

May 9, 2023 City of Coquitlam Town Hall

Responses to Unanswered Questions without Writer's Contact Information

Disclaimer: submissions are provided as received and were not edited for grammar or spelling.

1. Question from Karla Gomez (received via Facebook):

Can adding lights on the guildford side between pipeline and pinetree be considered? So many people take the skytrain and that stretch is so dark at night for pedestrians

Response from staff:

The City is currently working on improving the entire Guildford Way corridor as part of the Guildford Way Greenway – Micromobility Project. (<https://www.coquitlam.ca/1250/Guildford-Way-Greenway-Micromobility-Pro>). Micromobility refers to a range of low to medium-speed transportation devices that are people or electric powered and includes bikes, e-bikes, scooters, e-scooters and skateboards. With this project we are able to separate people walking from using micromobility devices. The first two phases of the project are from the Port Moody border to Pinetree Way. Phase 3 is from Pinetree to Town Centre Park. We are in the planning phase for that project and intend to include a review of the Micromobility infrastructure, walking infrastructure and lighting. This project is scheduled for completion shortly after Phase 2 (scheduled for 2024).

2. Question from Ida (received via Facebook):

*I wish we can have some kiosk for small businesses around Coquitlam
I know city has some spots in Guildford for mobile food but honestly without electricity and water it's cost a lot and even lots of work
Kiosk making city more beautiful and fun and it's job for some people and money for city hall too
City hall gonna prove a food truck with all options which is gonna cost same price to rent a store...!*

Response from staff (continued on the next page):

Thank you for your feedback on vending opportunities in the City of Coquitlam. Mobile vendors contribute to the vibrancy of the community offering a range food options in unique locations, including on City streets and at special events. Coquitlam does have an active Street Vending Program with locations currently available for smaller, non-motorized cart vendors as well as larger food trucks.

Our [Business LinQ](#) staff are available to discuss your business ideas and provide guidance on vending options in the City.

businessling@coquitlam.ca

(604) 927-3975

3. Question from Terry (received via Facebook):

Senior Citizens over 65 should be exempted from paying municipal property tax on their homes. There should be a slow down on building highrises without proper traffic grid system in place as there will be major traffic congestion in the future within the Coquitlam and Tricity areas! This is a cash grab by the City of Coquitlam by allowing contractors to build highrises thus creating a high population density into existing infrastructure of the city and no one wants to start paying more on their utility bills and property taxes!!!

Response from staff (continued on the next page):

The property tax legislation requires cities to collect property tax revenue based on property value as assessed by BC Assessment therefore the City cannot grant exemptions for property tax for seniors. There are however a couple of programs administered by the Province to assist seniors. These include the Property Tax Deferment Program and the Seniors Home Owner Grant. The Property Tax Deferment Program allows residents aged 55 or older to defer their property taxes if you meet the Provincial criteria. A Seniors Home Owner grant of \$845 is also available to eligible owners aged 65 or older to help offset their property tax amount owing.

Furthermore, the City collects only the required amount of taxes to fund the programs and services as identified in the budget and any additional tax revenue collected as a result of population growth is used to offset tax rate increases for all residents.

Given the number of people moving to the lower mainland every year a key goal of the City is to increase the housing supply to provide a broader range of housing options that can help improve housing affordability within our limited land base. Both the [Official Community Plan](#) (OCP) and the [Housing Affordability Strategy](#) (HAS) use an incentive based policy approach to provide a broader range of housing options that can appeal to a wide variety of family types. These expanded housing options can provide opportunities for greater housing choice and affordability by increasing the supply of different types of housing that meets the needs of people at different stages in their lives. The hope is that we can provide more options for families somewhere between a too-small apartment and a too-expensive house, and smaller, more affordable options for seniors that don't want to leave neighbourhoods they have spent many years in when the time comes to downsize.

The majority of new development is focused around SkyTrain stations follows the principles of supportive densities, pedestrian-friendly streets and a mix of land uses to allow more people to live and work close to high quality transit services so they can chose to leave their car at home, or ever forgo owning a car altogether. As this new development occurs incremental improvements are made to the transportation network to expand sidewalks, add cycling lanes, and improve the street network.

4. Question from Justin (received via Slido):

With the new City Center Area Plan and adding so much density in the city center core, how do we plan on expanding or upgrading existing road infrastructure to support traffic growth? Esp around the Barnet/Lougheed highway area.

Response from staff (continued on the next page):

The City's plan for servicing the growth in Transportation begins with the Council approved (November 2020) City Centre Area Plan (CCAP) update, which can be found at the webpage <https://www.coquitlam.ca/475/City-Centre-Area-Plan>

The CCAP update includes:

- *Land use updates that build a 'complete community' of mixed-use buildings including employment and services in order to lessen the need for long distance travel*
- *New streets and lanes to disperse vehicle traffic and reduce reliance on major arterials like Barnet Hwy and Lougheed Hwy for local trips*
- *Addition of new walking and cycling facilities throughout City Centre to encourage active transportation modes*
- *Identifying the development of Micromobility (bike, e-bikes, scooters, e-scooters, other wheeled devcies) Hubs to help further facilitate multi-modal options and trips (Section 5.15 of the [CCAP](#))*

Additionally the City is currently working on a number of supporting initiatives to help travel demand through other modes which includes:

- *Securing providers to establish shared electric bike / scooter programs for convenient active trips*
- *Working with TransLink to leverage existing SkyTrain service and improve regional bus service, especially connections at Coquitlam Central.*
 - *For example in 2020, dedicated bus lanes were added to Lougheed Hwy for the R3 RapidBus route to Maple Ridge, which allows for more frequency, better connections, and bus priority.*

Coquitlam

- *Updating the Strategic Transportation Plan to better meet the needs of a densifying urban city. There are some public information events coming up if you are interested. [See this webpage for more detail.](#)*

Note: A copy of May 9, 2023 Town Hall meeting minutes will be published in July 2023 [here](#).