City of Vernon
3400 30th Street
Vernon, BC V1T 5E6
P: 250.545.1361
F: 250.545.7876
www.vernon.ca

Official Community Plan & Transportation Action Plan Joint Review – Backgrounder

The City of Vernon's Official Community Plan and Transportation Action Plan are in the process of being updated together. The last plans were completed in 2013-2014.

What is our Official Community Plan?
The OCP is our community vision for how the city will grow to 2045. We are a city of 45,000 people, and we know we will continue to welcome new neighbours in the next 20 years. The OCP will outline how Vernon will become a place where everyone can live, work, and play while protecting our parks, green spaces, trails, lakes, farmlands, and the things that make Vernon home to all of us.

What our Transportation Action Plan?
The TAP guides how our community's transportation system, such as roads, public transit, and cycling paths, will grow and develop in line with the OCP. The TAP will outline how we move and connect to all the places we go safely and efficiently, while making life better for everyone in our community.

Why are we updating them at the same time?
The revised plans match the Province's new Homes for People Plan, which promotes building more homes, especially near and around transit. The joint approach will ensure that as our community grows, our infrastructure investments, like new trails, sidewalks, and utilities, are directed to the areas where there will be more housing, and vice versa.

What is the timeline?
The Official Community Plan and Transportation Action Plan are expected to be completed by December 2025. This timeline is legislated by the Province.

What topics are included in the OCP?
The OCP covers broad topics about how land is used in the City. This includes the land use itself, like housing, shopping, etc., and all the things that are needed to get to and use the land, like road, water, and sewer. Some of the topics include:

- Community vision
- Community context
- Alignment with the Regional Growth Strategy
- Population projections to 2045
- Housing Needs Report
- Climate Action
- Land Uses (i.e. residential, commercial, industrial, parks, etc.)
- Agriculture and farming
- Food security
- Heritage buildings
- Development Permits (which cover topics like environmental protection, what buildings look like, safety in hazardous areas, etc.)
- Transportation

- Economic development
- Arts & culture
- Health & safety
- Water, sewer, and other utilities

What topics are included in the TAP?
The TAP is focused in more detail than the OCP, and covers how the transportation system will move the community beyond broad policies. Some of the topics include:

- Active Transportation
    - New recreational and urban trails
    - Bike infrastructure (i.e. bike lanes, cycle tracks, bike parking, etc.)
    - Pedestrian infrastructure (i.e. sidewalks, crosswalks, signals, etc.)
    - Safety (i.e. speed limits, road design, etc.)
    - E-scooters and micro-mobility
- Transit
    - Route and stop locations
    - Walking to and from stops
    - Lighting and safety
- Vehicles
    - Road classifications and design
    - New road connections
    - Intersection design
    - Parking
    - Loading (i.e. curbside pick-up and drop off, food and parcel deliveries, U-ride, taxis, etc.)
- New infrastructure projects for implementation