

# NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

## National Capital Core Area Plan Summary: Public Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

### PARTICIPANTS

#### National Capital Commission:

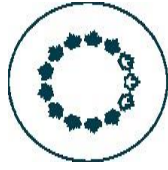
- Cédric Williams, Manager, Public Consultations (moderator)
- Andrew Sacret, Chief, Planning and Design (co-chair)
- Patrick Bunting, Senior Planner, Urban Design (speaker)
- Jack Graham, Planner, Plans and Policies (speaker)
- Ryan Kleinau, Advisor, Public Affairs (tech/logistics and minutes)
- Colin Simpson, Chief, Transportation (speaker)
- Fabrice Beniey, Senior Planner (observer)
- Minh Dao Ngoc, Senior Planner (observer)
- Cécile Lecoq, Senior Planner (observer)
- Homa Jalili Safarian, Planner, Plans and Policies (observer)
- Jana Babawa, Student, Urban Design (observer)

#### Public Advisory Committee (PAC) members – present:

- Sylvie Bigras, President, Lowertown Community Association
- Catherine Callary, Vice-President, Destination Development, Ottawa Tourism
- Daniel Cayley-Daoust, President, Association des résidents de l'Île de Hull
- Jerry Fiori, Chair, Ottawa Disability Coalition
- David Jeanes, Director, Transport Action Canada
- Janet Luloff, Co-Chair (Transportation Committee), Council on Aging of Ottawa
- Kevin McHale, Executive Director, Sparks Street BIA
- Liam Nguyen (on behalf of Laura Reinsborough), Riverkeeper and CEO, Ottawa Riverkeeper
- Olivier Viger Beaudin, Sustainable Mobility Consultant, MOBI-O

#### PAC members – regrets/absent:

- Martin Roy, Vision Centre-Ville
- Andrew Peck, Executive Director, Downtown Rideau BIA
- Alice Irene Whittaker, Executive Director, Ecology Ottawa
- Karen Green, Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition
- Lee Dunbar, Interim Executive Director / Director, Research and Communications, Ottawa Festivals
- SabriNa Lemay, Centretown Business Improvement Association
- Katherine Spencer-Ross, President, Heritage Ottawa
- Sara Mackenzie, Executive Director, Ottawa Museum Network

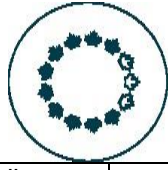


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**DISCUSSION**

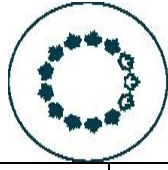
#	Member	Question/comment	NCC Response
<b>Clarifying questions</b>			
1	<b>Sylvie Bigras</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Lowertown Community Association recently met with City of Ottawa on the redesign of Rideau-Sussex node. One of the main elements were to shut off through traffic at the end of MacKenzie through Sussex; could only go right onto Wellington and would impact Elgin. The prediction is that there would be 250 more cars/hour on Elgin. The LCA is of the view that this would be catastrophic for Confederation Blvd, the Core Area and the Lowertown community. Has the NCC addressed this with the City of Ottawa?</li> <li>Truck traffic on King Edward has been negatively impacting community as well; encourages NCC to be a leader.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colin: The NCC has been working with the City about potential concept designs for the Rideau-Sussex node of Confederation Blvd, consistent with the City's ByWard Market Public Realm Plan. More detailed traffic analysis, including post-pandemic traffic volumes, will be required before any modifications are implemented. Restricting the movement may not be necessary and will be re-evaluated.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Olivier Viger Beaudin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confusion about the legend and green lines on the map on one of the slides – suggested clarifying for future presentations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cedric: Thanked for feedback.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Janet Luloff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Happy to see vision coming forward and that NCC is working with the City of Ottawa, echoes Sylvie's comments and was pleased to hear Colin's response. Wants to hear more about what stakeholders gave NCC as input and priorities for various groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cedric: we will include the link to the report released online along with the presentation following today's meeting.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Kevin McHale</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conversion of Cliff parking into parks and programming; NCC should consider in future plans that there is a mechanism on how it is funded and maintained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cedric: Thanked for feedback.</li> </ul>

**Discussion #1: How well do the individual and combined layers of the 2025 planning concept resonate with you? Are there any positive or negative points you would like to raise?**



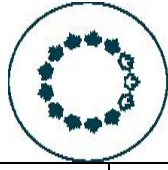
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5	Catherine Callary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Likes the idea of bringing people closer to the water and leveraging existing spaces, such as bistros. When it comes to policies, FLUDA makes it difficult for local businesses to get involved and is a barrier, especially if we have RFPs in place. Goal should be to leverage community involvement and participation in these spaces.</li> </ul>	
6	Janet Luloff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At a city of Ottawa parking consultation, discussed that 'getting there' is a difficult task for older adults; para-transpo is often the only option. Handicapped spaces are few and far between; need to ensure other avenues available for accessibility to allow them to participate in their city.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrew: NCC has an accessibility plan; many of these are core area items and we have also consulted and are taking this into account.</li> <li>Patrick: we've received some feedback on this already; we agree that we want to simplify processes and are working with the public towards the same goals.</li> </ul>
7	Sylvie Bigras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appreciates that the plan is revitalizing the downtown core and putting people first. Service providers would agree that creation of beauty would create a better sense of safety for residents and the homeless. Looks forward to more details on the plan.</li> <li>Agrees with Catherine's point about bringing people to the waterfront.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
8	Liam Nguyen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wanted to ensure that landscaping and erosion are considered in areas of the plan close to the shore.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
9	Olivier Viger Beaudin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have you considered people who may want to get around all seasons? Wellington and becoming an open street for cycling/walking, should consider security aspect as well if this is in the plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrew: we have the Capital Pathways Strategic Plan which addresses active mobility in both winter and summer.</li> </ul>
10	Jerry Fiori	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From a disability perspective, biggest barrier to accessing spaces and services is financial accessibility. Organizations that put on events often don't consider people with disabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
11	David Jeanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On transportation, wants to see the plaza mentioned by Colin (at Rideau and Sussex).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pat: Indigenous placemaking planned for Victoria Island, will be done in partnership with Algonquin communities. Maps are</li> </ul>



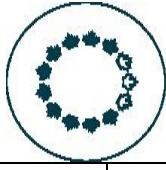
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		Confederation Blvd will miss the link from the Alex bridge and whatever replaces it will be significant to the plan. Pedestrian bridges mentioned between Richmond Landing/Victoria Island – Indigenous issues may have an impact.	concept drawings – next iteration will have further detail to look at.
<b>Discussion #2: How well do the 2025 planning concept and themes guide the policies of the plan? Are there any topics missing?</b>			
12	Catherine Callary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarifying: would the policies be coming next/is this for us to comment on what should be coming next? Or did she miss something?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrew: we want to ensure we're on the right track – make sure everything's covered, or whether there's anything missing.</li> </ul>
13	Olivier Viger Beaudin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wanted to clarify how to contact the project team when sharing with organizations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cedric: please share with us via email if you have further questions from your respective groups/executives.</li> </ul>
14	Catherine Callary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have seen struggles with past events (i.e., Canada Day issues with parliamentary security and making the Parliament Hill event secure – most secure would be if nobody came). Want to ensure that everyone is provided access.</li> </ul>	
15	Kevin McHale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Echoing Catherine's thoughts; local economics and business interests haven't been adequately addressed in other, previous plans. Need to balance security with spaces as we don't want to make them inaccessible. Evolving security considerations shouldn't cut off these areas just because one security person made a decision (has seen in the past on Sparks St).</li> </ul>	
16	Janet Luloff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emphasized people first – should be balanced with business and environment. When people come to a city, they try to find something good for their family or an older adult close to their hotel. If these sites aren't available, they won't go to the city. Other cities highlight this – should consider doing the same while ensuring accessibility to all age groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
17	Catherine Callary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work already underway with the NCC/Cities/tourism groups on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrew: has been involved in some of the work on wayfinding; will follow up to talk</li> </ul>



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		cohesive wayfinding signage should continue. Cited 'legible London' as an example – modelled some similar planning and signage after this (speaking to Janet's point), on Monoliths with maps.	more about it.
<b>Discussion #3: Do you have any thoughts or suggestions for the sectors or special study areas under development?</b>			
18	Sylvie Bigras (via chat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Chat): Much too detailed for where we are at in this CAP but these basic elements need to be addressed at some point (in partnership with BMDA, City, LCA?): water fountains, washrooms, MUCH more places to sit, shade, greenery, flowers, public art. People-oriented spaces with reduction of vehicles in some areas - pedestrian areas. All of which will make for a better resident-visitor-business client</li> <li>Looking at the map, it's large but would want to see more specifications into each area – should be cohesive elements across the plan (i.e., same use of planters in all areas of the core area). Elements should reflect Ottawa as the national capital. Added bathrooms in public spaces also an asset.</li> </ul>	
19	Catherine Callary (via chat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I've visited places where there was thoughtful water fountains for humans and also bowls that can be filled by foot pedals low to the ground for pets. That impressed me as very progressive and inclusive - especially for people who have service dogs as well. I think it would be nice to consider that as well.</li> </ul>	
20	Janet Luloff (via chat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also, shade and extreme weather areas.</li> </ul>	
21	Kevin McHale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>we had two million S.M. hits for a post telling everyone that we had installed our bottle filling stations this spring</li> </ul>	
22	David Jeanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lady Grey Drive: is this the rehabilitation of the wall, or</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrew: goal is to animate the space more, working with Gallery as well.</li> </ul>



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		something else? Will it be connected with Kiweki Point?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pat: trying to figure out elements of the plan, but looking longer term.</li> </ul>
23	<b>Catherine Callary (via chat)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a particularly exciting addition to the public realm in Ottawa, kudos! Love the Lady Grey piece.</li> </ul>	
24	<b>Janet Luloff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thank you. Excellent meeting. Glad to see progression and the thought and effort put into policy development and outreach, and appreciate the consultation opportunity. Looking forward to the report and "what we heard" feedback.</li> </ul>	
25	<b>Sylvie Bigras</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thanks so much for this initiative and taking the time for this meeting. I look forward to sharing this presentation and coming back with further comments. Merci encore une fois - c'est bien apprécié! Ceci est une initiative qui aura le pouvoir de vraiment transformer où on vit, visite et travaille.</li> </ul>	
<b>Next Steps</b>			
26	<b>Cedric</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We'll send around the presentation in PDF format, along with a link to the 'what we heard' report.</li> </ul>	

**Follow ups:**

- NCC to prepare and distribute meeting notes and presentation.
- PAC members to nominate or self-nominate a co-chair.