

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS:

## *North Mission*

Engagement Summary Report

Spring 2022





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## Overview

### About Community Conversations

Community Conversations is a Council-led civic dialogue series that invites residents and stakeholders to share their perspectives on a number of themes within a larger discussion topic. Through the sharing of perspectives, opinions, and ideas, this series will work to bridge the gap between Council and the community through conversation.

### North Mission Conversation

The Community Conversations series began with a focussed discussion on North Mission and the vision the community has for this area.

From late January to early March 2022, North Mission residents and stakeholders were invited to share their ideas directly with Council through guided conversation threads on transportation, economic opportunity, planning and development, outdoor spaces, civic pride, and the environment.

For the purposes of this engagement, North Mission was defined as Steelhead, Ferndale, Keystone, Stave Falls, and Ruskin.

## Engagement Process

Due to the constraints on gathering that existed at the beginning of 2022, the North Mission conversation launched on [engage.mission.ca](https://engage.mission.ca) with a collection of video introductions from Council, open-ended survey questions, and a mapping activity.

The feedback gathered through this process served as the blueprint for a two-hour facilitated meeting that took place in February where Council and participants dug deeper into a discussion on North Mission in real-time.

During the virtual meeting, participants were placed in themed breakout sessions based on their top three interests. Each breakout session was facilitated by a member of City Council. At the end of the breakout session, each Councillor reported back to the group what they heard.

## Outreach Activities

**37** survey responses

**7** pins added to the map activity

**1** Question & Answer

**15** attendees at the virtual Community Meeting

**1,400+** newsletter sends

**10,000** total reach through social media activities

**1** media release

**1** event listing

**30** rack cards distributed

## Next Steps

The input summarized in this draft report will be sent back to the community for review and to make sure we heard correctly. After this, further adjustments to the summary may be made accordingly.

The final report will help Council set priorities for future planning processes, such as the Official Community Plan, roads, parking and traffic safety, recreational access, tourism, and economic activity.

# What We Heard

From analyzing the community feedback gathered both within the survey and in the virtual meeting, the early elements of a vision for North Mission began to emerge, one that touched on the following key priorities:

1. Protect and enhance natural areas

2. Support pathways to sustainable tourism

3. Ensure safe and active travel and transportation

4. Refocus economic possibilities

5. Keep North Mission rural, green, and healthy



## 1. Protect and enhance natural areas

Preserving North Mission's environment is a priority now and into the future as the community grows.

This means:

- Investing in trail development and maintenance so our trails are connected, safe, clean, and meet the needs of all users
- Increasing parkland and outdoor recreation facilities
- Improving Stave West camping area to be more inviting to local families
- Creating spaces where dogs can explore and run around off leash
- Installing more interpretive signage so people know where they are and to improve their knowledge of the area
- Protecting waterways from construction and industrial runoff
- Managing land clearing and protecting big trees and recreation spots
- Educating visitors and residents on the Municipal Forest and active logging
- Completing an inventory of the current environmental conditions

By focusing on protecting and enhancing North Mission's natural areas, the following issues can be addressed:

- Clearcutting trees on private property
- Runoff into waterways from industrial sites
- Garbage fires, litter on trails, and illegal dumping

*I can hear frogs in my creek. I have heard the beat of a raven's wings for the first time in my life here and heard a tall Hemlock squeak in the wind....It is so beautiful here.*  
- Survey response



## 2. Support pathways to sustainable tourism

Developing sustainable tourism will generate economic activity and improve the quality of life for locals.

This means:

- Creating opportunities for tourists with environmental preservation front of mind
- Building another boat launch and parking area to relieve congestion
- Looking into ways to monetize tourist attractions for visitors
- Encouraging visitors to spend money on food, bike repairs, and restaurants
- Organizing food trucks with a local focus
- Educating visitors to leave no trace

By focusing on developing avenues for sustainable tourism, the following issues will be addressed:

- Visitors coming to Mission without spending money in the community
- Residents needing more opportunities for local jobs
- Preservation of natural areas

### 3. Ensure safe and active travel and transportation

Getting around North Mission needs to be safe and there need to be options.

This means:

- Enforcing traffic laws, such as speeding, illegal parking, and unsafe driving
- Creating more parking spaces and more accessible parking stalls
- Building bike lanes to increase cyclist safety
- Adding sidewalks to improve walkability and encourage exercise
- Bringing conventional bus or shuttle bus transit to the area
- Improving the condition and quality of roads to meet the demands of road users
- Reviewing opportunities to reroute heavy trucks
- Installing signage to remind visitors to be respectful of residents

By focusing on transportation and active travel, the following issues will be addressed:

- Vehicle crowding near trailheads and on rural roads
- Personal vehicles and heavy trucks speeding and driving dangerously
- Relying on ticketing to manage major parking issues

“*Seniors or people with disabilities have trouble with the hills and need reliable and frequent sources of transportation to access shopping and amenities*  
- Survey response



## 4. Refocus economic possibilities

Diversifying business opportunities in North Mission will benefit everyone in the city.

This means:

- Building small hubs or villages with amenities like gas stations, grocery stores, boutiques, and services
- Planning indoor and outdoor markets for local farmers and artisans to sell their items
- Prioritizing commercial and light industry over heavy industrial plants
- Creating destination facilities for sports, BMX training, and activities like rock climbing
- Attracting new business sectors, including clean and sustainable industries, to invest in the area

By refocusing economic possibilities in North Mission, the following issues will be addressed:

- Disruptions and pollution concerns related to gravel and asphalt plants
- Lack of support for home-based businesses
- Need for more local opportunities for work
- Gravel on the roads and bike lanes





## 5. Keep North Mission rural, green, and healthy

Prioritizing healthy natural and built environments improves the wellness of all community members.

This means:

- Creating healthy spaces for people of all ages and incomes
- Keeping North Mission natural without too much paving
- Offering incentives to developers to keep more green space
- Developing a noise bylaw
- Amending Mission's Official Community Plan to better reflect the unique needs of area
- Building more picnic amenities
- Supporting students and youth to learn about trail maintenance
- Restricting licenses for craft grow-ops
- Ensuring that youth can reach the services and supports they need

By focusing on keeping North Mission rural, green, and healthy, the following issues will be addressed:

- Frequent noise caused by engine braking
- Youth needing to travel to other communities for supports and services
- Locals not being able to enjoy recreational areas due to overcrowding
- Concerns over the potential for too much density

*Keep it simple. Keep it natural. Keep the trees, the waterways clean and in its purest form for the birds the trees and all the wildlife. That is what makes North Mission special.*

*- Survey response*

