
INFORMATION BULLETIN

City Thanks Residents for Providing Their Input for Abbotsford's Future

ABBOTSFORD April 15, 2015 – The City of Abbotsford has now completed the Stage 2 of community engagement of Abbotsforward, the Official Community Plan (OCP) update project, with over 2,300 residents completing the online survey.

The City would also like to congratulate Jayne McGregor, a yoga instructor at Parallel Yoga, who won the random draw for an iPad mini which was available to all those who participated in the online survey!

Preliminary feedback results from the online survey show a three-way tie for residents' top priorities between: Parks & Environment; Jobs; and Transportation & Infrastructure. In fourth position was Housing.

City staff will use residents' comments to develop a set of 'big ideas' that connect the background research observations to the community engagement input. These 'big ideas' will be included with the detailed engagement results in the New Concepts Report that will be presented to City Council in May 2015.

Over a seven-week period, the Abbotsforward team engaged residents through an online survey, road show events, stakeholder workshops, neighbourhood walks, and citizen circles.

In total, nine road show events connected residents with planners; four stakeholder workshops reached out to the business, development, real estate and community group networks; three neighbourhood walks enabled planners to learn directly from residents in their neighbourhoods; and multiple citizen circles gave passionate residents the opportunity to discuss planning themes with friends, family, and neighbours.

A speaker event was also held on February 25th that drew a large crowd to the The Reach Gallery Museum as two planning experts, Brent Toderian and Jeffrey Tumlin, shared their ideas about 'how to build a better city'.

City staff are pleased with the broad range of participation represented in over 4,000 distinct engagements. This included over 2,300 completed online surveys, 1,400 people reached at road show events, and hundreds of others through neighbourhood walks, citizen circles, and social media. For more information about the engagement activities, visit www.abbotsforward.ca.

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