matter for which regulations are contemplated by this Act;
- (b) respecting grants under section 3 [*minister to promote accessibility*], including, without limitation,
 - (i) restricting the purposes, amounts or recipients of those grants, and
 - (ii) respecting the terms and conditions on which the grants may or must be given;

- (c) prescribing for the purposes of section 8 (b) [*application of Part 3*] a person, agency or other body or a class of persons, agencies or other bodies;
 - (d) respecting the establishment and functions of accessibility committees, the development, contents and form of accessibility plans and the process for receiving comments under section 12 [*public feedback*];
 - (e) requiring persons to whom Part 3 [*Accessible Organizations*] does not apply to prepare plans described in section 11 (1) [*accessibility plan*] and respecting the development, contents and form of those plans;
 - (f) respecting the development of proposed accessibility standards under sections 14 to 19 [*standards development, etc.*];
 - (g) without limiting paragraphs (d) and (f), respecting what is to be considered in considering a principle referred to in sections 11 (3) [*accessibility plan*] or 17 [*accessibility principles*];
 - (h) respecting monetary penalties under section 23 [*monetary penalties*], including, without limitation,
 - (i) prescribing a limitation period for imposing a monetary penalty and evidentiary matters in relation to that period,
 - (ii) subject to section 23 (3), prescribing the minimum or maximum amount of a monetary penalty that may be imposed for specified contraventions, or a manner of calculating those amounts,
 - (iii) authorizing administrative penalties to be imposed on a daily basis for continuing contraventions,
 - (iv) prescribing time limits for paying monetary penalties, and
 - (v) prescribing the consequences of failing to pay a monetary penalty, which may include, but are not limited to, imposing additional penalties;
 - (i) respecting appeals under section 27 [*appeals to tribunal*], including, without limitation,
 - (i) prescribing a tribunal established or continued under another Act for the purposes of that section, and
 - (ii) applying provisions of the [Administrative Tribunals Act](#) to an appeal or the tribunal;
 - (j) respecting publication of anything that is required to be published under this Act and prescribing formats as accessible formats for the purposes of section 28 [*accessible formats*].
- (3) A regulation under this Act may do one or more of the following:
- (a) delegate a matter to a person;
 - (b) confer a discretion on a person;
 - (c) make different regulations in relation to different classes of persons, things, circumstances or other matters;
 - (d) adopt by reference, in whole, in part or with any changes considered appropriate, a regulation, code, standard or rule
 - (i) enacted as or under a law of another jurisdiction in or outside Canada, or
 - (ii) set by a provincial, national or international body or any other code-, standard- or rule-making body
- as the regulation, code, standard or rule stands at a specific date, as it stands at the time of adoption or as amended from time to time.

(4) The authority to make regulations under this section does not limit and is not limited by the authority to make regulations under section 13 *[accessibility standards]*.

Commencement

33 The provisions of this Act referred to in column 1 of the following table come into force as set out in column 2 of the table:

Item	Column 1 Provisions of Act	Column 2 Commencement
1	Anything not elsewhere covered by this table	The date of Royal Assent
2	Sections 11 and 12	By regulation of the Lieutenant Governor in Council
3	Sections 21 to 27	By regulation of the Lieutenant Governor in Council

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TO: His Worship Mayor Dan Ruimy
and Members of Council
FROM: Chief Administrative Officer

MEETING DATE: April 9, 2024
FILE NO: 2019-032-CP
MEETING: Workshop

SUBJECT: Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan Update and Proposed Next Steps

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan sets the long-term vision for the area extending from the City's western boundary to the Town Centre along Lougheed Highway and Dewdney Trunk Road. This Area Plan envisions high-density commercial nodes, employment hubs, and complete streets connected by enhanced transit service.

On December 14, 2021, the Official Community Plan Amending Bylaw (No. 7781-2021) for the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan and Development Permit Guidelines was given first reading. When the Official Community Plan Amending Bylaw was presented for second reading on June 28, 2022, it was referred back to staff for further review.

Since the time when the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan was given first reading in 2021, there have been several fundamental shifts in the provincial, regional, and local contexts that require consideration from a long-term planning perspective. These include:

- New Council Strategic Plan (2023-2026), Strategic Transportation Plan (2023), and other plans;
- New Bus Rapid Transit line announced between Maple Ridge and Langley;
- New regional planning guidance under *Metro 2050* and *Transport 2050*;
- New provincial housing legislation under Bills 44, 46, and 47; and
- New opportunities to collaborate more closely with external partners, such as TransLink.

This report provides an update to Council on the on-going work for the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan and proposes next steps for Council's consideration. The proposed next steps include conducting public engagement for community feedback on the updated direction of the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan prior to consideration for second reading in Q3 of this year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **That staff continue to review the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan, as outlined in the report titled, "Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan Update and Proposed Next Steps", dated April 9, 2024.**
2. **That staff proceed with Public Engagement Option 1, as outlined in the report titled, "Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan Update and Proposed Next Steps", dated April 9, 2024.**

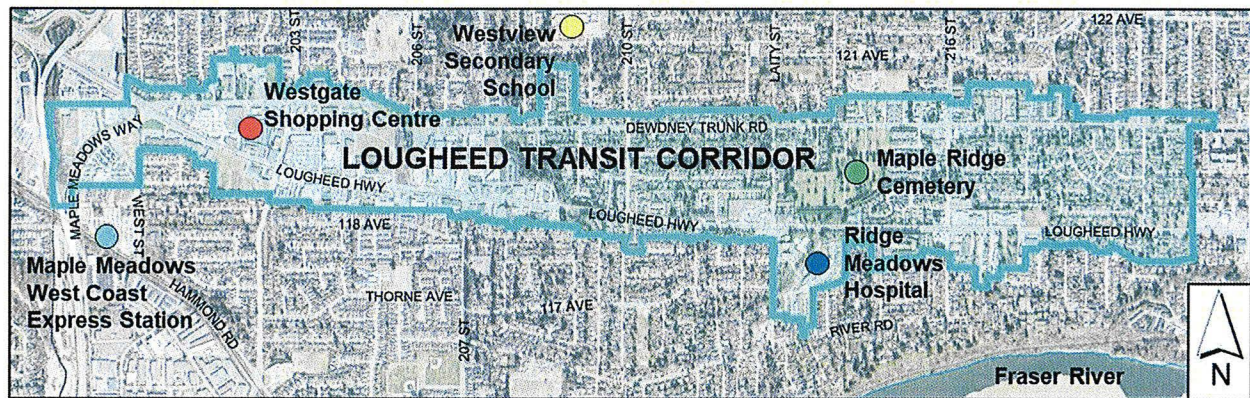
1.0 BACKGROUND

This section provides background on the Lougheed Transit Corridor, the development of the Area Plan, and the evolving planning context for this area resulting from provincial, regional, and local changes, including new legislation and policy guidance.

1.1 Lougheed Transit Corridor

The Lougheed Transit Corridor is a key area in Maple Ridge that extends from the City's western boundary to the Town Centre along Lougheed Highway and Dewdney Trunk Road. This area acts as a gateway to Maple Ridge and other cities in the region, with important transportation linkages to Pitt Meadows, Langley, and beyond. The Lougheed Transit Corridor has been identified as a Major Transit Growth Corridor in Metro Vancouver's Regional Growth Strategy, *Metro 2050*. This area is currently characterized by suburban development patterns, with highway-oriented commercial uses and low-density housing types that present significant opportunities for growth and community development.

Figure 1. Context Map for the Lougheed Transit Corridor.



1.2 Area Plan

On November 10, 2020, Council endorsed the Lougheed Transit Corridor Concept Plan, which introduced guiding principles and objectives for the area based on the outcomes of the Lougheed Transit Corridor Study. The Concept Plan proposed new land use designations for the Lougheed Transit Corridor to create two high-density transit nodes with Rapid Bus Stops along Lougheed Highway, and several high streets with shopping and housing connecting Lougheed Highway to Dewdney Trunk Road.

On December 14, 2021, the Official Community Plan Amending Bylaw (No. 7781-2021) for the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan and Development Permit Guidelines was given first reading. When the Official Community Plan Amending Bylaw was presented for second reading on June 28, 2022, it was referred back to staff for further review based on Council's comments surrounding densification, parking, and employment lands.

1.3 Recent Work

Since the time when Official Community Plan Amending Bylaw No. 7781-2021 was given first reading in 2021, there have been several fundamental shifts in the provincial, regional, and local contexts that have presented opportunities to update the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan and re-envision the future of this area, including:

- New Council Strategic Plan (2023-2026), Strategic Transportation Plan (2023), and other plans;
- New Bus Rapid Transit line announced between Maple Ridge and Langley;
- New regional planning guidance under *Metro 2050* and *Transport 2050*;
- New provincial housing legislation under Bills 44, 46, and 47; and
- New opportunities to collaborate more closely with external partners, such as TransLink.

Staff are currently reviewing the area planning policies and design guidelines for the Lougheed Transit Corridor to leverage these changes and ensure new development within this area is in alignment with the updated provincial, regional, and local policy guidance. Work currently underway includes a traffic analysis for the Lougheed Transit Corridor to model future scenarios and determine requirements for road dedication, lane access, traffic signals, and other transportation network considerations. The outcomes of the traffic analysis will be used to evaluate the proposed land uses and assess how mobility throughout the Lougheed Transit Corridor can be enhanced through new active transportation routes, such as an east-west greenway. Staff have also engaged the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, TransLink, and professional consultants to review the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan in detail and identify opportunities to incorporate new development trends and best practices from a planning perspective.

In addition to on-going planning work, staff are initiating a servicing analysis for the Lougheed Transit Corridor to update the stormwater management requirements for this area in relation to environmentally sensitive areas, such as McKenney Creek. This work will inform on-site drainage requirements to manage stream flows and explore opportunities for new stormwater retention and detention facilities. A portion of the Lougheed Transit Corridor is also located within the Fraser River Escarpment (FRE). The City is currently undertaking a geotechnical risk assessment of the FRE to determine the suitability of increased densification in this area, the results of which may impact the policies, bylaws, and development permit requirements currently in place. Building permits and development permits applied for in the future will be subject to any policies, bylaws, and development permit requirements in place at the time of application.

2.0 DISCUSSION

This section outlines key aspects of the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan that are currently under review prior to bringing the updated Area Plan forward for comments at a future Council Workshop meeting or consideration for second reading.

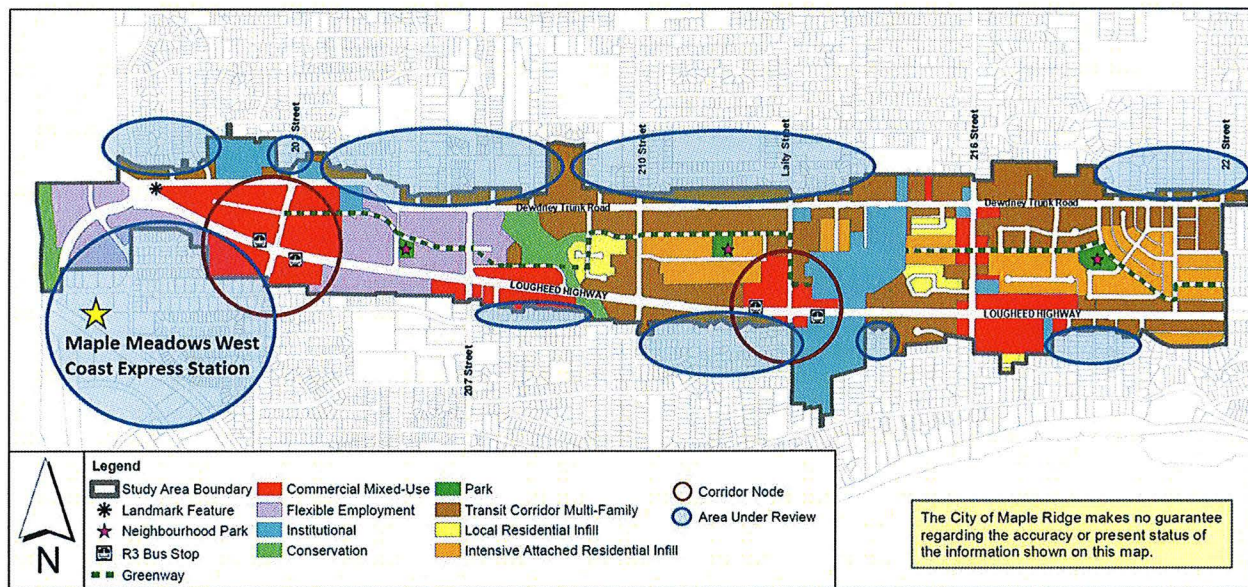
2.1 Area Plan Boundaries

The boundaries for the Lougheed Transit Corridor define where the policies within the Area Plan and Development Permit Guidelines are applied. The intent is to provide clear and rationale boundaries to the Lougheed Transit Corridor based on major transportation corridors, environmental features, and existing development. These boundaries are currently under review to:

- Ensure there is sufficient area for new development along the major corridors, including Lougheed Highway and Dewdney Trunk Road;
- Plan for the new transit-oriented development area at the Maple Meadows West Coast Express Station;
- Improve the compatibility of new development within the Lougheed Transit Corridor with existing neighbourhoods along the perimeter of the Area Plan; and
- Align the Lougheed Transit Corridor boundaries more closely with adjacent Area Plans, including the Town Centre Area Plan and Hammond Area Plan.

The following figure shows the boundaries for the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan that were given first reading in December of 2021 (see Appendix A for full-size map). These boundaries now interface with the new transit-oriented development area at the Maple Meadows West Coast Express Station, which will come into effect by June 30, 2024, as part of Bill 47. The new off-street parking and minimum density requirements for transit-oriented development areas will apply to the land within a 400-metre radius of the station. This 400-metre radius will extend into the Lougheed Transit Corridor. As a result, consideration must be given to how development within the Lougheed Transit Corridor will integrate with the new transit-oriented development area recognized by the province.

Figure 2. Lougheed Transit Corridor Land Use Concept Map.



As part of the review of the boundaries for the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan, several areas along the perimeter of the existing boundaries have been identified at a high level for further study or consideration as part of the final Area Plan. These areas have been identified due to their proximity to major corridors, including Lougheed Highway and Dewdney Trunk Road.

2.2 Land Use Designations and Policies

The land use designations and policies within the Lougheed Transit Corridor provide guidance on how land could be used in the future and what type(s) of buildings would be appropriate for a given property. These land use designations and policies are currently under review to:

- Ensure the land use designations and policies can be clearly understood by the community and those interested in development opportunities within the Lougheed Transit Corridor;
- Incorporate the new residential densities allowed under Bills 44 and 47;
- Identify landmark sites and improve clarity where higher density residential development is planned within the Lougheed Transit Corridor;
- Ensure commercial and employment land use designations are flexible to support businesses, organizations, and institutions looking to operate in the Lougheed Transit Corridor.

Following this work, new land use designations will be brought forward for Council's consideration.

2.3 Climate Action

The climate action policies within the Lougheed Transit Corridor aim to enhance parks, greenspace, and tree canopy coverage across the area while utilizing green infrastructure on appropriate streets and development sites to address climate challenges. These policies are currently under review to:

- Plan for the impacts of climate change and incorporate opportunities for green infrastructure in alignment with the Green Infrastructure Management Strategy (2021);
- Provide equitable access to parks and greenspace throughout the Lougheed Transit Corridor;
- Leverage opportunities for green active transportation routes that connect people to places and encourage sustainable modes of transportation; and
- Align planning within the Lougheed Transit Corridor with key goals and targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Strategy (in-progress).

2.4 Mobility

The mobility policies within the Lougheed Transit Corridor aim to enhance opportunities for transit and active transportation while mitigating traffic and congestion as development occurs. These policies are currently under review to:

- Enhance transportation equity by providing multiple options for people of all ages and abilities to move safely and conveniently throughout the Lougheed Transit Corridor;
- Coordinate land uses and development with expanded Bus Rapid Transit service along Lougheed Highway to Langley and Coquitlam;
- Synergize planning within the Lougheed Transit Corridor with key routes and projects identified in the Strategic Transportation Plan (2023); and
- Capitalize on opportunities to collaborate more closely with external partners, including TransLink and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

2.5 Placemaking and Community Building

Policies for placemaking and community building within the Lougheed Transit Corridor aim to create distinct, vibrant neighbourhoods that offer shopping, services, and amenities to residents and visitors. These policies are currently under review to:

- Create a unique sense of place along the Lougheed Transit Corridor by developing special planning precincts with distinct character and defining elements;
- Ensure new development within the Lougheed Transit Corridor reflects the community's vision and identity through its architecture and design;
- Effectively plan for social gathering spaces in the public realm and as part of new development within the Lougheed Transit Corridor; and
- Provide additional opportunities for community engagement on key priorities and the updated direction of the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan.

2.6 Development Considerations

To expedite the updates required by the new provincial housing legislation and ensure that new development in the Lougheed Transit Corridor is compatible with the transportation planning for Bus Rapid Transit service, the City is temporarily pausing new development pre-application meetings and applications within the Lougheed Transit Corridor. This temporary pause will help minimize the number of revisions that new development applications would be required to make as the new provincial legislation comes into effect.

Applicants with active development applications in Lougheed Transit Corridor are able to contact the Planning Department with any questions pertaining to the status of the application. The webpage for the Lougheed Transit Corridor on the City's website (www.mapleridge.ca/2772) contains additional background for those interested, including contact information and links to previous Council reports.

2.7 Timeline and Next Steps

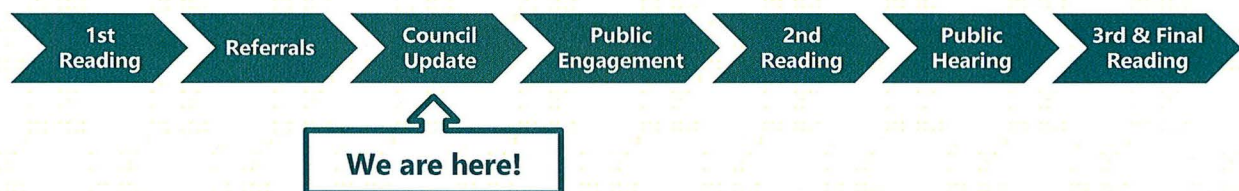
The opportunity for public engagement on the Lougheed Transit Corridor was last provided in 2019 as part of the Lougheed Transit Corridor Study. Over the past five years, the context from which the original Concept Plan was based has changed, which presents an opportunity to re-envision the future of this area. Engaging the public on the updated direction of the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan would provide the opportunity to share new information with the public about the planning for this area and gather updated community feedback for Council's consideration.

Following the review and update of the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan as outlined in this report, three public engagement options are presented for Council's consideration:

- **Option 1:** Staff conduct a public engagement for the updated Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan prior to second reading;
- **Option 2:** The updated Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan is brought forward for second reading, and staff conduct a public engagement prior to public hearing; or
- **Option 3:** The updated Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan is brought forward for second reading, with the opportunity for community feedback at the public hearing stage.

Public Engagement Option 1 is recommended by staff to provide Council with community feedback on the updated direction of the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan prior to consideration for second reading in Q3 of this year. Following second reading, the Official Community Plan Amending Bylaw would proceed through the standard bylaw adoption process, as shown in the following figure.

Figure 3. Bylaw Adoption Process with Public Engagement Option 1.



Should Council not wish to proceed with Public Engagement Option 1, the following alternative recommendations have been identified:

- That staff proceed with Public Engagement Option 2, as outlined in the report titled, "Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan Update and Proposed Next Steps", dated April 9, 2024; or
- That staff proceed with Public Engagement Option 3, as outlined in the report titled, "Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan Update and Proposed Next Steps", dated April 9, 2024.

3.0 STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Reviewing and updating the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan aligns with all five strategic priorities within the 2023-2026 City of Maple Ridge Council Strategic Plan:

- **Liveable Community:** positioning the Lougheed Transit Corridor for expanded housing diversity, improved mobility with sustainable transportation options, and new infrastructure.
- **Climate Leadership and Environmental Stewardship:** mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change while protecting the natural environment.
- **Engaged, Healthy Community:** strengthening community connections and fostering a sense of belonging while providing additional opportunities for community engagement.
- **Diversified, Thriving Economy:** attracting, retaining, and expanding business investment within the Lougheed Transit Corridor through supportive land use policies.
- **Governance and Corporate Excellence:** improving the clarity, graphics, and design of the Area Plan to enhance the user experience for residents, property owners, and developers.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The work associated with reviewing and updating the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan is included in the 2024 Departmental Work Plans.

CONCLUSION:

Reviewing and updating the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan presents an opportunity to improve the planning for this key area and leverage fundamental shifts in the provincial, regional, and local contexts. These changes include a new Council Strategic Plan and Strategic Transportation Plan, new regional plans, new provincial housing legislation, and the announcement of new Bus Rapid Transit service. As part of this work, staff are proposing to conduct a public engagement to seek community feedback on the updated direction of the Lougheed Transit Corridor Area Plan for Council's consideration prior to second reading.

"Original Signed by Jeff White"

Prepared by: **Jeff White, M.Pl.**
 Planner 1

"Original Signed by Marlene Best"

Approved by: **Marlene Best, RPP, MBA**
 Interim Director of Planning

"Original Signed by Scott Hartman"

Concurrence: **Scott Hartman**
 Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments: Appendix A - Lougheed Transit Corridor Land Use Concept Map

Appendix A: Loughheed Transit Corridor Land Use Concept Map

