

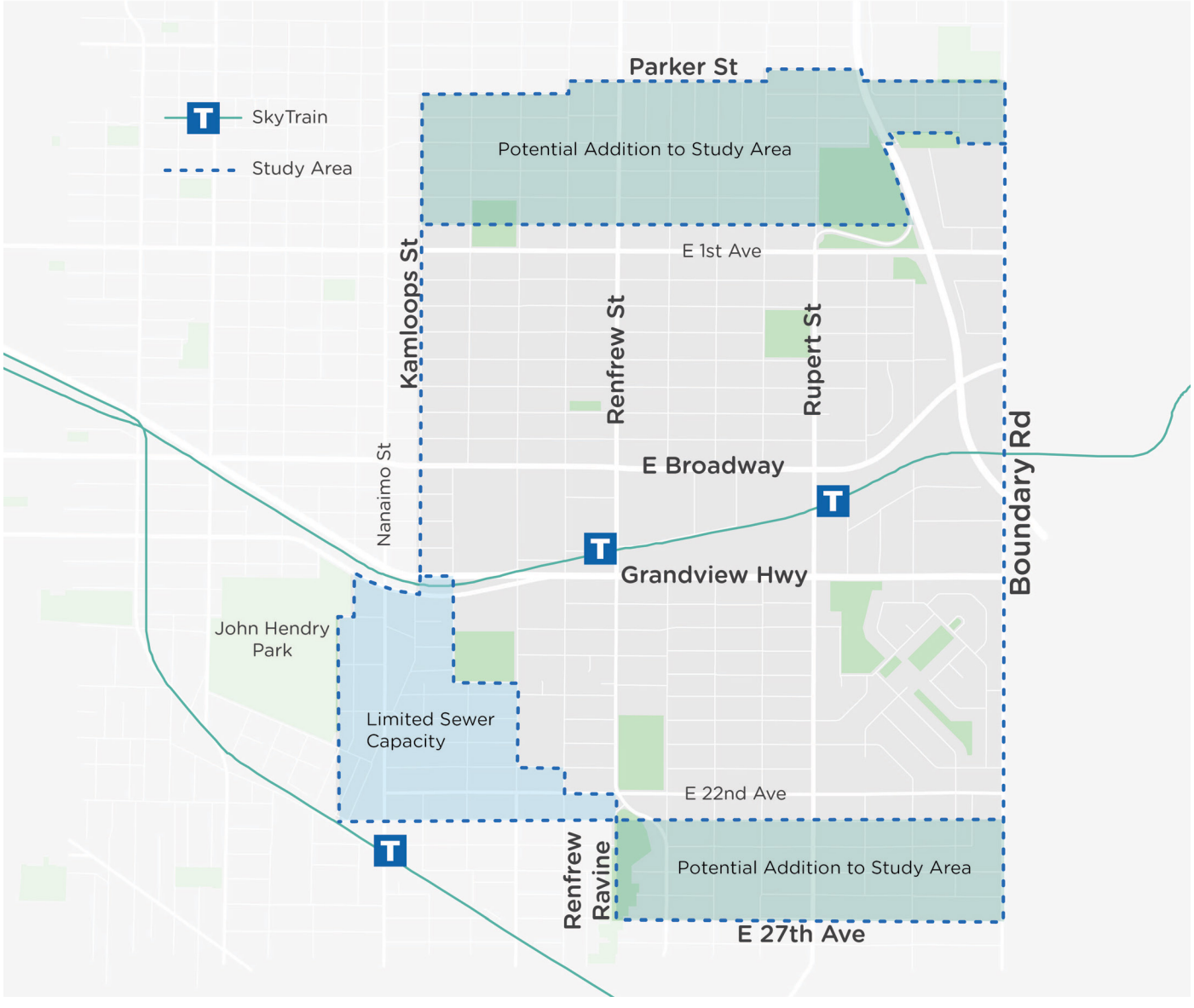
RUPERT + RENFREW

Station Area Plan

Engagement Summary - May 2023

CITY OF VANCOUVER

Rupert and Renfrew Station Area Plan Study Area



1. BACKGROUND

ABOUT THE RUPERT AND RENFREW STATION AREA PLAN

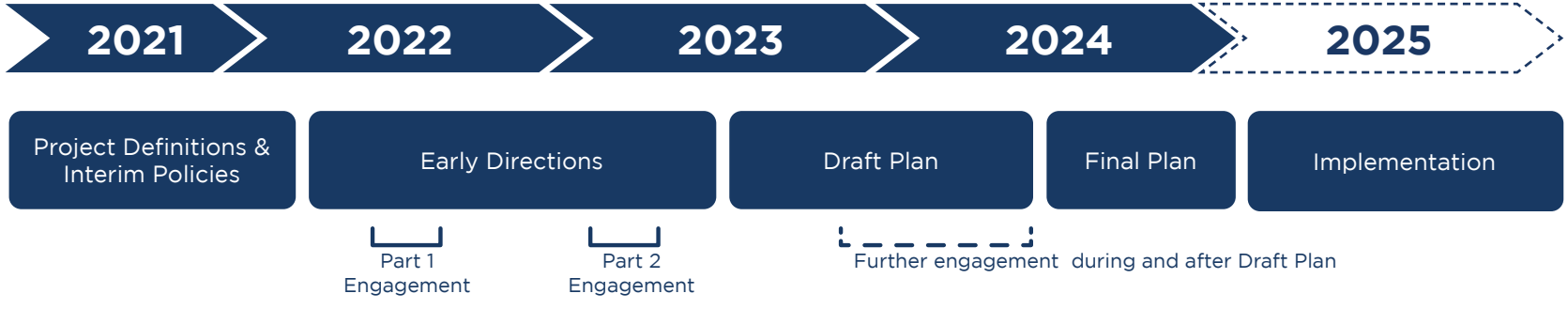
In November 2021, the City of Vancouver initiated a planning process for the area around the Rupert and Renfrew SkyTrain stations. When complete, the Rupert and Renfrew Station Area Plan will guide growth and change in alignment with the Vancouver Plan and other City policies.

The overall planning process continues to move forward with a recalibrated timeline. The planning program anticipates a draft plan for Council's consideration by early 2024.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Round 2 Engagement Report summarizes key feedback that emerged during the public consultation held from January 18 to March 3, 2023. The intention of this phase of engagement was to solicit deeper input into selected plan topics, including jobs & economy, transportation, housing, public views, cultural heritage and Still Creek. As part of this process, staff engaged with a broad and diverse set of stakeholders including members of the public, equity-denied groups, non-profits, and industry representatives.

PLANNING PROCESS - AS OF JULY 2023



2. HIGHLIGHTS

The second round of engagement for the Rupert and Renfrew Station Area Plan ran from January 18 to March 3, 2023 for a total of 6 weeks. During this time, staff engaged with a diverse set of stakeholders through various activities, including open houses, pop-up events, targeted sessions, and a community survey. Key materials were translated in four languages and interpreters were made available at key in-person events. Overall participation consisted of the following:

- Community survey (~600 responses)
- In-person open houses (~360 participants)
- Targeted sessions (~300 participants)
- City-Reach pop-up session (~300 participants)

Housing, Key Findings

- Strong support for a greater mix of housing options throughout the study area, including missing-middle housing, rental housing and social housing
- Strong support for intensifying housing near rapid transit stations
- Broad support for more affordable housing options
- 3 bedroom units in rental apartments, townhouses, and condominiums were the top choices for unit types

Transportation, Key Findings

- Strong support for improved cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, especially separated bike lanes / greenways, complete street concept along arterials, and enhanced north-south connections
- There was also wide support for more traffic calming, inviting public spaces, and desire for active transportation along Still Creek

Public Space, Key Findings

- Enhance Still Creek as a public green space for walking and cycling
- Need for more welcoming, improved gathering spaces; existing small scale seating areas / plazas are not inviting

Economy, Key Findings

- High levels of support for all shops and services locations identified for expansion (22nd, Renfrew/1st Ave, Station areas)
- Support for more retail, including restaurants, coffee shops, bars, entertainment and health services
- General support for expanding retail across the neighborhood, including corner stores

- Big Box retail has high levels of support across all modes, with Superstore and Walmart receiving explicit mentions as important sources of convenient and affordable goods

Cultural Spaces, Key Findings

- Strong support for artist production, performance, presentation, and indigenous cultural spaces, as well as outdoor music and cultural activities
- The importance of community centres and libraries
- The significance of outdoor natural spaces, especially near Still Creek

Cultural Heritage, Key Findings

- The neighborhood is a place full of history, memories and stories that have been lost or forgotten
- Support more ways to learn, share and celebrate the neighborhood's cultural heritage
- There is strong support to acknowledge, respect and support Indigenous cultural heritage in the built environment

Parks and Still Creek, Key Findings

- Strong support for upgrading and expanding parks and playgrounds
- Broad desire to enhance and restore Still Creek

Childcare and Social Infrastructure, Key Findings

- Support for more childcare options in the area
- Strong support and need for expanding services and programs
- Recognition of the importance of community agencies and local non-profits in the study area

Public Views, Key Findings

- Strong support for preserving views from Sunrise Park and Renfrew Community Park, in addition to a number of other locations
- Some concerns about the limitation that view protection may impose on opportunities to provide more housing



HOW WE ENGAGED

3A. ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

The City took a hybrid approach to public engagement involving both in-person and virtual activities. Four in-person open houses were hosted at various locations in the community. An online survey was hosted on the City's ShapeYourCity website, along with detailed information on the planning program, including information boards and reports. Fourteen additional sessions were organized with specific community groups.

Community Survey
591
Responses (Online & Paper)

In-person Open House (4)
360
Participants

Targeted Sessions (14)
621
People









18 In-Person Engagement Events

5,900 ShapeYourCity Website Visits