

Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw Update – Community Engagement Summary

Engagement Summary

There are two rounds of community engagement for the Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw. Round 1 took place in March 2025 and focused on raising awareness and collecting feedback on community goals and priorities. It included:

- 3 Community Pop-Ups
- 2 Community Open Houses
- 4 Targeted Working Sessions with First Nations and other Interested Organizations
- Council Workshop
- Community Survey with over 125 responses.

Round 2 will present the draft OCP and zoning bylaw and invite discussion and feedback before we finalize the plan. Round 2 community engagement is expected to take place in summer 2025.

Key Emerging Themes

The following is a summary of the emerging themes and community comments received during Round 1:

Preserving & Enhancing Community Character

- Development should respect Hope's adjacency to natural beauty.
- Strengthen environmental protections.
- Development should not detract from Hope's mountain views.
- Buildings and streetscapes should reflect Hope's history as a logging community in an alpine setting.
- Promote eco-tourism to support protection and restoration of nature.
- Expand trails, including improving connections over private property.
- Introduce better accessibility on trails for bikes and wheelchairs.
- Promote forest management and coordinated community emergency planning.

Supporting Community Well-Being

- Better integrate local First Nations' history and culture within the community.
- More amenities, including opportunities for all age groups to remain active and fit.
- Greater recreational programming in Hope's urban parks.
- Creating more smaller pocket parks in neighbourhoods.
- Addressing Hope's homeless population through supportive housing initiatives.
- Introduction of more support programs and services to address mental health.
- Improve crime prevention and maintenance of playgrounds and parks.
- Promote food securing, including community gardens on underutilized.
- Provide better access to daycare.

Attracting New Residents & Businesses

- Delivery of greater housing supply, diversity and affordability. Single-family housing can be cost prohibitive to young professionals and families.
- Focus greater housing diversity around downtown which in turn can support enhanced commercial footfall and vibrancy along Wallace Street.
- Permission for short-term rental providing the property owner lives on site.
- Provide support for downtown businesses through Wallace Street revitalization.
- Improve the quality of hotels and conference facilities.
- Increase healthcare clinics and daycare capacity.
- Create room for sustainable and well-managed industrial growth.

Creating Downtown Vibrancy & Sense of Place

- Create design guidelines that support a unifying character and identify.
- Improve sidewalk accessibility in Downtown.
- Install more places to sit in Downtown.
- Build safe bike lanes and racks to improve cycling options to and from Downtown.
- Develop better wayfinding signage to support greater connectivity.
- Downtown improvements needed to compete with Old Hope Princeton Way.
- Support storefront façade renovations through incentives. More colourful businesses awnings are encouraged.
- Improve visual integration of Indigenous culture into the community.

Promoting Compact Land Use Management

- Create a clear direction of where future development is proposed to make the most efficient use of existing servicing infrastructure.
- Reduce conflicts between housing and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Provide sufficient land to accommodate light industrial growth.
- More public spaces are required within walking distance of new housing. This includes smaller neighbourhood parks and playgrounds.
- There are lots of empty stores. Need to reuse, not just build new.
- Need to improve servicing capacity in neighbourhood areas before supporting additional density. Focus growth in and close to Downtown.

Reinforcing Multi-Modal Connectivity

- Need better cycling and scooter infrastructure to incentivize and accommodate safe active transportation options.
- Improve road and sidewalk maintenance.
- Enhance universal accessibility infrastructure (i.e. bikes, wheelchairs, strollers etc.)
- Improve street lighting and walkability between neighbourhoods.
- Provide more seniors' transportation options to essential / daily services.
- There are sufficient parking options provided in Hope. Need to focus on improving active transportation options.
- Improve sidewalk coverage in neighbourhoods.