

DATE OF MEETING May 9, 2022

AUTHORED BY LISA BHOPALSINGH, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT REIMAGINE NANAIMO – PHASE 3 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To provide the Governance and Priorities Committee results of the REIMAGINE NANAIMO Phase 3 Public Engagement on the Draft *City Plan – Nanaimo ReImagined*.

BACKGROUND

The REIMAGINE NANAIMO Coordinated Strategic Plan Review is nearing completion with the development a draft *City Plan – Nanaimo ReImagined* ("City Plan") during Phase 3. Public engagement has been central to this review process and the development of the City Plan.

Phase 1 (Gathering Ideas) of public engagement for RE**IMAGINE NANAIMO** took place between July and December 2020. This initial phase was focused on sharing information and listening to the community's ideas about Nanaimo's future. The input received was used to build options and scenarios explored in Phase 2. Some of the primary themes heard included: Appreciation of Nanaimo's nature and access to the waterfront; high value for Nanaimo's parks and recreation facilities; concern about climate change and human impacts on the environment; support for policies and programs promoting diversity, inclusion, and reconciliation; and concern about homelessness and social challenges. The Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) received the Phase 1 Public Engagement Summary on 2021-FEB-08.

Phase 2 (Exploring Options) of public engagement took place between June and September 2021. Phase 2 focused on developing and exploring options for how the community can achieve its shared vision and evaluating how different scenarios could support the community's goals. This information was used to develop draft directions for *City Plan – Nanaimo Relmagined* during Phase 3. Some of the primary themes heard during Phase 2 included: support for using the Nanaimo Doughnut as a way of organizing how we plan for Nanaimo's future, and for the five draft goals: A Green Nanaimo, A Connected Nanaimo, A Healthy Nanaimo, An Empowered Nanaimo, and A Prosperous Nanaimo. There was also important feedback heard supporting proposed planning directions that build on existing urban areas, and focus growth in a way that supports more compact, complete, and sustainable communities. The GPC received the Phase 2 Public Engagement Summary on 2021-NOV-22.

DISCUSSION

The engagement process for Phase 3 of RE**IMAGINE NANAIMO** launched on 2022-FEB-28, with the availability of a draft *City Plan – Nanaimo ReImagined* for review. A Community Survey



launched on 2022-MAR-01 focused on gathering feedback on key directions in the draft. The survey provided an opportunity for participants to review and indicate their level of support for up to 84 draft directions and share comments or suggestions on how to improve the draft directions. The survey was distributed in two formats, a Statistical Survey gathered input through a mail-out format to a representative sample of residents, and a voluntary Community Survey gathered input via an online or paper open to all interested participants. Both formats asked the same questions allowing comparative analysis. Outreach for Phase 3 included a video titled "Our Future Starts Here - REIMAGINE NANAIMO Phase 3," an interactive online Story Map exploration, downloadable Info Sheets, pop-ups at the Maple Sugar Festival, along with traditional outreach methods through media, social media, and physical information in the community.

Phase 3 closed on 2022-APR-08, with over 950 survey submissions. A Summary of Phase 3 Engagement is accessible via a link in Attachment A.

Survey feedback showed more than 75% of participants indicated support for 79 of the 84 draft directions presented in the survey (both in the Community Survey and Statistical Survey). Five draft directions received mixed feedback (i.e., less than 75% support in at least one of the survey formats). These included: Support Large-Format Retail that is Designed to be Pedestrian-Friendly and Mixed-use (51% Support in the Community Survey / 56% Support in the Statistical Survey), Support Low to Modest Infill in Neighbourhoods (72% Support in the Community Survey / 77% Support in the Statistical Survey), Encourage a Thriving Downtown through Density, Mobility, and Employment (74% Support in the Community Survey / 79% Support in the Statistical Survey), Manage Parking Supply City-Wide (58% Support in the Community Survey / 65% Support in the Statistical Survey), and Increase and Protect Industrial Lands (64% Support in the Community Survey / 81% Support in the Statistical Survey).

Qualitative comments for these five draft directions were coded (separated into themes with each theme counted to understand its prevalence) to further understand why participants indicated lower support for these draft directions. In addition, for the 79 draft directions with 75% or more support, participant comments and suggestions for potential refinements were also reviewed, themed, and summarized. For more details, please refer to Section 3.1 of the Phase 3 Engagement Summary accessed through Attachment A.

During the engagement period, the REIMAGINE NANAIMO team hosted events with those interested in learning more about key directions in the draft City Plan. Meeting participants included Neighbourhood Associations, local organizations, the development community, and students, among others. The format for each meeting included a presentation of key information, followed by open discussion where participants were invited to ask questions about their areas of interests and share their comments and suggestions for improvements to the draft. These meetings provided an important opportunity to delve into specific details of the draft City Plan and allow for technical questions and for exchanges about concerns or opportunities to be considered in the draft plan review process.



In addition, to provide opportunity for all members of the public to speak with the REIMAGINE NANAIMO team, a Community Information Session was held at the Beban Park Social Centre Lounge on 2022-MAR-29. This session provided all interested members of the community an opportunity to ask questions and engage in conversation about the draft City Plan. In addition, written submissions were also accepted via the project email. Over 325 people participated in meetings and events and over 40 written submissions were received. For details on input gathered, please see Section 3.2 of the Phase 3 Public Engagement Summary.

CONCLUSION

Phase 3 engagement was the most detailed engagement in the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process. It required participants to review and consider draft directions and share their level of support along with their comments on those directions. The goal of this engagement was to bring together all that has been learned through Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the process and understand where the draft *City Plan – Nanaimo ReImagined* is successfully responding to the values the community has shared, and where it can be improved and refined before proceeding into the bylaw review and adoption process.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The REIMAGINE NANAIMO Coordinated Strategic Plan Review is a comprehensive update and integration of the City of Nanaimo's key strategic planning and policy documents.
- The output of this process is the Draft *City Plan Nanaimo ReImagined* ("City Plan") that integrates and serves as the City's updated Official Community Plan (OCP); updated Parks, Recreation, Culture, & Wellness Plan; updated Transportation Plan; Active Mobility Plan; updated Climate Action & Resiliency Plan; and new Accessibility & Inclusion Plan.
- Community Engagement for Phase 3 of REIMAGINE NANAIMO on the Draft Plan launched on 2022-FEB-28 and Community Surveys open from 2022-MAR-01 until 2022-APR-08, and gathered input from over 950 survey participants, 325 meeting or event participants, and 40 written submissions. The Phase 3 Public Engagement Summary provides a detailed account of the activities and inputs during Phase 3.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Link to Phase 3 Public Engagement Summary and Appendices

Submitted by:

Concurrence by:

Lisa Bhopalsingh Director, Community Development Dale Lindsay General Manager, Development Services/Deputy CAO

ATTACHMENT A

Link to "Phase 3 Public Engagement Summary":

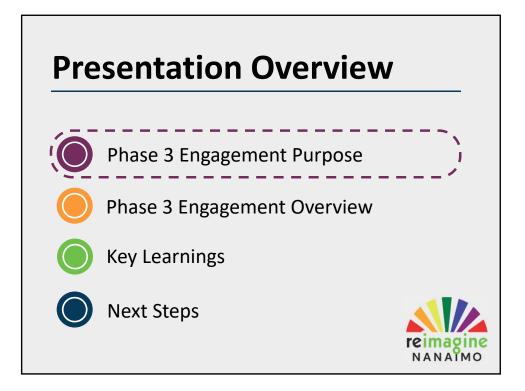
https://www.nanaimo.ca/docs/get-involved/reimagine/reimagine-phase-3-engagementsummary-draft.pdf

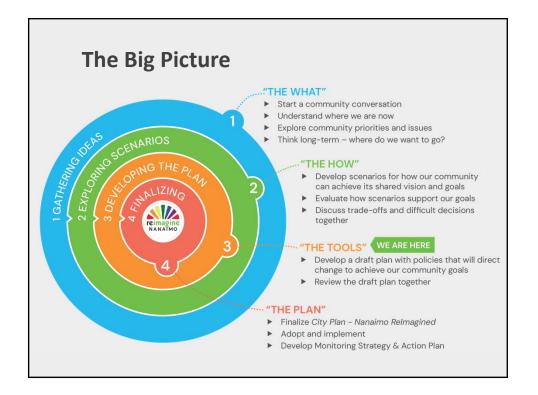
Link to "Phase 3 Public Engagement Appendices":

https://www.nanaimo.ca/docs/get-involved/reimagine/reimagine-phase-3-engagementsummary-appendices.pdf











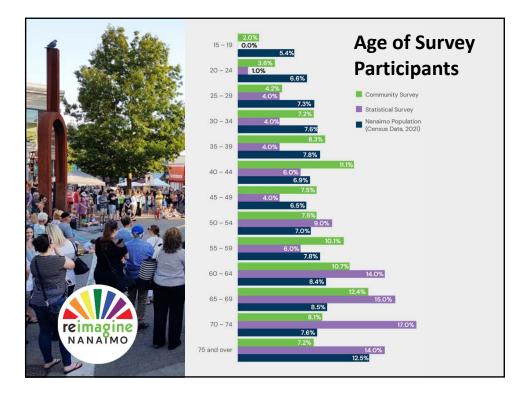


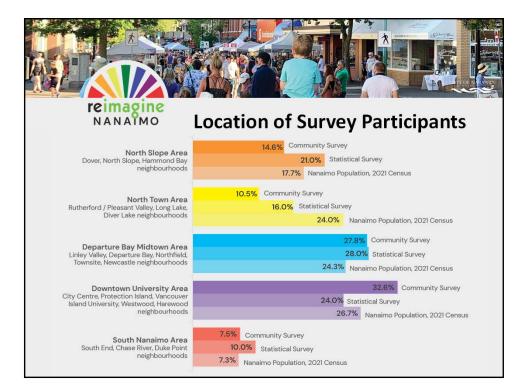
	C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	View Content of the second sec
 Social Media Video Get Involved Site Media Release Local Radio News Ads 	 Blog Posts Activity Guide Cross-Promotions Decals & Banners Posters Emails & Calls 	 Pop-ups Online Story Map Static Info Stations Community Info Session Meetings







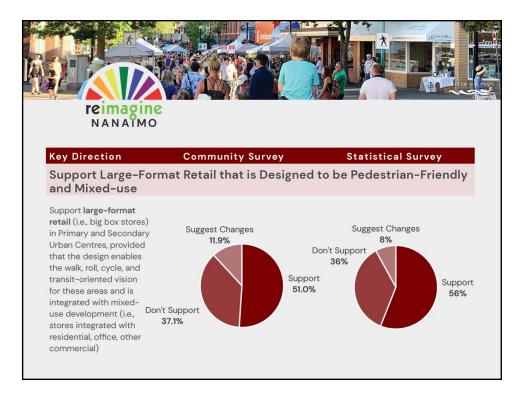




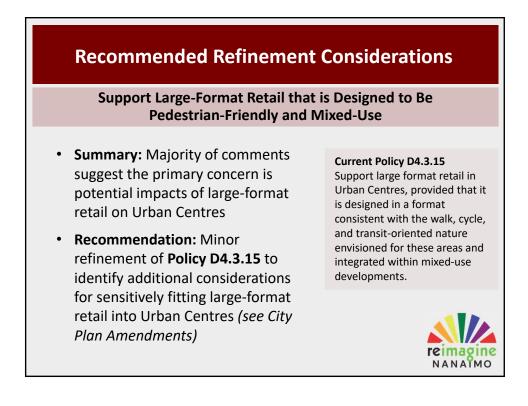




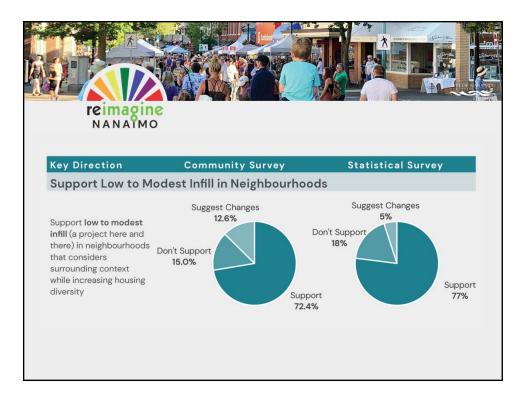
	0/ 5	ΝΑΝΑΤΜΟ
Key Direction	% Sup Community Survey	Statistical Survey
🙂 Directions with General Support from Partic	ipants (+7	75%)
Focus Future Growth in Existing Centres	87%	83%
Make Downtown our Primary Urban Centre	78%	75%
Create Secondary Urban Centres around Existing Activity Hubs	81%	87%
Support Smaller Neighbourhood Centres with Local Services	86%	90%
Avoid Large Areas of Surface Parking & Drive-Thrus	77%	76%
Plan Mobility Routes between Centres as Corridors	88%	92%
Define Mixed-use & Residential Corridors in the City	87%	88%
Direction with More Mixed Feedback (<75%	Support)	
Support Large-Format Retail that is Designed to be Pedestrian- Friendly and Mixed-use	51%	56%



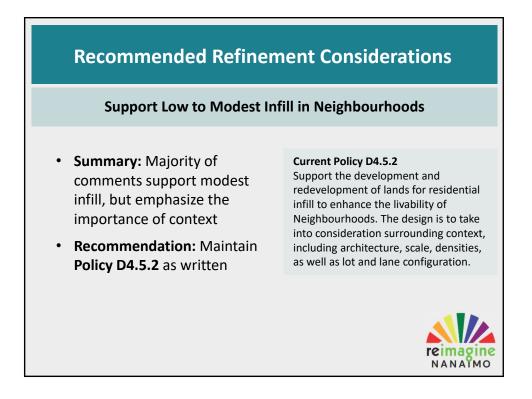
Support Large-Format Retail that is Designed to Be Pedestrian-Friendly and Mixed-Use			
55 COMMENTS	58 COMMENTS	7 COMMENTS	8 COMMENTS
Generally do not support large-format retail	Support some large- format, but with considerations	Desire more large-format retail	Other
 Support local businesses Do not want more big box stores 	 Not Downtown Not impacting local businesses Parking impacts are reduced Design quality and sustainability Only in existing or key areas areas Limited size / mixed- use 	 Needed / no other options South Nanaimo Outlet mall 	 Changes due to online shopping Locate away from Centres / out of town Avoid residential impacts



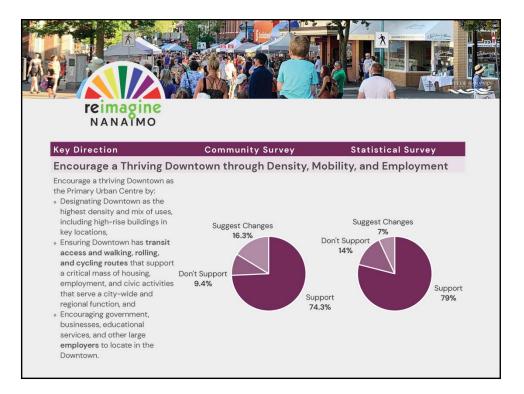
Livable Neighbourhoods		NANAIMO	
	% Suj		
Key Direction	Community Survey	Statistical Survey	
🙂 Directions with General Support from Particip	ants (+78	8%)	
Define Neighbourhoods & Suburban Neighbourhoods in the City	78%	78%	
Provide Gentle Transitions in Building Forms	85%	83%	
Fill Gaps in Neighbourhood-Scale Services	81%	80%	
Create a Land Use Designation for the Old City Quarter	82%	86%	
Support Parks, Trails, and Walkable Streets in all Neighbourhoods	91%	95%	
Secure Spaces for Recreation, Culture & Wellness Programs throughout the Community	91%	95%	
Develop Area Plans in Areas Where Growth is Expected and Engage Regularly with all Neighbourhoods on Priorities	88%	89%	
😢 Direction with More Mixed Feedback (<75% S	upport)		
Support Low to Modest Infill in Neighbourhoods	72%	77%	



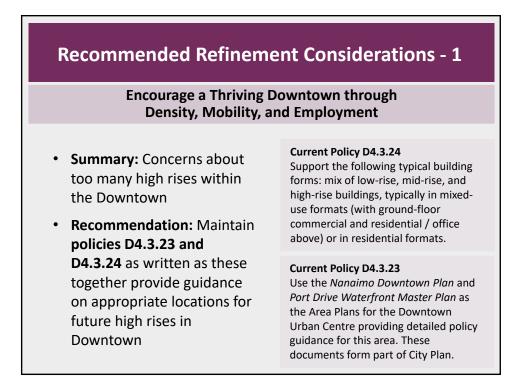
		ipants' Cor Aodest Infill in		
66 COMMENTS	15 COMMENTS	15 COMMENTS	38 COMMENTS	20 COMMENTS
General support for modest infill	Desire for more infill and density	Concerns about infill and density	Suggestions to consider for infill	Other
 General support for increasing density where thoughtfully done Desire for vibrant, 	Encourage modest to high infill	 Potential impacts: views, character, shade, parking, greenspace 	 Natural feature protection Form and character Fit with existing neighbourhoods Engagement 	 Increase diversity of housing forms Incentives
compactcommunitiesSupport formodest-scale			8-00	reimagine NANAIMO



Key Direction	% Sup Community Survey	oport Statistical Survey
😌 Directions with General Support from Particip	ants (+79	9%)
Position Downtown as the Cultural Focal Point	84%	84%
Recognize and Protect Built Heritage	85%	87%
Make Downtown Part of the Strategy to Strengthen City Identity	82%	83%
Enhance Community Safety and Wellbeing in the Downtown	79%	87%
🙄 Direction with More Mixed Feedback (<75% S	upport)	
Encourage a Thriving Downtown through Density, Mobility, and Employment	74%	79%



Encourage a Thriving Downtown through Density, Mobility, and Employment			
89 COMMENTS	81 COMMENTS	42 COMMENTS	34 COMMENTS
Support Focusing Density, Mobility, Employment Downtown	Concerns on Focusing Density, Mobility, Employment Downtown	Concerns about Social Issues and Public Safety	Other Considerations
Desire for vibrant activity (e.g., arts, culture, entertainment, etc.) Support for more businesses / offices Support investment	 Potential impacts of too many high rises (e.g., affordability, views, scale, safety) Concerns about traffic / parking Concerns about 	 Prioritize addressing social issues and public safety 	 Encourage density in all Centres (not just Downtown) Maintain unique identity and character

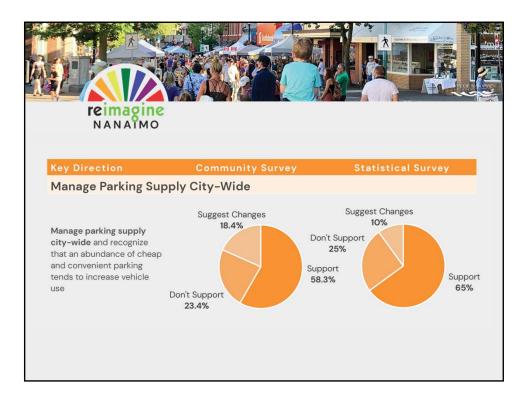


Recommended Refinement Considerations - 2

Encourage a Thriving Downtown through Density, Mobility, and Employment

- Summary: Concerns about social issues affecting Downtown
- Recommendations:
 - Add a new policy in **Section D4.3 Centres** to emphasize thoughtful design of future development or improvements in Downtown to support safety and security
 - Refine Section C3.4 Community Safety & Wellbeing to recognize the importance of increasing safety and security across the city including Downtown
 - Proposed changes included in the City Plan Amendments

	% Su	pport
Key Direction	Community Survey	Statistical Survey
🙂 Directions with General Support from Part	cicipants (+7)	7%)
Strengthen Mobility in Urban Centres	88%	92%
Ensure New Development has Walkable Streets	91%	97%
Efficient Movement of Commercial Goods and Services	91%	98%
Make it Easier to Get Around Without a Car	85%	91%
Invest in Active Mobility Routes	82%	82%
Follow a Vision Zero Approach	77%	82%
Develop Complete Streets	87%	91%
😟 Direction with More Mixed Feedback (<75	% Support)	
Manage Parking Supply City-Wide	58%	65%



What D	What Did Participants' Comments Tell Us?			
Manage Parking Supply City-Wide				
57 COMMENTS	64 COMMENTS	148 COMMENTS	13 COMMENTS	
Generally support managing parking city-wide	Support managing parking city-wide, with considerations	Concerns about managing parking city-wide	Other	
 Limit vehicles in some areas (e.g., Downtown) Gradually reduce parking while increasing other options Help people choose 	 Balance with increasing affordable and convenient transit Balance with increasing active transportation options 	 Some circumstances / community members require vehicle access Potential business impacts Growth of EVs Commercial activity (e.g., deliveries) 	 Diversify parking facilities (e.g., underground, park and ride) Concerns about active transportation investments 	
sustainable modes	 Work to create a balanced mix of transportation options 		reimagine	



Affordable City	r	eimagine
	% Support	
Key Direction	Community Survey	Statistical Survey
🙂 Directions with General Support from Particip	pants (+79	9%)
Encourage a Diverse Range of Housing Options	82%	83%
Work to Combat Rising Unaffordability	79%	85%
Collect Contributions from Development to Support Affordable Housing	85%	88%
Encourage Development along Corridors	87%	95%
Increase Affordable Access to Food	87%	94%
Support Efficient City Services	84%	83%
Encourage Affordable Access to Facilities and Services	86%	89%

Supportive City	NANAIMO	
Key Direction	% Sup Community Survey	Statistical Survey
🙂 Directions with General Support from Particip	oants (+85	5%)
Encourage Intergenerational Living	90%	91%
Improve Access to Healthy Food	89%	89%
Reduce Risk of Social Challenges	85%	87%
Increase Emergency Preparedness	93%	98%
Create Opportunities for Participation in Recreation, Culture & Wellness	90%	92%

	% Su	oport
Key Direction	Community Survey	Statistical Survey
🙂 Directions with General Support from Part	cicipants (+8	0%)
Continue Working to Advance Truth and Reconciliation	82%	80%
Increase Community Equity and Inclusivity	88%	89%
Provide Meaningful Engagement Opportunities	85%	88%
Improve Access for All	88%	90%
Increase Housing Diversity	84%	90%

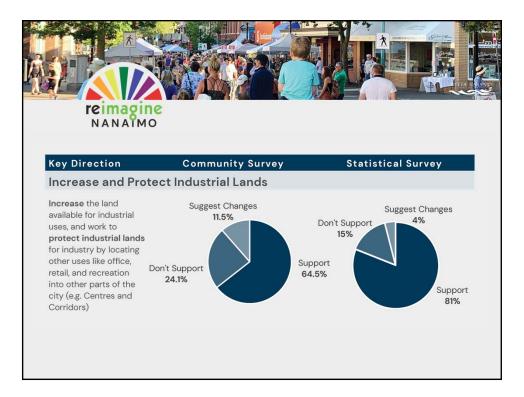
Key Direction	Community Survey	oport Statistical Survey	
Uirections with General Support from Participants (+79%)			
Maintain an Urban Containment Boundary	83%	83%	
Adjust the Urban Containment Boundary in South Nanaimo		80%	
Protect Lands with Special Features		93%	
Add Parks into Urban Centres		88%	
Maintain a Natural Character in the City		92%	
Create an Exceptional Recreational Trails Network		93%	
Build and Maintain and High Quality Parks System	87%	89%	

	% Su	% Support	
Key Direction	Community Survey	Statistical Survey	
🙂 Directions with General Support from Participants (+76%)			
Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions	76%	79%	
Build Climate Resiliency	93%	95%	
Increase Green Stormwater Management		96%	
Promote Sustainable Waste Management		93%	
Balance Dark Skies and Community Safety	87%	90%	

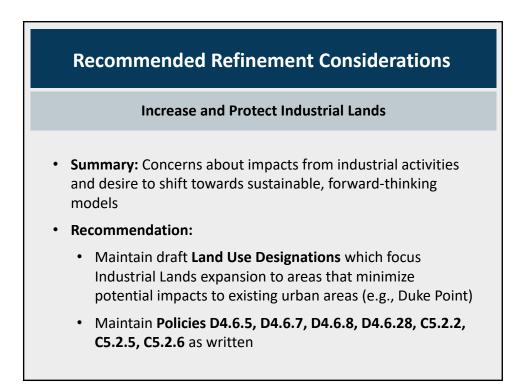
A Waterfront Identity	r	eimagine NANATMO	
	% Support		
Key Direction	Community Survey	Statistical Survey	
Directions with General Support from Participants (+85%)			
Continue Extending the Waterfront Walkway	85%	85%	
Prioritize Waterfront Lands for Future Parks		92%	
Enhance Waterfront Experiences and Amenities		94%	
Protect and Enhance Shoreline Environments	96%	98%	
Increase Water Absorption	96%	97%	
Adapt Waterfronts to Rising Seas	91%	93%	
Promote the Waterfront as Part of our Community Identity	87%	91%	
Recognize Marine-Oriented Employment and Transportation Needs	86%	88%	
Encourage Public Access, Tourism, and Commercial Activity along the Waterfront	88%	93%	

🤏 Central Hub Identity		NANAIMO	
	% Su	6 Support	
Key Direction	Community Survey	Statistical Survey	
😌 Directions with General Support from Participants (+80%)			
Invest in Quality Infrastructure	81%	92%	
Support a Health Care Centre of Excellence	92%	97%	
Continue to Develop our Tourism Potential	84%	87%	
Celebrate and Honour First Nations Culture	85%	80%	
Make Arts & Culture Visible in the City		90%	
Work with First Nations to Protect Archaeological Features		83%	
Continue a Heritage Conservation Program		91%	
Integrate Public Art into the Community		83%	
Create Opportunities for Public Gathering and Celebration	87%	87%	
Accelerate Remediation and Adaptive Re-use of Brownfield Sites	93%	95%	

👕 Great Businesses & Jobs	r	NANATMO	
	% Support		
Key Direction	Community Survey	Statistical Survey	
🙂 Directions with General Support from Participants (+83%)			
Focus Commercial, Institutional, and Office Jobs in Urban Centres	87%	89%	
Encourage and Support Eco-Industrial Networks	92%	96%	
Encourage Investment in People & the Environment		94%	
Attract New Businesses to Nanaimo		83%	
Support Growth in the Innovation and Technology Sector		92%	
Build our Reputation and Identity	88%	91%	
🕑 Direction with More Mixed Feedback (<75% 🛙	Support)		
Increase and Protect Industrial Lands	65%	81%	



What Did Participants' Comments Tell Us? Increase and Protect Industrial Lands				
45 COMMENTS	25 COMMENTS	25 COMMENTS	77 COMMENTS	
Generally support increasing and protecting industrial	Encourage maintaining / using existing industrial	Concerns about increasing and protecting industrial	Other Considerations	
 Tax base and well- paying jobs Focus in key areas (e.g., Duke Point) 	 Use existing lands more efficiently Infill these areas Limit impacts from industry 	 Protect lands for other uses Concerns about conflicts with Doughnut Economics 	 Encourage green / innovative industry Support business development and procuring good jobs 	
		Concern industry can't be both sustainable and cost effective	 Strengthen environmental requirements Encourage mixed-use industrial 	
reimagine NANATMO				



Recommended Refinement Considerations

Increase and Protect Industrial Lands

Relevant draft policies in Section D4.6: Industrial Lands

Current Policy D4.6.5

Encourage the use of circular economy principles in industrial areas.

Current Policy D4.6.7

Encourage synergies between industries in Industrial Lands and support businesses in developing an eco-industrial network to share energy, resource use, and waste management.

Current Policy D4.6.8

Recognize that clean, sustainable industrial uses are important for the future and support and encourage industrial businesses to use available technology to reduce water and energy use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and eliminate noise, odours, and other emissions.

Current Policy D4.6.28

To maximize the use of Light Industrial Lands, support intensification and efficient use of building space, including multi-storey buildings.

Recommended Refinement Considerations

Increase and Protect Industrial Lands

Relevant draft policies in Section C5.2: Human, Social & Environmental Capital

Current Policy C5.2.2

To enhance human capital, ensure the labour force is being trained to fill the jobs of today and the future by facilitating a greater integration of education / training with the various industry sectors.

Current Policy C5.2.5

Support business opportunities for a "green" economy including green energy generation and promotion of energy conservation.

Current Policy C5.2.6

Support the development of the circular economy in Nanaimo to build on the principles of Doughnut Economics.









