

Welcome to the second edition of the community update for the Downtown Eastside (DTES) Plan. These updates will keep you informed about the progress on implementing the plan, upcoming events, and other important information.

DTES PLAN

The DTES Plan was approved by City Council in March 2014, along with a Rezoning Policy and Interim Liquor Policy. To read the plan and related documents or the highlights infographic, click on the links below:

- [Downtown Eastside Plan \(as adopted by City Council\)](#)
- [DTES Plan highlights infographic](#)
- [Rezoning Policy for the Downtown Eastside](#)
- [Micro Dwelling Policies and Guidelines](#)
- [Policies and Guidelines for the Upgrade of Rooms Designated under the Single Room Accommodation \(SRA\) By-law 8733](#)
- [Interim Liquor Policy for the Downtown Eastside](#)

You can also find these under the Documents tab at vancouver.ca/dtes.

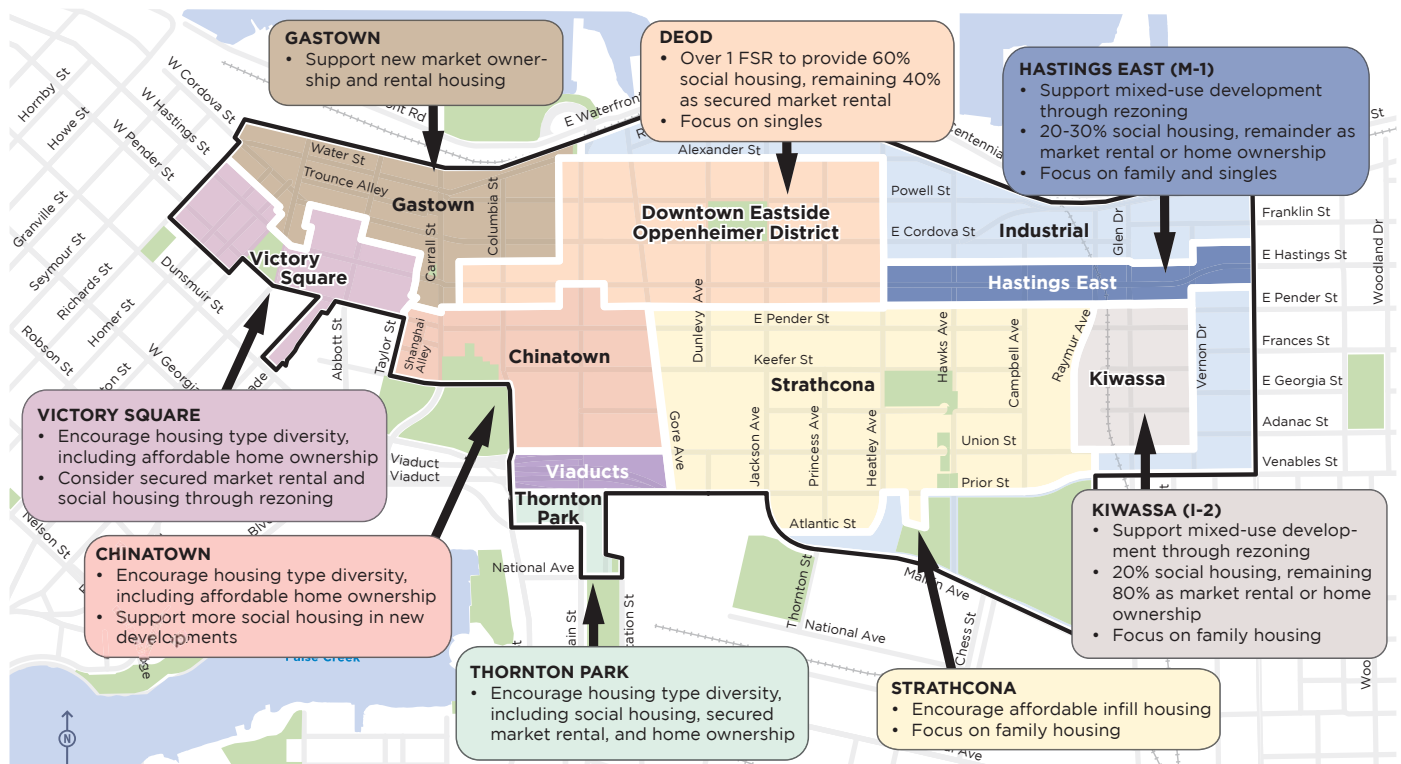
PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE DTES PLAN

Since the plan was approved, we have been moving forward on implementing many quick start and short-term projects:

SUPPORT FOR CHINESE SOCIETY BUILDINGS

In December 2014, Council approved \$1.16 million in matching grants to 17 Chinese family clan and benevolent societies for critical upgrades to their buildings in Chinatown and the Downtown Eastside. Ten societies provide a total of 407 units of affordable housing. These grants support and strengthen the societies, which continue to play a vital role in protecting affordable housing and preserving the area's unique character, cultural identity and heritage.

Applications are being accepted for the second round of the Chinese Society Buildings Matching Grant Program until **Friday, February 27, 2015**. To learn more about the program and how to apply, visit vancouver.ca/dtes.



The map summarizes the main housing policies for each of the Downtown Eastside sub-areas.



We're also hiring a consultant team to provide strategic support for the rehabilitation of the heritage society buildings. This includes conducting technical studies of the buildings in Chinatown, and making recommendations on how they can be rehabilitated.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM

In December 2014, Council approved \$955,814 in grants to 40 non-profit DTES organizations for programs that help the local community and advance the social, economic, and environmental objectives of the DTES Plan.

- [Read report and see the programs that received grants](#)

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE CAPITAL PROJECTS

Several capital projects have been funded and completed since our last community update.

Carnegie Community Theatre

The Carnegie Community Centre Theatre received funding to upgrade their space, and audio and video equipment. The theatre is home to many Carnegie programs, and is also available for community organizations free of charge for events that benefit all residents of the DTES.



DTES Street Market

While work continues to find a more permanent location for the DTES street market, the DTES Capital Program provided funding to build 10 vending carts that offer protection from the elements. The street market helps vulnerable community residents supplement their income through the sale of discarded or recycled items, as well as locally-produced arts and crafts.



Vancouver Incubator Kitchen

Through DTES grant funding, the City, Vancouver Community College, Save-On Meats, and Vancity created an innovative kitchen space in the Save-On Meats building to support food-related education, business development and to provide low-cost kitchen space to community organizations.

The Vancouver Incubator Kitchen (VIK) also provides free meals to many DTES groups including:

- 400 meals a week to the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre Beauty Nights Program;
- 40 meals a day to the Rainier Women's Hotel;
- 200 breakfasts each week to kids and their families at Strathcona Elementary School (in partnership with Breakfast Clubs Of Canada), and;
- 50 meals a day to Megaphone Magazine/ Pivot Legal Society vendors.

The programs supported by the VIK also help provide jobs and training to many who face barriers to employment. Groups that have used the VIK for community programming include the Portland Hotel Society, Strive Youth in Care Transition Program, Hastings-Sunrise Community Group, and Skipper Otto's Community Supported Fishery.

HERITAGE ACTION PLAN

A Heritage Action Plan (HAP) committee has been established to provide guidance on the update to the City's Heritage Conservation Program. The HAP includes regulatory changes, process improvements, proactive outreach to senior levels of government, and updates to the Vancouver Heritage Register.

To learn more about protecting Vancouver's heritage, visit vancouver.ca/heritage.



COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING

A report outlining best practices in community-based monitoring models from other cities will be coming out shortly and posted at vancouver.ca/dtes. As the DTES grows and evolves, this research will help determine the best way we can monitor the pace and impact of neighbourhood change.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION SURVEY

Working with the Chinatown, Hastings Crossing and Strathcona Business Improvement Associations (BIAs), we've completed a survey on local businesses to help identify opportunities for partnership, local procurement, business-to-business networking, and more. A report summarizing the findings will be posted at vancouver.ca/dtes in the spring.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

During summer 2014, workshops were held at Simon Fraser University with local residents, non-profit

organizations, community groups, and the DTES BIAs to explore various economic development approaches and how they could be used to strengthen the DTES local economy. A draft summary of the workshops will be available early this year, and further discussion sessions will be held with residents to draft a community economic development strategy.

DEVELOPMENT AND REZONING UPDATE

Several rezoning and major development applications for new construction in areas identified in the plan have been received. See the links below for details of these proposals:

Rezoning Applications

- **105 Keefer Street and 544 Columbia Street:** 13-storey mixed-use building with retail at grade and residential above.
- **420 Hawks Avenue:** seven-storey residential building with 26 social housing units.
- **450 Gore Avenue:** six-storey, mixed-use building with retail at grade and 65 secured market rental units above.

Development Applications

- **137 Keefer Street:** nine-storey, mixed-use building with retail at grade and residential above.
- **155 Water Street:** seven-storey, mixed-use building with retail at grade and office space above.
- **1257 East Pender Street:** seven-storey industrial/office building.
- **308 West Hastings Street:** six-storey, mixed-use building with retail at grade and 52 secured market rental units above.

For each application, you'll have the chance to review the proposal and share your thoughts at open houses, online and through other public engagement opportunities.

STAY INFORMED

If you not already on our email list but would like to receive community updates about the DTES Plan implementation in electronic form, please sign up by going to vancouver.ca/dtes (see right column on website) or **phone 3-1-1**.