

Coordination with Other Engagement Projects

Council directed Administration to coordinate with other ongoing engagement projects in Chinatown including the Green Line, the Chinatown Retail Vitality Study and the Centre City Guidebook.

By the time the Chinatown engagement plan was approved on 2016 June 29, engagement activities for these three projects were complete or well underway. As such, project managers from each project met and agreed to share information as appropriate.

1. Green Line – public engagement with Chinatown occurred this spring. Green Line related feedback heard through the engagement sessions was forwarded to the Green Line team; the Chinatown team also answered Green Line-related questions arising at public events. On 2016 October 3, Council approved a decision to move the Green Line underground. An ARP would take this decision into account. Green Line-related work has also been identified as part of an ARP.
2. Chinatown Retail Vitality Strategy – a consultant conducted focus groups with business owners in mid to late June 2016. Due to the overlap of information between the scoping report and the Retail Vitality Study, both teams have met regularly to share findings and reports. Despite that these were two separate engagement processes, similar themes about the current business environment in Chinatown emerged, including:

Key Strengths:

- The importance of Chinatown as a cultural destination and as a “home” for Chinese Canadians

Key Concerns include:

- Access and flow of both cars and pedestrians
- Safety and security
- Parking

One of the guiding principles speaks to the local economy. Outcomes and recommendations from the strategy should be incorporated into any future planning policy exercise, where appropriate.

3. Centre City Guidebook – Public information sessions were held in 2016 June, prior to approval of the Chinatown Engagement plan, with one session held in July. The Centre City Guidebook is now in draft form. All of the policies it contains are common pre-existing Centre City policies.

At this point in time, this work was deemed not applicable to the Chinatown engagement, and there was a high risk of causing unnecessary confusion. However, these policies may be relevant to Chinatown as “building block” stock policies should a new ARP proceed. It is important to note that these policies are generic in nature; any unique circumstances would be dealt with in the ARP. Given Chinatown’s unique landscape, there is likely to be significant customized policy required and it is possible that stock policies may not even play a role in a future ARP.