



Public Submission

City Clerk's Office

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* I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name	Lisa
* Last name	Chong
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Phone	403-283-0554
* Subject	Next 20 Project

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)	Please include the following letter from the Hillhurst Sunnyside Planning Committee into the November 2, 2020 Public Hearing of City Council as a part of the public submission on the City of Calgary's Next 20 project. Thank you.
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October 29, 2020

Via City of Calgary Public Submissions

RE: Next 20: Municipal Development Plan & Calgary Transportation Plan Review

Dear Mr. Chris Blaschuk,

On behalf of the Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association, I would like to thank the City of Calgary for their work engaging with community associations on the Next 20 project.

Background

Hillhurst Sunnyside has been a partner in the City of Calgary's long-term Municipal Development Plan vision to increase people and jobs within our established communities. Since Council's approval of the Municipal Development Plan and as the first community to go through Transit Oriented Development planning with the 2009 amendment to the Hillhurst Sunnyside Area Redevelopment Plan, our communities have welcomed ~1,800 new neighbours in the past 12 years. This was achieved through the addition of new multi-residential, mixed-used buildings and infill redevelopment.

We first recognize the constraints of the current fiscally-challenged climate. We understand that City Council had provided direction to reduce the scope of the project and that the focus has now shifted to critical amendments through alignment with current Council direction and housekeeping changes.

Secondly, we would like to comment on two specific areas of (1) community engagement and (2) the importance of acknowledging the land and the contributions of this policy document to the larger nation-wide conversations around Truth and Reconciliation.

Project Team Engagement

The project team engaged with various stakeholders over the course of the project, including pop-up engagement events within communities and via online platforms. As a result of the challenges due to Covid-19, additional opportunities were provided with an extended engagement timeline. Further, the Next 20 team has provided redlined edit version for citizens to review any proposed changes with full transparency through the City Engage portal.

The team engaged with the Inner City Working Group, which is made up of community associations that are experiencing the most redevelopment in established areas. This workshop was facilitated by the Federation of Calgary Communities and Jennifer Crack. The Next 20 project team completed an effective line-by-line review and incorporated suggestions in the final edit, resulting in a greater shared understanding of the proposed amendments.

We appreciate that the important role of communities, business, development industry and City of Calgary partners in shaping our city in the years to come.

Inclusion of Truth and Reconciliation Elements in the MDP

What makes Calgary unique is its Indigenous history, which is not recognized or celebrated enough. This is important for advancing Truth and Reconciliation. In addition, incorporating Indigenous elements in our city's fabric can also make Calgary stand out, as cities compete for market share of new residents and businesses. We would encourage more concrete steps in this regard, acknowledging the City of Calgary's White Goose Flying Report (2016) and inclusion of Indigenous elements shared history.

It is encouraging to see that a land acknowledgement has been incorporated into the start of the document as a positive first step towards the national goals of Truth and Reconciliation. This helps build on our shared history – and not just European settler history – and help provide the framework for celebrating the diversity of our city. Planning and land use – and stewardship of the land is tied, and it is important as Treaty People to have this reflected in our city-wide policy “this is our city”.

Sincerely,

Lisa Chong MPLAN
Community Planning & Engagement Coordinator
Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association

Cc: Members, Hillhurst Sunnyside Planning Committee
Ryan Morstad, Chair, Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association
Matt Youens, Executive Director, Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association
Toun Osuntogun, Edward Spink & Leslie Evans, Federation of Calgary Communities
Jenn Crack, Customer Coordinator, Homeowner | Partnership Services, Calgary Approvals
Coordination | Planning & Development, City of Calgary
Dale Calkins, Senior Planning & Policy Advisor to Councillor Druh Farrell, Ward 7 Office