THRIVE!
SURREY IN 2030
A Residents’ Lab on the Future of their City

DISCUSSION GUIDE

NOV. 7, 2015
10:00AM–2:30PM
(registration 9:30am)

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THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THRIVE!

You are one of 100 select Surrey residents to take part in a unique city-building exercise. Throughout the day you will play the role of a planner and collaborate with other residents to help the City of Surrey achieve its sustainability goals.

This document includes key facts about the City today, the changes it will see in the coming decades, and the goals of Surrey’s updated Sustainability Charter. We have also included a brief description of what it means to think like a city planner. Please read the information before attending the event.

We’re sure you will have a lot of fun at THRIVE! as you use your voice as a resident and work with other community members—it may even change the way you see your city. We’re very excited to be working with you on November 7.

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BUILDING A THRIVING FUTURE: SURREY’S SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER

The Sustainability Charter is the City of Surrey’s comprehensive framework for implementing a progressive, 50-year vision for a sustainable city. City Council first adopted the Sustainability Charter in 2008. The Charter defines sustainability as:

Meeting the needs of the present generation in terms of socio-cultural systems, the economy and the environment while promoting a high quality of life but without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Charter identified 56 actions that have now been either initiated or completed, and many are ongoing.

Last year, Surrey Council approved updating the Sustainability Charter to refresh its vision and goals. As part of this process the City has been seeking input from Surrey residents, stakeholders, staff, and Council to revisit the question: what kind of community would we like Surrey to be in 2058? The updated Sustainability Charter will have new and refined goals to get Surrey where its residents want it to be. The THRIVE! Resident’s Lab is an opportunity for you to think like a city planner and advise the City on how to make progress towards those goals by 2030—the next leg on the way to making the vision for Surrey’s future a reality.

The updated Sustainability Charter will include eight themes:

Inclusion
A caring community that encourages a sense of belonging and access to opportunity for all Surrey residents to realize their full potential. Desired outcomes will address diversity and accessibility, poverty reduction, housing, age-friendly community, and community pride and engagement.

Built Environment and Neighbourhoods
A beautiful, accessible and well-connected city of distinct and complete neighbourhoods that are walkable, engaging, resilient and restorative. Desired outcomes will address placemaking and urban design as well as buildings and sites.

Community Safety
A city in which all people live, work, learn and play in a safe and engaged environment. Desired outcomes will address community safety and emergency services, emergency preparedness and prevention, and transportation safety.
Economic Prosperity and Livelihoods
Continued prosperity and thriving livelihoods fostered through a strong, equitable and diverse economy, responsible use of natural, financial and human resources, and collaborative business strategies. Desired outcomes will address jobs and skills training, the local economy, and innovation.

Ecosystems
Healthy, protected and well-maintained ecosystems and biodiversity. Desired outcomes will address questions around managing natural areas, biodiversity and urban forests, water and air quality, as well as green (ecosystem-based) infrastructure, which provides valuable services such as absorbing stormwater or cooling urban areas.

Education and Culture
Access to diverse, high quality learning opportunities, and vibrant arts, heritage and cultural experiences for all Surrey residents. Desired outcomes will address learning opportunities for residents of all ages and an exciting arts, heritage and entertainment landscape for a growing and diverse community.

Health and Wellness
A community in which all residents are healthy, active and connected. Desired outcomes will address health and social services programs, wellness and recreation, and food accessibility.

Infrastructure
Effective infrastructure and services that meet the current and future needs of the city while protecting the natural environment and supporting urban growth. Desired outcomes will address issues related to transportation, water, waste, telecommunications infrastructure, energy, and climate change.

Find out more about sustainability in Surrey at www.surrey.ca/sustainability
SURREY NOW, SURREY IN THE FUTURE

By 2030 Surrey will be BC’s most populous city—the third largest municipality in Canada. There may not be flying cars, but self-driving, electric vehicles could be getting many of us to the places that public transit does not reach. This is only one of the changes that Surrey will see in the next 15 years.

Surrey’s diversity today:

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR SURREY?

Surrey Population Projections, 2015–2046

Surrey's population is projected to rise over 670,000 by 2030, with the City Centre, Cloverdale and South Surrey expected to see the strongest growth. Data source: City of Surrey, http://www.surrey.ca/business-economic-development/1418.aspx

Surrey Projected Population Growth, Dwelling Units, and Jobs

An important planning challenge is to ensure jobs and housing are keeping up with population growth. Data source: City of Surrey, Official Community Plan

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In the coming decades, a smaller share of residents will live in single family homes. Data source: City of Surrey, Community Energy and Emissions Plan

The City of Surrey’s sustainability targets include a significant increase in transit use. Data source: City of Surrey, Community Energy and Emissions Plan
WHAT'S GOING WHERE? LAND USE DESIGNATIONS IN SURREY

Land use designations determine what kind of buildings, structures, and other uses are permitted in a given area and are an important tool in city planning. This map shows land use designations that reflect the goals and objectives of Surrey’s Official Community Plan.

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**Urban Centres:** Urban centres are designated to be the primary commercial, institutional, and civic hearts of Surrey and its communities. Land use designations in urban centres include public facilities, institutional and civic uses, commercial uses, stand-alone and mixed office and retail developments, mixed-use commercial and multiple family residential developments, and stand-alone multiple family residential development. Similarly, Frequent Transit Development Areas are also anticipated to accommodate a large portion of Surrey’s dwelling unit and employment increases.

**Urban Containment Boundary:** Surrey’s Official Community Plan identifies where urban development will be contained in order to support a growing, yet compact and sustainable, community.

**General Urban Lands:** This designation is intended to support low and medium density residential neighbourhoods. Residential uses within this designation may include a range of different kinds of housing forms such as detached and semi-detached houses as well as ground-oriented attached housing including townhouses and row houses.

**Industrial lands:** This designation supports light and heavy industrial land uses; including manufacturing, warehouses, wholesale trade and equipment storage and repair. The preservation of industrial lands is essential for retaining jobs and growing the economic development base.

**Mixed Employment:** This designation is intended to support a mix of industrial, commercial, business, and office uses that are not suited for locations within Urban Centres. Examples may include business parks in select locations, large-scale retail outlets with warehousing requirements, and office use related to industrial activities.

**Conservation and Recreation:** This designation is intended to protect significant natural ecosystems and extensive outdoor recreation areas and parks.

**Agricultural:** This designation is intended to support agriculture, complementary land uses and public facilities.

**Rural:** This designation is intended to support low-density residential uses and public facilities on large properties that are not serviced by sanitary sewers and are not expected to be serviced in the foreseeable future.

Learn more about Surrey’s Official Community Plan at [http://www.surrey.ca/city-services/1318.aspx](http://www.surrey.ca/city-services/1318.aspx)
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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO THINK LIKE A CITY PLANNER?

City planners play an important role in helping communities achieve their goals and aspirations. With direction from Council and input from residents, the City’s planning staff help to articulate a vision of the future and come up with the strategies and tools to make it happen. In doing so, planners have to take many different perspectives and pieces of information into account:

- What is in the best interest of all residents?
- What kind of views and perspectives exist in the community?
- What are the community’s needs today and what will they be in the future?
- How is one issue related to another?
- What are the negative effects of a decision? What are the long-term effects?
- How will our decisions affect other communities?
- What is technically feasible?
- Which financial resources and funding models are available? What does spending money on project X mean for project Y?
- What solutions will be supported by the Mayor and Council?
- What solutions will be agreeable to the public?

At THRIVE! we want you to think like a planner and work together with your fellow residents on ideas for how the City can achieve its sustainability goals. Why? Because elected officials and and City staff will be present at the Residents’ Lab, and they want to hear from you.

On November 7 you will learn about the specific city-building challenge that you will be asked to tackle with a team of other residents. Be ready to use your imagination, background data, as well as on-site experts from the City and other partners to come up with a solution. The outcomes of the session will inform the City’s Sustainability Charter moving forward. All participants will receive a certificate in acknowledgement of their contribution to building a Surrey where everyone can thrive!

We look forward to meeting you at the THRIVE! Residents’ Lab!
JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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