

## **2: Please tell us about your organization's mission or mandate.**

WALKING AND WALKABILITY: Make a more walkable city, create a walking culture, using my whitehorseWalks website to highlight walking opportunities, using loop trails to help learn areas.

CITY PROCESSES: When city makes a plan, there's no major walking group, nor any walking-focused city manager, and so no stakeholder to give input at initial stages. I try to see how a plan might affect walking, how it could improve walking.

### **...2 What are the key issues for your organization and those it serves?**

FAIRNESS: Interjecting need-based walking issues vs demand-based sports and special interest group wants is challenging.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND RECREATIONAL WALKING Differentiate between them. ie bike network plan goes beside or on roads, whereas walkers like away from roads, scenic, direct. Natural trails more interesting than paved.

MAINTENANCE: How can walking issues be addressed? Walkers are a broad unorganized group, many are seniors. We need trails fixed, connectors and 'easy way' side trails built.

### **...2 What are org's key goals for the future that relate to trail network?**

LOVE OF WALKING: Create alluring walking loops with destinations that encourage us to get to know our city better.

CONFUSING TRAILS. Introduce a better trail identification system so people aren't easily confused. These need not be billboards, rather tasteful, fun, informative low impact waymarking.

HEALTH: Create a vision of personal and community health at a walking/non-sport level. Walking is a free, ubiquitous, noncompetitive activity, enjoyed by most Yukoners — families, singles, all ages, all races, both sexes. Need a wide variety of trails.

## **3: What do you value most about the Whitehorse trail network?**

NATURAL SURROUNDINGS: People can access a wide variety of nature in a spectacular geography, many in spots of incredible grandeur and solitude, some mere minutes or a short drive from home.

When it works, being able to walk to so many places is a strong plus for our *Whitehorse, the Wilderness City*.

## **4: What is great that the City of Whitehorse do more of?**

The city wants to work on sustainability, equity and a desire to encourage less driving, become more active. Many of our trails are a pleasure to walk, so focus on safety and usability to encourage even more use by a broader audience.

Making trail possibilities that encourage walkers to go more often and for longer walks.

## **5: What are the biggest challenges you see in relation to trail network?**

MOUNTAIN BIKE STANDARDS: Trails need to stay multi-use so need to build with walking standards. Bikes like longer distance, speed. City wants fewer trails so older walking trails become abandoned and people need to walk longer distances.

PAVING: Use rushed gravel for major trails—easier on feet. Winter — clear and gravel major connectors and trails, downtown sidewalks.

NIMBY: Areas that don't want others on 'their' trails, discourage use. Mapping discouraged, public right-of-ways are hidden.

Not wanting tasteful, good wayfinding because others might use trails or it spoils sense of wilderness

FAT BIKES: Dictating when trail can be walked on unrealistic.

## **6: What ways do you see to improve existing trails over next 10 years?**

20-50 YEAR VISION: Walkable city, network of broader use trails, quality recreation by neighbourhoods.

VISION: We need a walking vision for living downtown, for wilderness access without driving. A pedestrian bridge by hospital to access Hospital–Long Lake–Magnusson–Grey Mountain trails, as well as bring vitality to downtown core.

Both active transportation and recreation says there's a need for pedestrian crossings in many place in the city. For instance, over Mountainview to connect Range Point to College Lands.

An underpass of the Alaska Highway at the airport would create a major active transportation/recreation network. City should lobby Highways now, before too late. Major growth in next decades: Tank Farm, many FN lands, Beyond Copper Ridge. This would help resist pressure to build bigger access roads to downtown requiring more parking.

STEWARDSHIP: Expanding community stewardship beyond KSA and CMBC could bring new resources to Parks and Recreation.

First nations, reconciliation, on the land, schools, shared governance could be a great avenue to providing meaningful resources to trail work. Focus on building capacity.

Stewardship can be a sense of values, trail ethics. For instance, bikes on trails can be scary if they don't signal their presence. The Millennium trail, Waterfront trail are not highways—common sense says slow down and signal your presence when passing.

## **7: What types of new trail development should be prioritized**

NETWORK MAINTENANCE: Build connectors, 'Easy way' side trails around problem points. Target older abandoned walking trails to create more stacked loop situations.

EXAMPLES: Create more walk-friendly trail sections on both north and south ends of Grey Mountain, getting off the road where possible. Rebuild Hepburn Tramway, City's first historical walk.

## **8: If one thing to improve the trail network what would it be?**

FOCUS ON EXISTING NETWORK: Repair, build connectors, easy ways.

EXAMPLES: Magnussen parking lot switchback; Two Tower by passes; fix Hepburn Tramway near Miles Canyon; make Lower Canyon City along river elder and tourist-friendly; repair Yukon River Trail east side above Canyon City to Juicy

## **9: What is org working on that we need to know or consider in process?**

LOOPS: Identifying (sometimes with old paths) and describing: a set of short (<3 km) loops; a set of easier senior-friendly loops; a set of Hospital–Long Lake–Magnusson loops; and a set of Yukon River Corridor loops.

HELP: route choices with ElderActive and BlueMoon walking groups; with Reckless Raven Ultra.

## **10: Of all the things we've talked about, what is the most important?**

Taking a walking possibilities vision when talking trails.

## **11: Is there anything else you would like to tell us, or comment on?**

The City trail budget pales in comparison to paving pathways, facilities like CGC, roadways. Needs to be equity at walking level.

VOLKSSPORT: Its Permanent Whitehorse Trail lacks inspiration. I've identified a selection of 10-km+ loops, starting and ending downtown, but I don't want to go through the process of promoting as official Volkssport 'Permanent Trails' when even locals get lost trying to find their way. We need good wayfinding.