



PUBLIC AGENDA

SASKATOON ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015, 11:30 A.M.
COMMITTEE ROOM A, SECOND FLOOR, CITY HALL

Dr. Michael Hill
Mr. Sean Homenick
Ms. Angie Bugg
Ms. Kathleen Aikens
Ms. Namarta Kochar
Mr. Brent Latimer
Councillor M. Loewen
Dr. D. McGrane
Mr. Brian Sawatsky
Mr. Saeed Moshiri
Ms. Aditi Garg

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Call to Order

1.2 Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Committee is requested to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair for 2015.
Dr. Michael Hill was Chair for 2014 and Mr. Jeffrey Smith was Vice-Chair.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of regular meeting of the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee held on October 9, 2014 (deferred from the November 13, 2014 meeting) and November 13, 2014.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR (File No. CK. 175-9)

- 4.1 2015 Appointments to Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee –
Welcome to Ms. Aditi Garg, Mr. Brian Sawatsky, and Mr. Saeed Moshiri.

5. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

- 5.1 **Environmental and Corporate Initiatives Update (File No. CK. 7550-1)**
Verbal Update – B. Wallace

Recommendation

That the information be received.

6. 2015 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (File No. CK. 175-9)

Attached is an excerpt from minutes of meeting of the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee, dated November 13, 2014, the Committee resolved to hold an informal planning session prior to the January 2015 meeting date; this session is planned for January 7, 2015.

Recommendation

That the direction of the Committee issue.

**7. APPOINTMENT OF SASKATOON ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITY GROUPS –
CASH GRANTS PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT (File No. CK. 1871-1)**

This matter is on the agenda to determine the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee representative for 2015. The Committee in the past has been asked by Environmental and Corporate Initiatives Division to select a representative to serve on the evaluations for the Environmental Component of the Community Cash Grants Program.

Mr. Jeffrey Smith was appointed as the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee representative for 2014.

Recommendation

That the direction of Committee issue.

**8. 2014 ANNUAL REPORT – Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee
(File No. CK. 175-9)**

This matter is on the agenda to determine the writers for the 2014 Annual Report.

Recommendation

That the direction of Committee issue.

9. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES (File No. CK. 1704-5)

Attached is the year-end Statement of Expenditures. The 2015 approved budget is \$6,800. Also attached is an excerpt from minutes of meeting of the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee, dated November 13, 2014, regarding the Committee's budget. The Committee resolved that the 2015 budget allow funds for waste audits.

Recommendation

That the direction of the Committee issue.

10. PUBLICATIONS (File No. CK. 175-9)

Planning and Design Newsletter, Fall/Winter 2014 edition.

The Committee Assistant will distribute copies of the above noted publication at the meeting.

Recommendation

That the information be received.

11. ADJOURNMENT

6

The following is an excerpt from the minutes of meeting of the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee (Open to the Public) held on November 13, 2014:

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR (File No. CK. 175-9)

The Chair reminded the Committee that an informal planning session will be held prior to the Committee's January 2015 meeting date in order to set the 2015 Goals and Objectives. The Chair will send an email invitation to the Committee members detailing the session time and location.

Moved By: Dr. McGrane

That the information be received.

CARRIED

01-5536-103 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (2014)

DATE	NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	Total Committee Expenses		
			DEBIT	CREDIT	G/L
		Opening Balance		6,800.00	
25-Nov	R534588	Public Board of Education-SASF Initiative Program	1,800.00	5,000.00	x
02-Dec	ID139838	Event Sustainability-Summer Student/Rebecca Anderson	4,500.00	500.00	x
				500.00	
				500.00	
				500.00	
				500.00	
				500.00	
				500.00	
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				500.00	
				500.00	
				500.00	
				500.00	

2014 Budget: \$6,800

- Publications/Reports: \$100
- Public Education, Information Gathering: \$6,000
- Conferences/Workshops: \$500
- Membership Fees: \$200
- Total

6

The following is an excerpt from the minutes of meeting of the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee (Open to the Public) held on November 13, 2014:

8. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES (File No. CK.1704-5)

The Committee Assistant submitted a current Statement of Expenditures for the Committee's review.

Moved By: Mr. Smith

1. That the Committee's 2015 budget allow for funds to be allocated to waste audits; and
2. That the information be received.

CARRIED

planning + design



- Façade Conservation & Enhancement Grant Program
- Developing Saskatoon's Growth Plan to Half a Million: We're Halfway There!
- Saskatoon's Public Art Placemaker Program

- Upgrades for Broadway
- WORDS from the Interns
- The Varsity View Neighbourhood: Yesterday & Today
- City of Saskatoon Housing & Population Trends

Façade Conservation & Enhancement Grant Program

Ellen Pearson

Planner

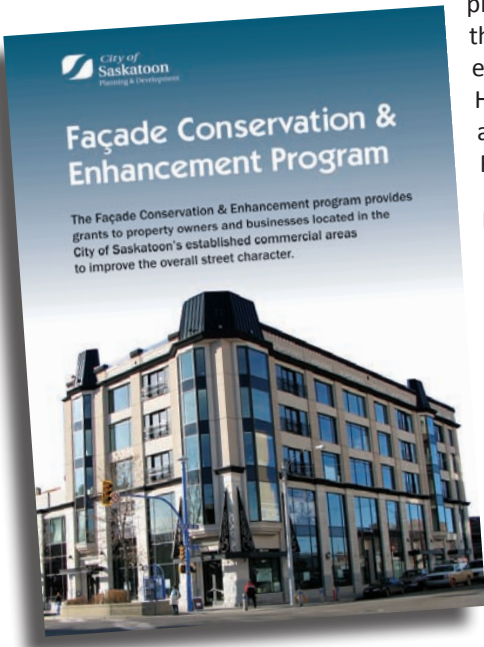
Neighbourhood Planning Section

306-975-7642

ellen.pearson@saskatoon.ca

“The Façade Conservation & Enhancement Grant is designed to assist commercial property owners and businesses with the rejuvenation of their building façade. It functions to conserve the built heritage and to enhance the city’s public profile and urban design.”

The Façade Conservation and Enhancement Grant Program launched at the beginning of 2014. This new program is a combination of two former façade enhancement incentive programs offered by the City and is a joint effort between the Heritage, Urban Design, and Neighbourhood Revitalization work teams.



How much funding is available? Projects \$5,000 and under are eligible for a grant of up to \$2,500, and projects over \$5,000 are eligible for a grant of up to 50% of the budgeted costs to a maximum of \$20,000. Each project is evaluated by the Adjudication Committee for elements of Urban Design and Heritage Rehabilitation.

In the proposal evaluation process, what is considered for Urban Design and Heritage Rehabilitation incentives?

Urban Design Incentives will be awarded to projects that create an attractive environment, relate to neighbourhood context, improve the overall street character, use quality materials, and incorporate good design concepts. Renovations may include, but are not necessarily limited to, refacing or refinishing of the façade, doors, windows, awnings, graphics, and exterior lighting.

Heritage Rehabilitation Incentives will be awarded to projects that undertake rehabilitation of character-defining elements of the façade (historic architectural features and details). Generally, buildings over 40 years old are eligible. All work must be sympathetic to the overall building character and streetscape.

Who is Eligible for the Grant?

- The project must involve the conservation or rejuvenation of the façade of a commercial property.
- The site must be located in a Business Improvement District (BID) area or a key commercial area within the following neighbourhoods: Kelsey-Woodlawn, Mayfair, Caswell Hill, Westmount, King George, and West Industrial.
- Projects must enhance the building façade and be designed to respect other buildings in the neighbourhood.
- The Adjudication Committee reserves the right to decline applications that have received previous funding under this program.
- Projects which are only maintenance, painting, or signage will not be funded. Exceptions to this provision may be granted at the discretion of the Adjudication Committee.

Approved Funding

Five projects were awarded funding totalling \$65,000 as of the fall of 2014. The Adjudication Committee awards funding based on the design features and heritage rehabilitation elements. The applicants have two years to complete their project and will receive the grant following completion of their project.

Project Examples

The building at 219 21st Street East was awarded full funding for heritage rehabilitation and for elements of urban design.



The proposed project supports heritage rehabilitation by repairing and restoring elements of the building to a style reminiscent of its original 1920s façade. These features fit with the character of the neighbouring properties. The proposed design will enhance the streetscape by creating a uniform frontage with flattering materials and colours, and a pedestrian-friendly experience with open sightlines into the building.

Another building that received funding for heritage rehabilitation and elements of urban design was 303 Pacific Avenue.



This project will significantly alter and enhance the streetscape by adding windows, as well as a courtyard to an area that was previously closed off.



For more information or an application please visit www.saskatoon.ca/go/facade or contact your local Business Improvement District Representative.

Heritage & Design Coordinator
 Planning & Development
 222–3rd Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5
 Phone: 306-975-2645
 Email: heritage.conservation@saskatoon.ca

Message from the Director

Returning from a summer holiday can be a daunting experience. Fall is a nice time of year, but brings with it a long ‘to do’ list before the Christmas season. Budget, meetings, and setting the course for 2015 are high priorities. Reflecting on 2014 as we enter the last quarter shows once again that this city is moving forward quickly and preparing for a sustainable future. However, there are many growing pains we will experience along the way.

There has been a lot of bad news lately which tends to have an over-shadowing effect on many of the great things which have taken place in our city. According to CMHC, our growth is continuing as strong as ever, with migration and housing starts on par with, or even higher than, last year. Job growth is up. International migration is also up over last year at this time. It would be one thing to simply do our jobs and ‘manage’ the growth, but we are in a period of change as a city and as a corporation. The dual role of keeping up with demand while making improvements compounds the challenges we face.

I was a planner during the early 1990s when Saskatoon and the Province of Saskatchewan went through some very tough years. The province was in serious debt and growth was stagnant in Saskatoon. Economic forecasts were bleak and New York bond rating agencies were set to put Saskatchewan in bankruptcy unless we got a reprieve and set a different course. Being an urban planner in that environment was uncomfortable. Today, we have different challenges associated with high growth. Reflecting on both time periods indicates to me that today’s challenges are much better than the early 1990s.

In June 2015, Saskatoon is going to host over 500 urban planners and consultants from across Canada during the Canadian Institute of Planners annual conference. ‘Thrive’ is the conference name. And we have been thriving now for an extended period of time. We can thank growth for the innovations we will be able to showcase to others from across Canada. Saskatoon will be a very unexpected surprise to delegates who appreciate that our growth is strategic, deliberate, thoughtful, and follows a framework which allows all sectors of the economy to prosper. All this while maintaining a high quality of life and high satisfaction ratings from citizens. There is a lot of work ahead, but we are approaching it from a position of strength.

Alan Wallace, MCIP
 Director of Planning & Development

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Developing Saskatoon’s Growth Plan to Half a Million: We’re Halfway There!

Lee Thomas

Project Manager

Growing Forward! Shaping Saskatoon

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“Saskatoon has over 250,000 residents and is expected to grow to 500,000 people in the next 30 to 40 years.”

In February, the City launched Growing Forward! Shaping Saskatoon, a public planning initiative to develop a Growth Plan to Half a Million (Growth Plan) to help guide civic infrastructure investments as Saskatoon grows over the next 30 to 40 years. The vision for growth documented in the Growth Plan Summary Report #1 was developed with public input and outlines what’s at stake if we maintain our current growth patterns. We’ve since used this input to develop detailed options for managing Saskatoon’s growth, focusing on development, core bridges, and transit. Starting in November, we continued our community conversations about growth so we may work towards selecting preferred options and priorities for the Growth Plan.

To help prepare for our next round of discussions, here’s the background of what’s at stake if we maintain the status quo as we grow.

Growth Near Major Corridors

What is happening?

Saskatoon has over 250,000 residents and is expected to grow to 500,000 people in the next 30 to 40 years. The City has developed strategies to support this growth using a combination of infill and new neighbourhood construction.

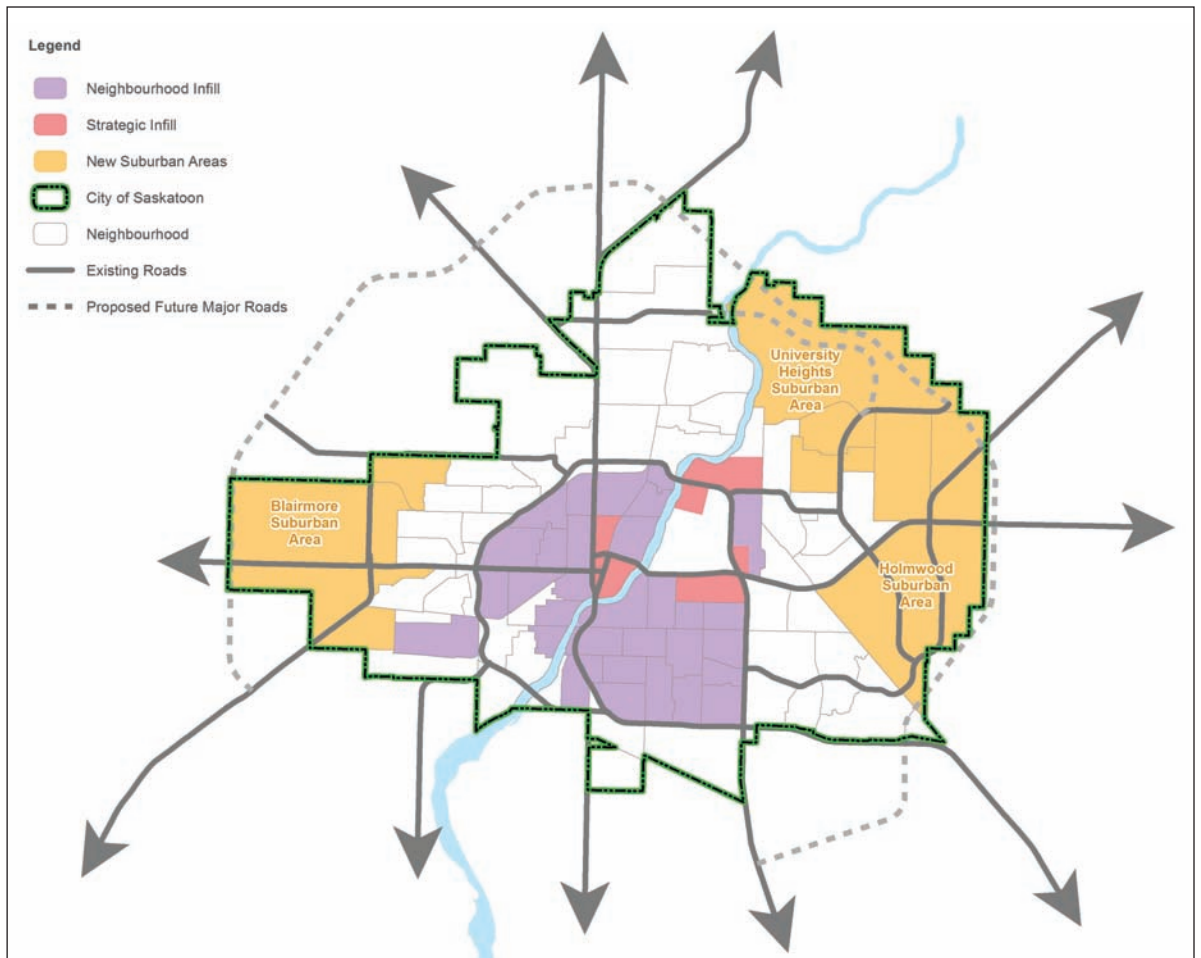
Neighbourhood Infill includes the development of new homes, duplexes, townhouses, and suites in established residential areas. This form of growth is expected to accommodate up to 25,000 people.

What else can we do?

Growing Forward! Shaping Saskatoon is taking sustainable growth

New Suburban Areas like Blairmore, University Heights, and Holmwood contain neighbourhoods with greater densities and a wider mix of land uses. These will allow us to meet more of our daily needs closer to home and are expected to accommodate 175,000 people.

Strategic Infill Areas are Saskatoon’s large, underdeveloped core areas in the Downtown, North Downtown, and around the University. These areas are major employment and activity hubs, so their success is critical to our city’s continued economic growth. With many types of planned infill, these areas are expected to accommodate 75,000 people.



planning a step further by examining our potential for growth near major corridors like 8th Street, Preston Avenue, Idylwyld Drive, and 22nd Street.

Like many other cities, Saskatoon’s major corridors tend to attract low density, car-oriented developments that can be barriers to surrounding neighbourhoods. But many of these corridors have the potential to be the centre of the communities that surround them by supporting a greater mix of housing, transportation, employment, and retail opportunities in an attractive, accessible environment.

In November, we started discussing potential priorities for corridor growth and what that growth could look like.

Core Bridges

What is happening?

As Saskatoon’s population grows, so too will demands for travel across the river. If we continue our reliance on single-occupant vehicles, we will have twice as many vehicles crossing our core bridges when we reach a half million people. This means that traffic demands will eventually exceed the capacity of our four core bridges, increasing congestion and delays.

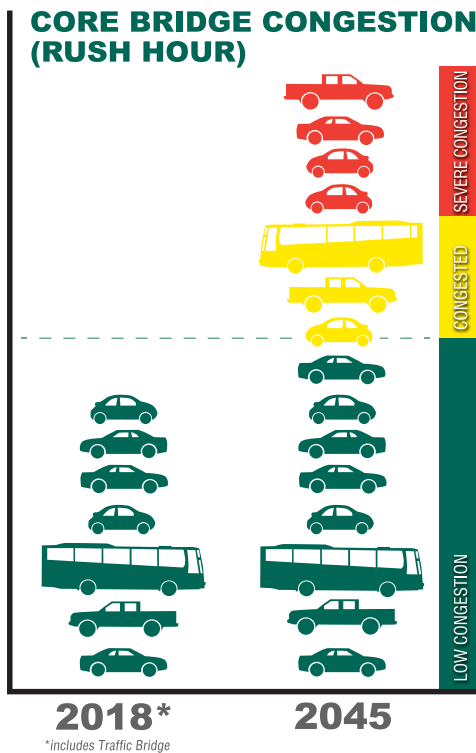
What can we do?

Growing Forward! Shaping Saskatoon is exploring core bridge options to help accommodate traffic growth. These options look to make the most of road and bridge investments by balancing capacity for transit, pedestrians, cyclists, and cars so more people can move more efficiently in our road space.

Our options include:

1. Do nothing and accept increased congestion. This may encourage people to choose a different option to the car, but benefits are likely limited.
2. Build a new bridge. This will move more traffic and potentially more people if space is balanced for all road users.
3. Convert lanes on a bridge for rapid transit. This will move more people.
4. Combine Options 2 and 3 to help move more people and more cars.

In November, we started discussing potential options for core bridges and what they may mean for Saskatoon residents.

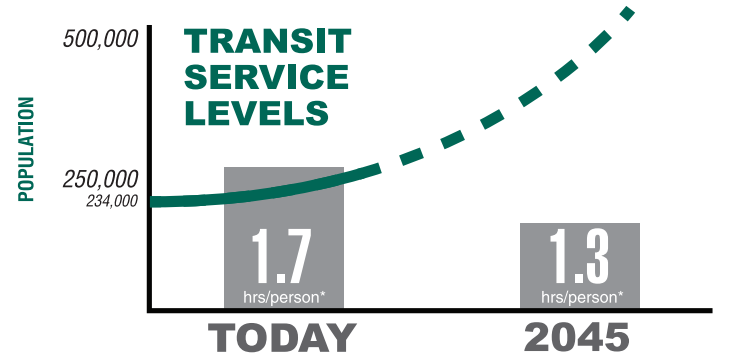


Transit

What is happening?

Ninety-five per cent of residents are within a five minute walk of transit service, but not all have access to high frequency service. Less than 5% of people use transit for their daily commute. This could be due to many factors, including:

- Longer transit travel times
- Low service frequency in some areas
- Routes in areas with few users
- Abundant free or cheap parking
- Minimal road congestion



* Service hours per person is an indicator of the quantity of transit service provided to the community.

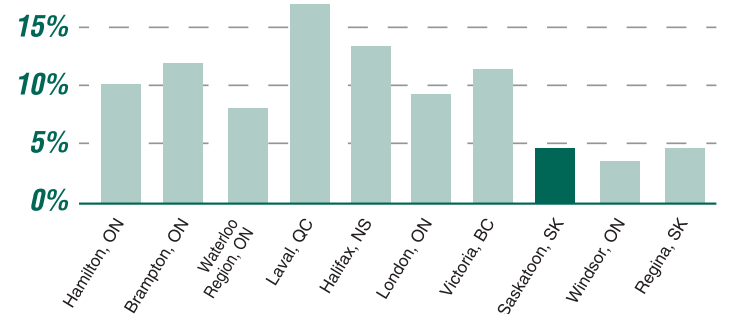
If we maintain our current rates of investment, transit service will not keep pace with Saskatoon’s rapid population growth.

What can we do?

Growing Forward! Shaping Saskatoon is developing a long-term plan to make transit a more attractive choice for more people. While people will still use cars, efficient transit will provide options to alleviate congestion and ensure that people can move around the city quickly and easily.

% OF PEOPLE WHO TAKE TRANSIT TO WORK

(Source: 2011 National Household Survey)



There is not a “one-size-fits-all” solution for transit, so we are exploring a combination of different services to meet the diverse travel needs of people in Saskatoon. High-demand corridors will be serviced by high frequency transit, while neighbourhood services will be provided to support local travel with connections to main corridors and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

Continued on page 12.

Saskatoon's Public Art

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Placemaker Program

Saskatoon's Public Art has been undergoing significant changes. In particular, the temporary public art Placemaker Program, managed by the Urban Design Team in partnership with the Community Initiatives Section, is leading the changes. The City is embracing a variety of new types of artworks and art projects, and these changes are being recognized. In June, *Cacher pour mieux montrer* ("Hide to show better") by artist duo Sans façon received recognition as one of the top public art projects in North America in 2013 from Americans for the Arts Public Art Year in Review.



In September, changes to the 20-year-old Placemaker Program received a Downtown Merit Award from the International Downtown Association for its focus on programs and events aimed at improving the image and vitality of the Downtown, and for its ability to attract visitors.



Thousands of people participated in the 2014 Placemaker Program art projects. A few examples include:

- Making felt pebbles with Heike Fink at *Like a Rolling Stone* workshops at the Waterfront Craft Festival, the Saskatoon Farmers' Market, Meewasin Valley Centre, The White Buffalo Youth Lodge and Civic Plaza,
- Involvement by school children, their families and the community making clay hexagon chain links for *We Are All Linked* and learning about the plight of bees with Monique Martin,
- Listening to Mark Prier play his busker organ for *Der Vogelhändler* and learning about the project at a Meet the Artist event ; and
- Students from École Victoria School interviewing Josh Jacobson about *The Jam* mural.



Spirit of Alliance War of 1812 Commemoration

The City of Saskatoon received, from the Whitecap Dakota First Nations, the donation of the *Spirit of Alliance* monument commemorating the alliance between the British Crown, the Dakota, and others; and how the Dakota came to reside in the area. The Urban Design Team sits on the Commemorations and Monuments Committee and assisted with identifying a location for the new monument and provided technical installation advice. The monument was unveiled by Prince Edward on Sept. 19, 2014.



Upgrades for Broadway

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In 2014, the Urban Design team worked with the Broadway Business Improvement District (BBID) to transform an undesirable sliver of worn dirt boulevard into an enjoyable and functional space. The boulevard on 10th Avenue near Starbucks and Sushiro was renovated with unit pavers, two picnic tables, three checker tables with chairs and wheelchair access, and bike parking. The transformation was an instant success and people were spotted playing games at the tables soon after completion.



The guards are also used as bike parking and their removal has left cyclists with fewer bike parking options. The Urban Design Team has designed a robust, unique, and economical bike rack for the area. In order to get the community involved in the process, the BBID invited the community to vote on their preferred design, and an ornate "B" was favoured. As well, businesses have submitted requests to the BBID and Urban Design to have a bike rack installed near their business. Look forward to the installation of 50 new bike racks in the Broadway area in late 2014 or early 2015.



Another challenge facing the BBID is the ongoing removal of the tree guards as the Broadway Avenue street trees outgrow the

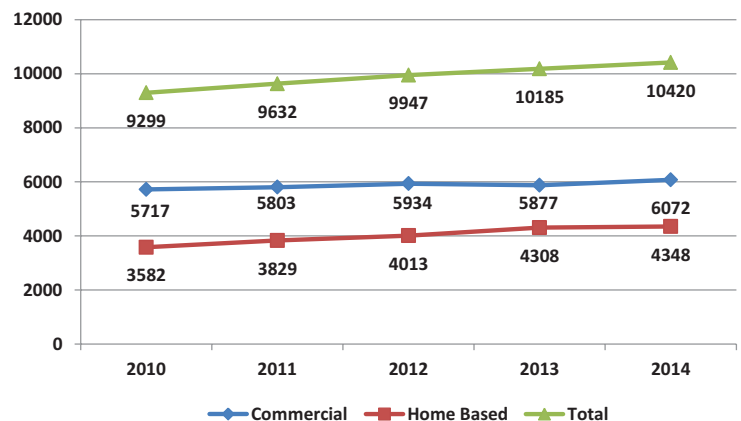


Planning and Development, Business License Program licenses all businesses operating from a fixed address within Saskatoon. This includes all home based businesses as well as businesses operating from commercial and industrial locations.

At the end of 2013, there were 10,253 businesses licensed by the program. Figure 1 illustrates the overall business growth in Saskatoon and identifies the total number of home based and commercial/industrial business licensed from 2010 to 2014. The total number of businesses has increased by more than 12% since 2010. The number of new home based businesses continues to exceed the number of new commercial/industrial businesses.

For more business license statistics or to view the Business Profile 2013 Annual Report, please visit www.saskatoon.ca.

Summary of Total Business Activity (2010 - 2014)



Business License Program, Planning and Development,
 222 – 3rd Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5
 Tel: 306-975-2760
 Fax: 306-975-7712
 Email: business.license@saskatoon.ca

WORDS from the Interns

The Planning & Development Division offered Planning Internships this summer to Julie Krieger, Linda Huynh, and Haven Rees. These positions provide up-and-coming planning professionals the opportunity to assist on a variety of projects and gain experience working with professional planners.

In their own words, the interns shared their experience working in Development Review, Business Licensing, and Neighbourhood Planning.



This summer I had an amazing opportunity to grow as an urban planning student by working on a heritage project in the Development Review

Section. Heritage planning offers important economic, social, and environmental benefits to a city. Heritage sites promote community revitalization, tourism, reuse, and a sense of place and identity in Saskatoon.

In March 2014, City Council approved an updated Civic Heritage Policy that, among many things, provides a course of action to conserve heritage sites in Saskatoon. The Saskatoon Register of Historic Places, which had been founded in the policy, is the official listing of heritage sites in Saskatoon. This register will be used to inform the public about the heritage sites in the City and why they are important.

My main project throughout the summer was to evaluate and document all buildings and sites that are believed to have historical significance, and to recommend which properties should be added to the Saskatoon Register of

Historic Places. The criterion used to evaluate these properties is defined in the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada. Historic sites are evaluated on architectural style and design; construction techniques and resources; association with an activity, person, or event that has contributed to municipal history; if the structure is a landmark; and finally whether the site holds any symbolic value. The guide, which is used in cities across Canada, offers a clear and consistent framework in determining the heritage value of properties.

I, along with my colleague and fellow intern Linda Huynh, created an inventory of all vintage exterior painted wall signs in Saskatoon. These signs, commonly known as ghost signs, can be found throughout the City and are generally in the form of advertisements or building signs. The most recognizable ghost signs include the colourful advertisements painted on the sides of the Tees & Persse Building and the Travellers Block Sign located on 3rd Avenue. Many of the ghost signs in Saskatoon have been well preserved and offer us a glimpse into our City's past.

everyone, especially the Development Review Section, for helping to further my knowledge and interest in urban planning.

By: Julie Krieger



At the start of my internship, I had no idea what to expect. I was nervous that I would do a terrible job and that my future planning career

would end before it had even started. Four months have come and gone now, and to say the least, I was not fired. Reflecting back to my experience with the City of Saskatoon, I often describe my project as being nothing short of "frustrating but weirdly fun." My primary project this summer was the Institutional Space Survey, which involved collecting the number of employees and floor area from more than 700 various agencies that do not require a business license. This data, accompanied with the information obtained through the business licensing program, will allow the City a better idea of where economic hubs occur within Saskatoon.

Other projects that I was involved with include providing other interns with data for their own projects, photographing existing ghost signs in the city, as well as the preliminary revisions to the Business Start-Up Guide. Additionally, I had the chance to observe and participate in activities such as business license renewals, inspections, and appeal hearings.

It was a whirlwind of a summer and I have gained a vast amount of planning knowledge and experience that I feel compliments my university education. The chance to work with other planners as well as learn from their experience was eye opening and extremely useful. As I start my final semester of school, I feel quite optimistic and confident that planning is the right fit for me. I intend to encourage my fellow planning classmates to

My internship was a wonderful learning experience. I would like to thank



take on similar “frustrating but weirdly fun” internships whenever possible.

By: Linda Huynh



For my summer internship, I was placed with the Neighborhood Planning Section. There are so many things that I learned, but simply summarizing all of them would lead to a fairly dull article. Instead, I would like to touch on a few of the things that made my experience unique from any other summer position.

The transition into the professional world of planning from school is both pleasant and, at times, confusing. Many questions soon arise within the first day, such as “What do all of these acronyms stand for?” and,

“How many of these emails actually apply to me?” Having the opportunity to get a sense of the working world is an invaluable part of education that only occurs outside the classroom. During my time here, I was able to work on an array of different projects which represented many facets of the planning profession. I assisted with Local Area Planning, the Vacant Lot Inventory, distribution of Housing Handbooks, as well as writing a Business Assessment of Idylwyld Drive. I was given the opportunity to see so many sides of planning this summer – an experience that has been rewarding, and one that I am especially grateful for as a current student. Through my work on these projects, I was given the chance to develop some new skills that I could not have acquired in class. I was also able to develop my research skills through writing a Business Assessment, and further develop my communication skills. However, as much as

my experience here was educational, it was also enjoyable. This was strongly influenced by my coworkers and their ability to not only put up with a new intern (who was visibly lost at times), but to assist and make me feel welcome within the work environment. I owe a lot of the positive experiences of this past summer to the incredibly patient and knowledgeable people I had the pleasure of working with. This short work term has solidified my interest in the planning profession, and given me the chance to have some truly nerdy discussions with other people who share these interests.

This experience has shown me that the world of planning is as technical as it is creative, and that Saskatoon is an exciting place to be developing these skills. Thank you all again for such an excellent summer!

By: Haven Rees

Join Us in SASKATOON for THRIVE 2015

The Saskatchewan Professional Planners Institute (SPPI) and Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) are pleased to announce that the 2015 CIP/SPPI annual conference will be held in Saskatoon!



The goal of THRIVE 2015 is to assemble and animate planners from across Canada and other countries to experience, learn, and share what it takes to create thriving cities, towns, and regions. The conference program will engage delegates actively, intellectually, culturally, and socially. It will foster dialogue and exchange between planners and allied professionals in urban design, land use, transportation, municipal management, real estate development, natural resource management, and geomatics. Members of the public and elected officials will help to ground the program and strengthen the conditions for implementation.

Expect an exceptional conference program that shares the best ideas, practices, and training opportunities from across Canada, complemented by tours that incorporate many of the exciting projects currently underway, and unique experiences to enjoy, in Saskatoon and region.

Want to present? The call for proposals is now open! Planners and allied professionals are invited to submit proposals for stimulating and informative panel sessions, rigorous and interactive skill development workshops, and learning tours by foot, bike, and bus, that will help create a brilliant and engaging program that reaches out from Saskatchewan all across Canada and internationally. Visit www.thrive2015fleurir.ca for more details. Proposals are being accepted until Nov. 21, 2014.

Want to attend? You are invited to join us in Saskatoon for the 2015 CIP and SPPI conference, June 27-30. We will not disappoint. We have plenty of stories to share, interesting and unique places for you to see and experience, and we are eager to welcome you, host you, and hear your stories about creating thriving communities and regions.

Want to volunteer? Be a part of this exciting opportunity to showcase all that Saskatoon has to offer. Volunteer opportunities will be available early in 2015. Stay tuned to our website and social media for the latest volunteer information.

Want to connect? Stay up to date on all the latest conference information by connecting with us online. Over the months leading up to THRIVE 2015 we will be sharing exclusive details with our online followers! Don't miss out, follow us today!

www.thrive2015fleurir.ca

facebook.com/thrive2015

[@Thrive2015](https://twitter.com/Thrive2015)

instagram.com/thrive2015

[#thriveYXE](https://twitter.com/thriveYXE)

The Varsity View Neighbourhood: Yesterday & Today

Mark Emmons, MCIP
 Senior Planner
 Neighbourhood Planning Section
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mark.emmons@saskatoon.ca

Varsity View is a unique and diverse neighbourhood with strong ties to the adjacent University of Saskatchewan campus and Royal University Hospital. The community also boasts an interesting history, filled with noteworthy former and current residents.

City Council adopted the Varsity View Local Area Plan in Spring 2014 and among the report recommendations was direction to hire a summer intern from the students of the University of Saskatchewan's Cultural Heritage Mapping class (INCC 310.3), offered by the Interdisciplinary Center for Culture and Creativity. The student would be tasked with developing a historical database for the Varsity View neighbourhood.

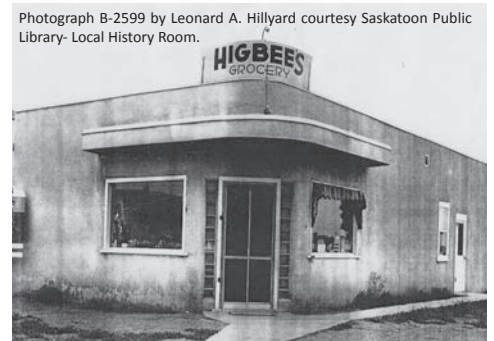
Brittney Beckie was hired by the City of Saskatoon Neighbourhood Planning Section and spent several months this summer

gathering a wide variety of information, with assistance from local stakeholders in the neighbourhood. The finished product is web-based and contains detailed biographical profiles on many former and current Varsity View residents, among a variety of other historic information about the neighbourhood. Categories include: People (Academics, Athletes, Artists, Authors, Politicians), Places (Churches/Places of Worship, Parks, Schools), Buildings (Historic Houses, Cultural Residences), Architecture (Current Varsity View homes representing a dozen unique architectural styles), Businesses (Past and Present), and Aerial Photos and Maps

The goal of this project was to identify the past and present elements that have had a strong influence on the community. This project is a step towards preserving the

past and embracing the future of the Varsity View neighbourhood.

The Varsity View Yesterday & Today database is available permanently on the Varsity View Community Association website at www.vvcasaskatoon.com



Photograph B-2599 by Leonard A. Hillyard courtesy Saskatoon Public Library- Local History Room.
Higbee's Grocery was formerly located at 1302-1306 Temperance Street.

EMPLOYMENT PROFILE FOR SASKATOON RELEASED

The Planning and Development Division's Business License Program provides statistical employment information as a value-added service to the business and development community. As part of this program, an Employment Profile for the City of Saskatoon is issued every four years to provide a summary and analysis of employment trends as they relate to Statistics Canada Census data. The most recent edition of the Employment Profile was released in October 2014. Some of the highlights from this profile include:

- Total employment in Saskatoon increased by 11% between 2006 and 2011.
- Total labour import (those who are employed within the City but who reside elsewhere) increased by 4,315 workers or by 35% between 2006 and 2011.
- The Central Business District continues to have the highest net employment density at 465 employees per hectare.
- The neighbourhoods that experienced the highest levels of employment growth between 2006 and 2011 are University Heights (39%), the Central Business District (22%), and the North West Industrial area (21%).
- A total of 69% of all licensed businesses in Saskatoon have fewer than 10 employees.
- The manufacturing sector continues to have the highest employment level of all goods-producing industries, while the retail trade sector has the highest employment level of all service-producing industries.

As the City plans for a population of half a million, the goal is to guide development in order to achieve a balanced distribution of employment areas that are well designed and accessible by all modes of transportation. In order to meet this goal it is imperative that the City, developers, and the business community have a clear understanding of statistics and trends in employment, commuter flows, business activity, and distribution of employment across industry sectors and our neighbourhoods. This perspective on employment ensures the City remains economically competitive and continues on a path of providing appropriate employment opportunities and closer live / work relationships through policy and future development initiatives.

The Employment Profile can be viewed by visiting the City of Saskatoon website at www.saskatoon.ca.

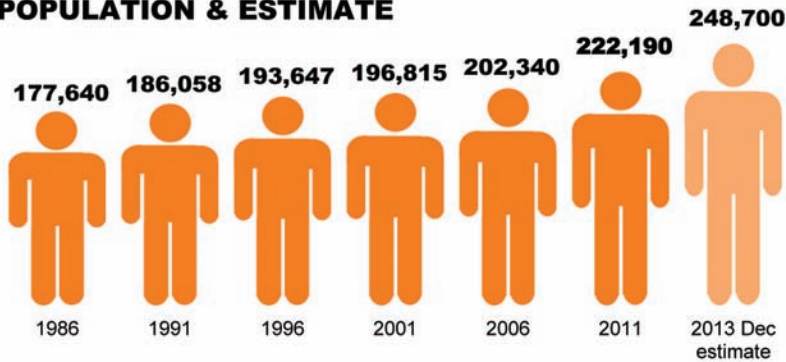


City of Saskatoon Housing & Population Trends

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CITY OF SASKATOON CENSUS POPULATION & ESTIMATE



According to Building Standards there were 4,736 building permits issued in 2013 valued at \$1.08 billion.

Based on building permits there are 105,450 dwelling units in Saskatoon, as of June 2014.



According to CMHC the average rent for a two bedroom apartment was \$1,041 in 2013, a 71% increase since 2006.

According to CMHC the average house price in 2013 was \$332,058 and is predicted to go up to \$341,300 in 2014.

3,770
one unit dwellings sold in 2013

\$361,231
average selling price

146
two unit dwellings sold in 2013

\$305,628
average selling price

30
duplexes sold in 2013

\$395,834
average selling price

638
Condo Townhouses sold in 2013

\$395,834
average selling price

910
Low Rise Apartment Condo sold in 2013

\$229,320
average selling price

144
High Rise Apartment Condo sold in 2013

\$312,859
average selling price

For more information on community trends and neighbourhood profiles please visit www.saskatoon.ca and look under "D" for Demographic and Housing Data in the alphabetical listings for the most recent publications.

What is Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)?

BRT is a type of bus service that is designed and operated to remove the typical causes of transit delays, move more people, and improve the customer experience. BRT can include a variety of features, like separate corridors, special vehicles, and enclosed stations. But the most important BRT features improve the user experience:

- High frequency service = convenient
- Dedicated lanes = quick and reliable
- Enhancing stations and offering real-time info = comfortable and attractive

There are many good examples of BRT in Canada. Each is slightly different and tailored to fit the needs of its community. Some have dedicated bus lanes that run along major roads (VIVA in York Region, ON), while others have separate bus corridors that run parallel to major roads (Winnipeg RT, RapiBus in Gatineau, QC).



VIVA (York Region, ON)



RapiBus (Gatineau, QC)



Winnipeg RT (MB)

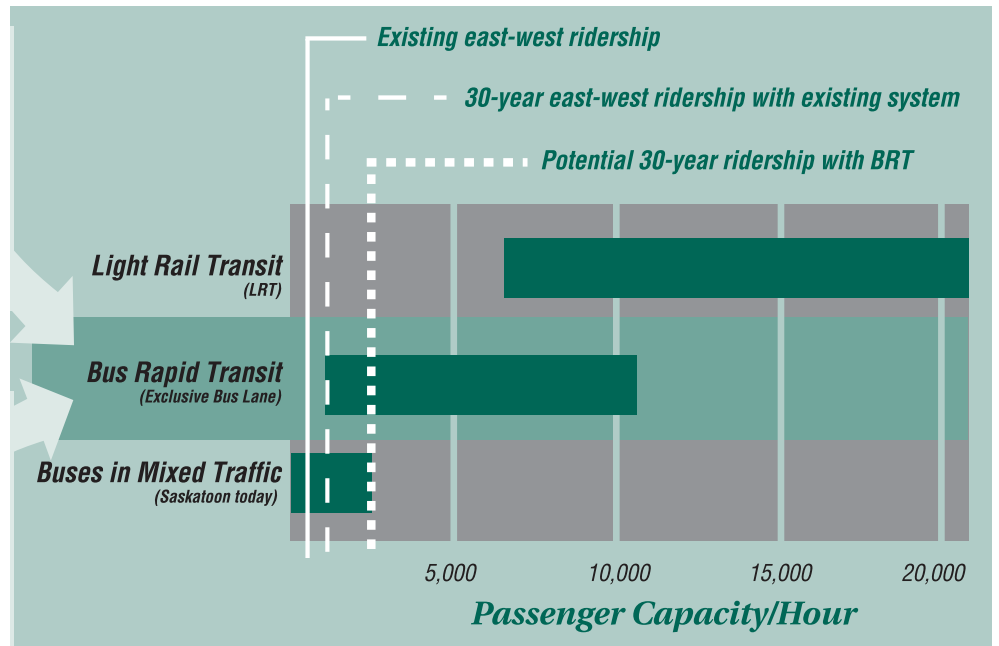
Is Saskatoon ready for BRT?

In short, yes! BRT could easily support east-west transit demands in Saskatoon and help address congestion by attracting more people to use transit for their daily travel needs. It could also be implemented in stages through congested areas, providing a cost-effective way to grow into BRT over time.

In November, we started discussing potential options for Transit and how we can balance investments with results.

www.saskatoon.ca

www.growingfwd.ca



The current issue of *Planning + Design* is available for download at www.saskatoon.ca.

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