

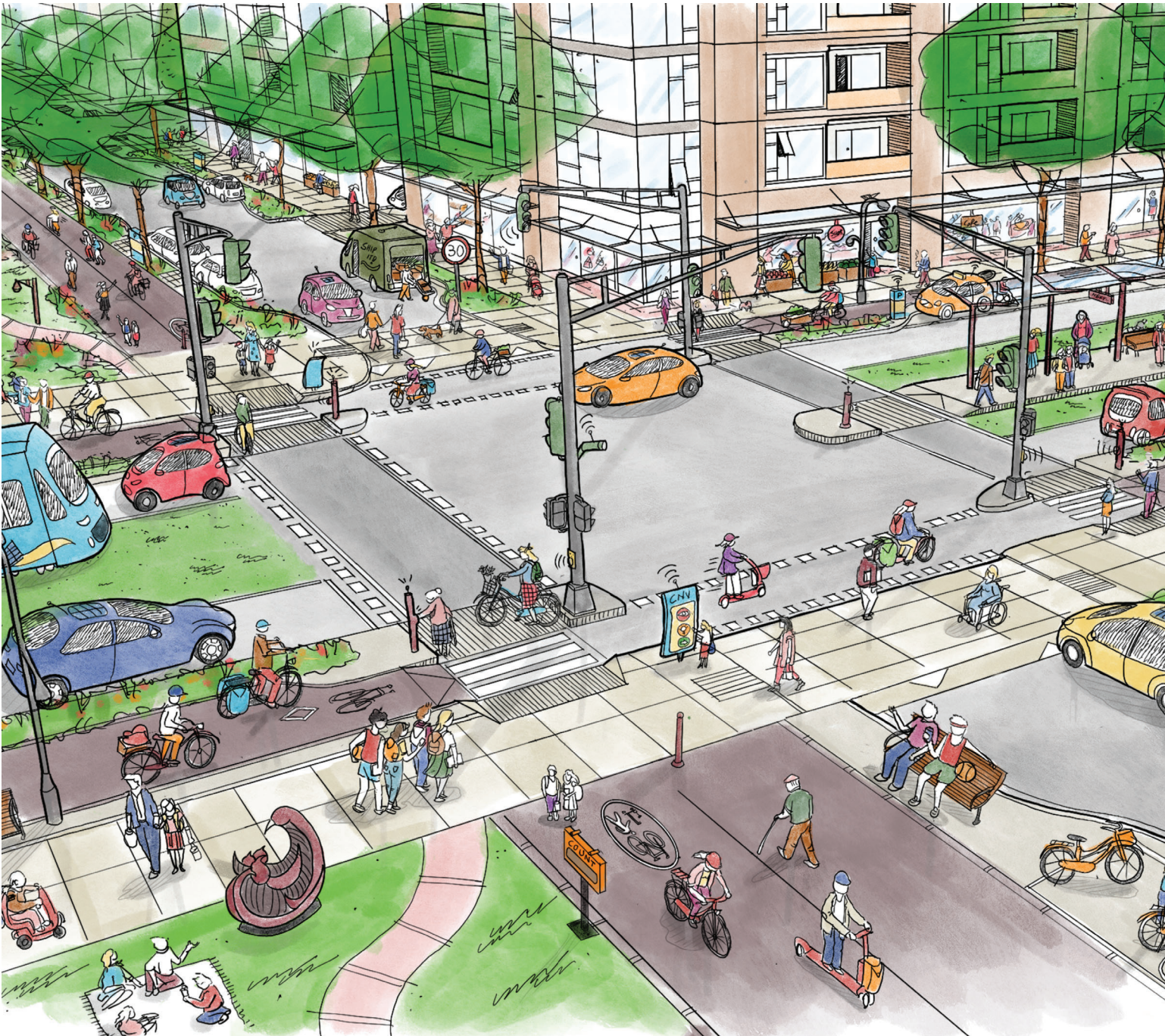


PEDESTRIAN PLAN
FRAMEWORK



Our Vision for a People-First City

"Walking will become the preferred way to move around the City of North Vancouver, thanks to a strong culture of health and wellness and a commitment to great design, comfort, accessibility and safety."



Artist: Sam Khany



Why Walk CNV?

Walking is the foundation of all trips, as nearly every journey begins and ends on foot. To create a safe, integrated transportation network in the City of North Vancouver, we must consider the needs of pedestrians within the context of all other modes of travel. Walk CNV represents a significant step forward in this work.

The purpose of Walk CNV is to increase transportation choices by establishing strategies and actions that encourage walking. Walk CNV builds off policy directions outlined in the Official Community Plan (OCP), Long-Term Transportation Plan and the City's newly adopted emissions reduction target of net zero by 2050. Through the development of Walk CNV the City is working to reduce automobile dependence and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increase physical activity to improve public health outcomes, increase accessibility and social connections, and reduce transportation infrastructure demands.

Our Framework

The Walk CNV framework provides a high-level vision for walking in the City of North Vancouver. It compiles an investigation into the benefits of walking and best practices for walking infrastructure, as applied to the unique demographic and geographic characteristics of our city. Together, these findings provide guidance on increasing walking mode share and helping achieve our vision of becoming Canada's healthiest small city.

The Walk CNV framework will be used to set interim guidance for the development of capital projects and priority areas for investment and further study. Longer-term Walk CNV policy directions will live within the upcoming Mobility Strategy, which is a comprehensive update of the City's 2008 Long-term Transportation Plan.

The Walk CNV Framework was endorsed by the City of North Vancouver in September 2019.

This document was prepared by the City of North Vancouver with support from Urban Systems Ltd.



Benefits of Walking

An increase in the number of trips made by walking helps to promote a more balanced transportation system that encourages healthy and active living, creates a more livable community, and offers more cost-effective and efficient solutions in community infrastructure investments.¹

Economic

Promoting walking can contribute to the development of a healthy and diverse local economy in North



Vancouver. A city designed to support walking can encourage more residents to walk to local businesses, instead of driving to services further away in adjacent communities. Additionally, a walk-friendly atmosphere can attract more visitors to neighbourhoods, who will in turn be patrons of local services and amenities. Walking can reduce transportation costs for a household, and the City, since walking infrastructure comes at a lower cost than road infrastructure.

Social

A high level of walking in a community is viewed as a good indicator of both sustainability and livability. Walking creates opportunities for face-to-face interactions with members of the community and builds trust, respect, understanding and a sense of co-operation amongst members of the community. These social interactions have been shown to diminish when traffic levels increase and walking infrastructure decreases. These social connections are found to be particularly important for both children and seniors.

1 More details on the benefits of walking can be found in the Walk CNV discussion paper "The Current State of Walking in the City of North Vancouver" found at www.cnv.org/walk.

Environmental

Walking has numerous environmental benefits, such as reducing the number of motor vehicle trips, traffic congestion, and air pollution, in turn reducing GHG emissions for everyone. Land use is the single biggest determinant of how much carbon we will emit because it determines our proximity to services and amenities. In a city designed for walking, many of our consumption-heavy habits can become obsolete, by removing vehicle trips all together, as opposed to switching to different fuel types. Walking helps to reduce GHG emissions by limiting the use of personal automobiles and walking itself has a low environmental impact, as the act of walking generates virtually no GHG emissions or air pollution, and minimal noise and light pollution.





43% of residents have a healthy weight

55% describe their general health as excellent or very good

72% of residents walk for more than 30+ min. per day²

Health

Research has shown time and again the importance of physical activity on an individual's health and the relationship of activity levels to land use planning. Regular physical activity, even at a moderate intensity, reduces the risk of early death and numerous chronic diseases, many of which are costly to treat for society.³ Physical activity has been shown to improve psychological well-being and strengthen community bonds by growing participation in community projects and increasing trust in neighbours.

Safety

The key to successful walking environments is that they are made safe, useful, comfortable and interesting. Walkable environments make the presence of people walking more visible and commonplace, resulting in reduced risk of collisions. Streets that are designed for slower vehicle speeds feel safer for people walking. Research suggests that the places with the highest levels of people walking are also the safest places to walk, this is known as the "safety-in-numbers" principle.



² My Health, My Community. (2015). www.myhealthmycommunity.org

³ Badland, H., et al. (2014). The development of policy-relevant transport indicators to monitor health behaviours and outcomes. *Journal of Transport & Health*.

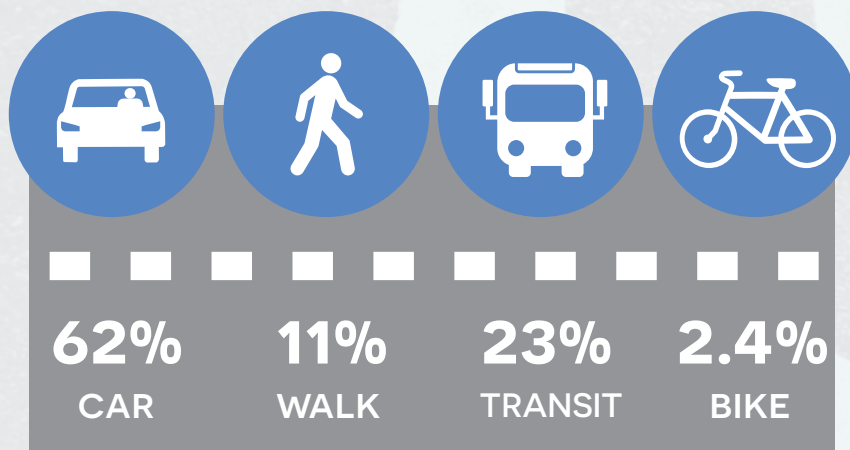
⁴ TransLink. (4 July 2013). Media Report. Walking and cycling investments lead to healthier people. <http://www.translink.ca/en/About-Us/Media/2013/July/Walking-cycling-and-transit-investments-lead-to-healthier-people.aspx>

Walking in the City Today

Understanding the existing conditions for walking in the city today sets the context for the actions outlined in the Walk CNV Framework. This section is a summary of the information presented in the Walk CNV supporting document titled “The Current State of Walking in the City of North Vancouver,” which can be accessed at cnv.org/walk. The information below provides an overview of the land use and demographic trends, and the existing conditions for walking today.

MODE SHARE

Data from the 2016 Census (commuting trips only)



63%

OF ALL WALKING TRIPS ARE UNDER

1KM

YOUTH AND SENIORS WALK MOST

Walking trips are highest among individuals aged 5 to 19, as 26% of trips taken by this age group are made by walking. Walking levels decline over the age of 20, with a slight increase among the 30 to 39 age group, and among those 80 years of age or over.¹



COLLISIONS

33

Recent data shows an average of 33-36 pedestrian collisions each year in the City.



56%

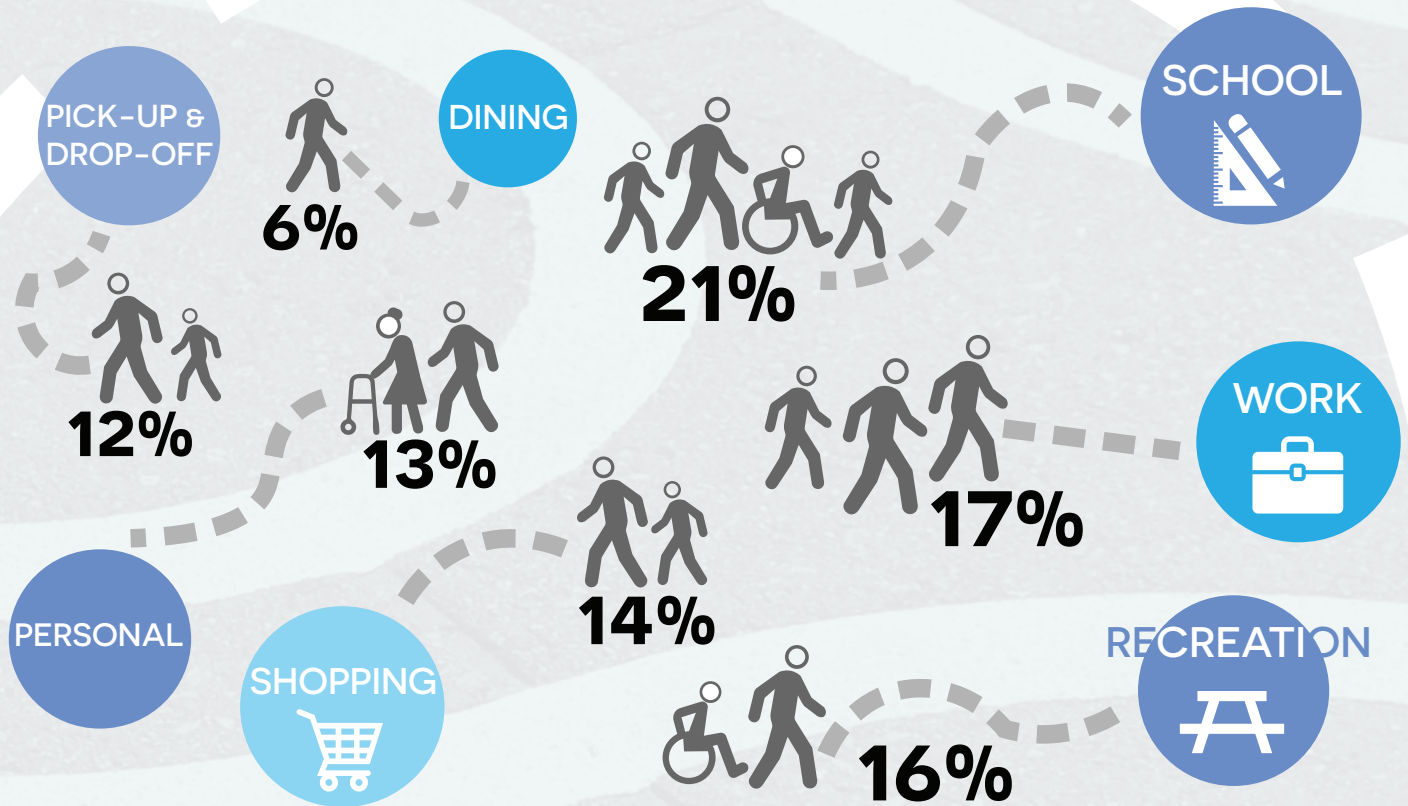
Over half of collisions take place during the winter, from November to February.²

ZERO FATALITIES OR SERIOUS INJURIES is our goal

¹ City of North Vancouver Official Community Plan, 2014
² City of North Vancouver and ICBC. (2017). Network Screening Study for Road Safety Strategy. Prepared by ISL using ICBC and RCMP data.

Why Do People Walk?

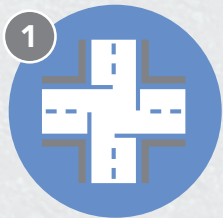
Data from Walk CNV public consultation (2017)



What We Heard

“WHAT ISSUES PREVENT YOU FROM WALKING?”

Intersection Safety



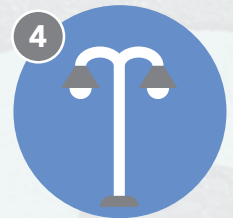
Missing Sidewalks and Paths



Speed and Noise of Motor Vehicles



Lack of Lighting



“WHAT CITY ACTIONS WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO WALK MORE?”



Ensuring sidewalks are properly maintained and clear.



Completing the sidewalk network.



Making it easier to cross the street.



Building more off-street pathways.

All data above is from Walk CNV public consultation (2017)

Actions

The framework for Walk CNV consists of four themes, each with a series of actions to enhance and improve the walking environment. Developed through community engagement and analysis, the actions address a variety of identified strengths, opportunities, challenges and concerns with walking-related infrastructure, policies, standards and support programs. The implementation of these strategies and actions will help achieve the Walk CNV vision.

Improve and Enhance the Pedestrian Experience

Make Walking Safe and Comfortable

Increase Awareness of the Benefits of Walking

Inform and Guide Future Planning





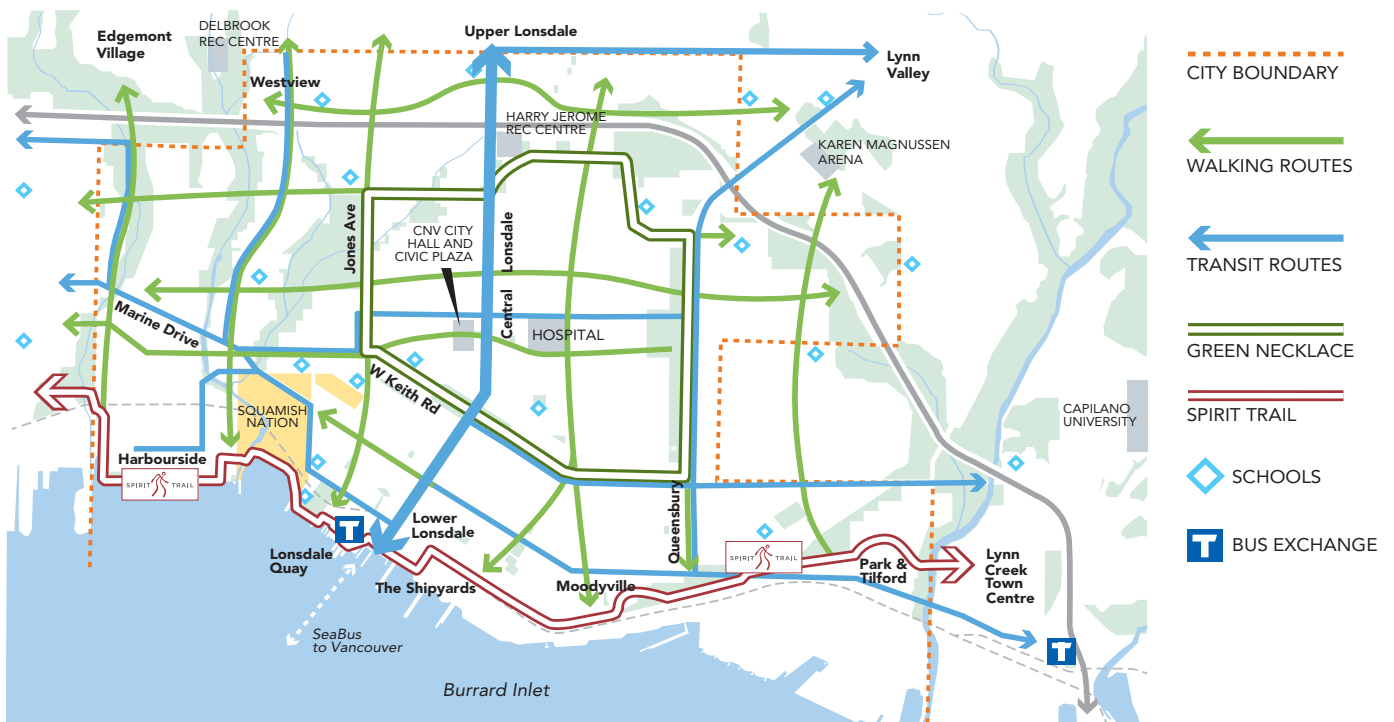
Improve and Enhance the Pedestrian Experience

NETWORK SCALE ACTIONS: Network connectivity is important for providing a safe and comfortable walking trip. The existing network of streets, greenways and trails provides a strong walking network which can be built upon to provide additional connections between key destinations throughout the City.

- 1 Complete an inventory of sidewalk quality, prioritize updates and upgrade sidewalks
- 2 Develop and provide a high-quality pedestrian network that connects destinations
- 3 Reduce walking barriers across creeks, ravines, highways and rail corridors
- 4 Develop experiential street character guidelines
- 5 Develop a public awareness campaign to inform residents about sidewalk snow and ice clearing requirements
- 6 Develop streetscape standards for different street types
- 7 Review and establish maximum controlled crossing spacing standards and guidelines for multi-lane arterials

EMERGING PEDESTRIAN NETWORK

This conceptual pedestrian network illustrates what a network of higher quality walking routes could look like. The intent is to provide walking corridors with a higher standard of amenities including pedestrian level lighting, benches at frequent intervals, street trees and improved road crossings. This network connects major destinations both in the City and in the District of North Vancouver, including recreation centres, schools, commercial districts, parks dense residential neighbourhoods. The network would be a starting place on which to focus pedestrian improvements and will be further developed in the Mobility Strategy.





Improve and Enhance the Pedestrian Experience

DESIGN ACTIONS: These actions focus on enhancements to make public spaces more inviting, safe and attractive for all people walking to move around. Streets are some of our most vital and extensive public spaces, which makes thoughtful upgrades to our sidewalks, pathways, parks, open spaces, civic buildings and other facilities especially impactful.

9 Provide pedestrian amenities and features that make the pedestrian network inviting

10 Provide public washrooms in parks and plazas, and along streets

11 Expand the City's existing Parklet and Patio Programs

12 Formalize the PLAY CNV program as part of the City's placemaking initiative, to make streets more interesting and appealing for pedestrians

13 Develop and implement a pedestrian wayfinding strategy

14 Make building frontages inviting and interesting

15 Develop and enhance mid-block connections and cut-throughs

16 Integrate parks into the pedestrian network by enhancing pathways with wayfinding and pedestrian amenities



Artist: Sam Khany

17 Reduce pedestrian road-crossing distances

18 Identify additional pedestrian road crossing locations where warranted

19 Provide public art in pedestrian spaces.

20 Investigate the integration of curbside management (parking, loading etc) with walking

21 Identify ways to improve access to washrooms in commercial buildings

22 Require continuous sidewalk weather protection wherever possible

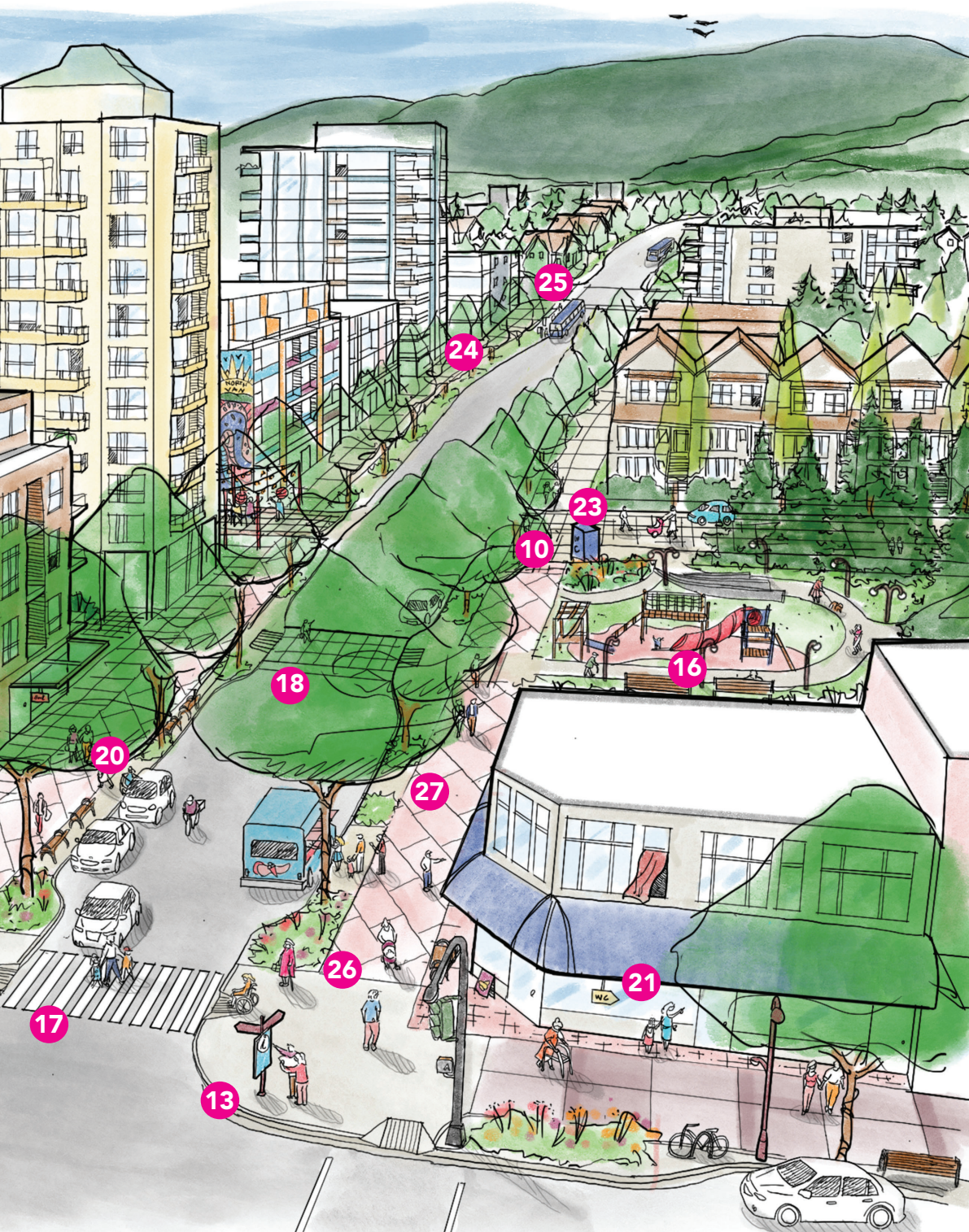
23 Develop guidelines to create pedestrian-oriented streets and laneways

24 Eliminate gaps in the sidewalk networks

25 Eliminate missing curb letdowns

26 Update policy for accessible travel on sidewalks

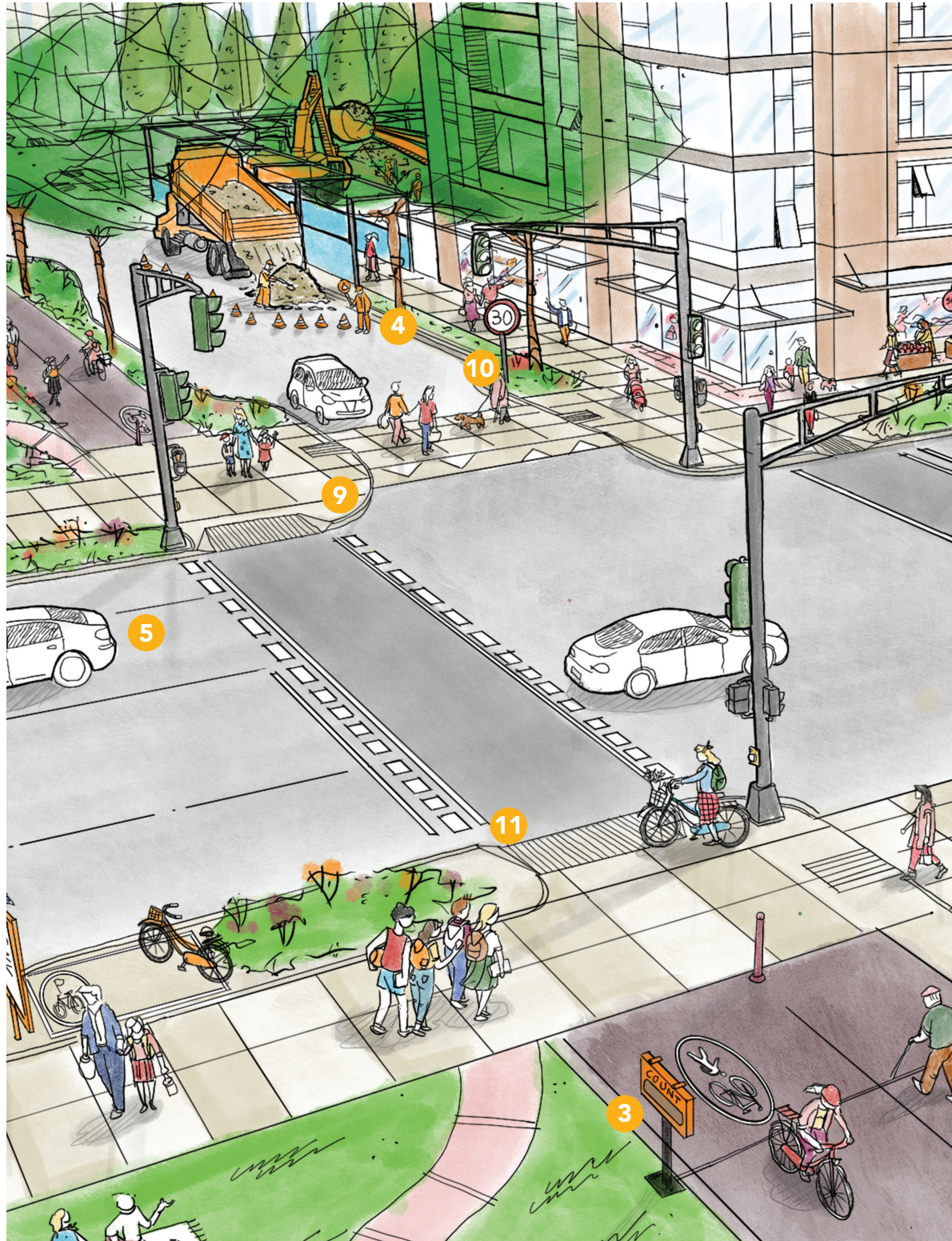
27 Provide street trees on all streets



Make Walking Safe and Comfortable

Safety, both real and perceived, is an important factor influencing whether people choose to walk. People walking are considered 'vulnerable road users' as they are often subject to greater severity of injury when involved in a collision. Traffic safety and accessibility, particularly at intersections, was identified through the Walk CNV survey as a key barrier preventing people from walking more often.

- 1 Provide new and enhance existing pedestrian level lighting
- 2 Support education campaigns that promote safe travel practices for all road users
- 3 Develop a monitoring strategy for multi-use paths to ensure the design is safe and comfortable as user volumes increase
- 4 Ensure accessible detours are provided for pedestrians during construction and maintenance and durations of sidewalk closure are minimized
- 5 Monitor pedestrian collision data and make safety improvements to eliminate pedestrian injuries
- 6 Ensure bus stops have pedestrian amenities such as shelters and benches, and meet accessibility guidelines



Artist: Sam Khany

No matter the extent of infrastructure, if people do not feel safe using it, they will see this as a barrier to walking and may opt for their vehicle. Given this, the City is committed to work towards eliminating all pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries. The following actions deal with safety, comfort and accessibility for everyone.



7 Apply Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and best practices when designing and updating pedestrian facilities

8 Work with the RCMP to enforce vehicular speed limits and encourage safe driving behaviour

9 Support existing programs to improve neighbourhood safety for pedestrians

10 Reduce speeds on local and collector streets through a combination of road design and speed limits

11 Work with other North Shore jurisdictions to adopt the City's design guidelines for pedestrian crossings

12 Monitor crossing times and signal phasing at intersections

Increase Awareness of the Benefits of Walking

In addition to providing walking infrastructure, actions such as increasing awareness, providing better maps and signage and educating residents on the benefits of walking can help to encourage more trips by foot. Education and encouragement initiatives include providing information to the public on the benefits of walking and hosting events to promote walking and active transportation. These are important and cost-effective measures to enable residents to feel safer and more comfortable walking.

- 1 Celebrate existing and newly completed projects to raise awareness of walking infrastructure
- 2 Support events led by partners that raise awareness of walking
- 3 Develop policy to enable increased walking knowledge among people in new developments



- 4 Enhance the Safe and Active School Travel Program
- 5 Share information about existing pedestrian infrastructure and trip planning
- 6 Engage partners who represent specific demographic groups in our community, and work with them to address barriers around walking
- 7 Work with partners and researchers to develop and deliver informative materials outlining the benefits of walking



Inform and Guide Future Planning

There are a number of key considerations that can be embedded into the City's planning practice in order to create more walkable environments. Design principles that consider all users are important in the early stages of project development, whether delivered by the City, a developer, or partner agencies. Finally, a monitoring strategy can be developed to evaluate the outcomes and ensure we are contributing to the Walk CNV vision and the Official Community Plan goals.

- 1 Work closely with other agencies to ensure pedestrian connections across jurisdictional borders are well integrated
- 2 Secure land through redevelopment to provide increased space for pedestrian needs
- 3 Design projects using age, gender and accessibility lenses
- 4 Align projects with development and grant funding
- 5 Develop and initiate a WalkCNV monitoring plan that includes both statistical and qualitative data on walking
- 6 Engage children, youth and seniors in project design
- 7 Measure health outcomes as we deliver an improved pedestrian infrastructure



Next Steps

The implementation of the Walk CNV Framework will build upon progress the City has made in realizing our following Official Community Plan goals:

- Prioritizing walking, cycling, transit and goods movement over single-occupancy vehicles (2.1)
- Integrating Land Use and Transportation Planning to reduce the need for car travel (2.2)
- Supporting a safe, accessible, resilient, and affordable transportation system (2.3)

Near Term-Action Plan

The Near-Term Action Plan on the following pages provides guidance for project planning with actions that can be implemented prior to the development of the City's upcoming Mobility Strategy. Longer term actions will be considered as part of the Mobility Strategy work beginning in 2019.

The implementation of the plan will be guided by an inter-departmental internal staff committee, including representatives from all relevant staff departments. An annual review will be undertaken to monitor progress on each action, to review the actions and report back on how they have been incorporated into projects and programs.

Everything we learned through the Walk CNV planning process will directly inform the Mobility Strategy, to provide a strong foundation centered on the mode of transportation that we all use.





Near-Term Action Plan

Improve and Enhance the Pedestrian Experience

NEW ACTIONS

- Complete an inventory of sidewalk quality, prioritize updates and upgrade sidewalks
- Develop and provide a network of high-quality pedestrian corridors that connect destinations
- Reduce walking barriers across creeks, ravines, highways and rail corridors
- Develop experiential street character guidelines
- Develop a public awareness campaign to inform residents about sidewalk snow and ice clearing requirements
- Develop streetscape standards for different street types
- Review and establish maximum controlled crossing spacing standards and guidelines for multi-lane arterials
- Provide public washrooms in parks and plazas and along streets
- Develop and implement a pedestrian wayfinding strategy
- Identify additional pedestrian road crossing locations where warranted
- Investigate the integration of curbside management (parking, loading, etc.) with walking
- Identify ways to improve access to washrooms in commercial buildings
- Require continuous sidewalk weather protection wherever possible
- Develop guidelines to create pedestrian-oriented streets and laneways
- Eliminate missing curb letdowns
- Update bylaws to make new building frontages inviting and interesting
- Formalize the PLAY CNV program as part of the City's placemaking initiative, to make streets more interesting and appealing for pedestrians
- Update policy for accessible travel on sidewalks

ONGOING ACTIONS

- Provide pedestrian amenities and features that make the pedestrian network inviting
- Develop and enhance mid-block connections and cut-throughs
- Integrate parks into the pedestrian network by enhancing pathways with wayfinding and pedestrian amenities
- Provide street trees on all streets
- Reduce pedestrian road-crossing distances
- Expand the City's existing Parklet/Patio Program
- Provide public art in pedestrian spaces
- Eliminate gaps in the sidewalk network

Make Walking Safe and Comfortable	NEW ACTIONS	
		Develop a monitoring strategy for multi-use paths to ensure the design is safe and comfortable as user volumes increase
		Reduce speeds on local and collector streets through a combination of road design and speed limits
		Update the Traffic Management Plan requirements to ensure accessible detours are provided for pedestrians during construction and maintenance and durations of sidewalk closure are minimized
		Ensure bus stops have pedestrian amenities such as shelters and benches, and meet accessibility guidelines
		Work with other North Shore jurisdictions to adopt the City's design guidelines for pedestrian crossings
	ONGOING ACTIONS	
		Monitor crossing times and signal phasing at intersections
		Work with the RCMP to enforce vehicular speed limits and encourage safe driving behaviour
		Support existing programs to improve neighbourhood safety for pedestrians
Increase Awareness of the Benefits of Walking	NEW ACTIONS	
		Develop policy to enable increased walking knowledge among people in new developments
		Share information about existing pedestrian infrastructure and trip planning
		Work with partners and researchers to develop and deliver informative materials outlining the benefits of walking
		Engage partners who represent specific demographic groups in our community, and work with them to address barriers around walking
	ONGOING ACTIONS	
		Enhance the Safe and Active School Travel Program
		Celebrate existing and newly completed projects to raise awareness of the infrastructure and walking
		Support events led by partners that raise awareness of walking
	Inform and Guide Future Planning and Design	NEW ACTIONS
		Measure health outcomes as we deliver improved pedestrian infrastructure
		Develop and initiate a WalkCNV monitoring plan, which monitors both statistical and qualitative data on walking
ONGOING ACTIONS		
		Secure land through redevelopment to provide increased space for pedestrian needs
		Design projects using age, gender and accessibility lenses
		Align Project with development and grant funding
		Engage children, youth and seniors in project design
	Work closely with other agencies to ensure pedestrian connections across jurisdictional borders are well integrated	



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