

Agenda Item # Page #

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08 DOW d/Chuck Parker

Appendix 3

Other Municipalities' "Vision" Statements

Chapter 2: Downtown Halifax Urban Design Vision and Principles

2.0 A Vision for Downtown Halifax

In the next 25 years downtown Halifax will become a thriving urban environment with a strengthened historic heart. Many more people will live in downtown Halifax's mixed use neighbourhoods enjoying splendid public spaces and human scale streetscapes. A mix of housing types will increase live-work opportunities for all people - seniors, students, young professionals, and families - and will appropriately transition in scale and design to surrounding neighbourhoods and cultural destination. The streetscape experience will be improved through redevelopment which incorporates active street level shops and activities. Infill development and redesigned streetscapes will encourage a culture of walking.

Pedestrian and visual connections will unify the downtown through beautifully designed Citadel to harbour streets (Duke, George, Prince and Sackville Streets), thereby linking the water with the hill. Downtown Halifax will define its' character by distinct precincts that celebrate and reinforce the downtown as a civic, cultural, and economic destination. High-quality public plazas, forecourts, courtyards and promenades will complement and visually connect every precinct, adding valuable public amenities and performance spaces throughout the downtown. The Waterfront Plazas and Promenade will celebrate the best attraction of downtown Halifax, featuring a new Halifax ferry terminal as a landmark waterfront destination. Furthermore, the Esplanade Plazas will properly celebrate the significance and importance of Citadel Hill with design features that demand respect.



Argyle Street is one of downtown Halifax's most vibrant streets.



Rendering of a new landmark downtown Halifax ferry terminal.

Barrington Street will be defined as the historic heart of the downtown, and downtown Halifax's history will be told through protected mixed-use heritage districts, south of Barrington and in the Historic Properties area.

"This plan looks like the type of city that youth will want to live in, work in and play in. Vibrant downtowns will keep young people here." – Forum Participant, November 2007

The Cogswell Interchange will be transformed into a new mixed-use neighbourhood, functioning as a precinct and a stunning northern gateway into the downtown. The street grid will be restored and characterized by signature landmark buildings. The Cornwallis Park area will become the southern gateway into the downtown, with an improved public park hosting spectacular public art. New visitors arriving at the transit terminals will immediately feel welcomed and connected to the new downtown Halifax. Much greater emphasis will be placed on walking and cycling in the downtown, and this will be supported by a transit-oriented downtown.

2.1 Guiding Principles

There are six overarching principles which articulate the vision for downtown Halifax looking forward 25 years:

- **A Sustainable Downtown:** Promoting compact, intensified and a walkable downtown is a central ingredient in HRM's regional sustainability objectives and a major focus of this plan. The downtown plan features strategies to promote green building design and encourage environmentally sustainable development practices.
- **A Living Downtown:** Create a "living" downtown through distinct neighbourhoods while supporting the creation of new residential opportunities including desirable high-density neighbourhoods with a variety of housing choices and that are supported by high quality community, streetscape and open space amenities.



This plan promotes high-density living downtown.