

# Getting Around & Across the Site

Round 2 Discussion Guide  
September/October 2020

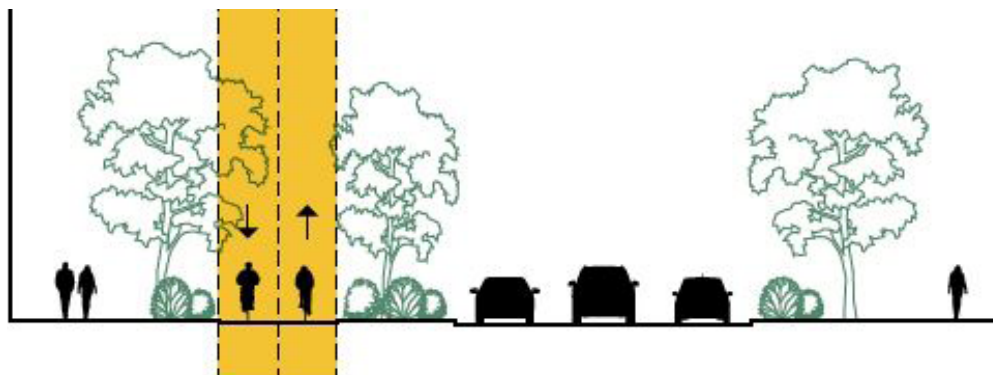
Northcrest  Canada Lands Company  
Société immobilière du Canada



## EMERGING IDEA MAKE IT EASIER TO GET AROUND & ACROSS THE SITE

**For generations, these 520 acres of Downsview have been defined, in part, by their lack of connections to the rest of the city.** With the decommissioning of the military base and Bombardier's sale of the airport lands and runway, there's an important opportunity to plan a more connected future – one that makes it easy for people walking, cycling, using the local transit system (including the TTC and GO station on the lands), and driving to get around and across the site.

Responding to community and stakeholder priorities shared to date, as well as public policy priorities, the id8 Downsview team has been exploring ideas to improve connectivity locally and to broader city transportation networks. We're also thinking about how best to make major new connections north-south and east-west across the site (which has previously been impossible due to the operational runway). **All of this is a work-in-progress and we're keen to hear your thoughts.**



## VIRTUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP

**Join us on Thursday, October 8 from 7-9 pm** for a Virtual Public Workshop focused on Getting Around & Across the Site, including a live presentation and small group discussions seeking public feedback. Register to participate at [id8downsview.ca](https://id8downsview.ca).

### Can't attend the Workshop?

There are many ways to participate. All web events will be recorded and posted online. Complete our online feedback form at [id8downsview.ca](https://id8downsview.ca) or give us a call (+1 647 245-3399), email us ([info@id8downsview.ca](mailto:info@id8downsview.ca)), or mail us your thoughts to 70 Canuck Avenue, North York, M3K 2C5. All feedback received by the end of October will be summarized and posted online in November.

# FEEDBACK DURING CONSULTATION ROUND ONE



Challenges related to moving around & across the site were raised.

People said:

- it takes a long time to get places, routes are not direct, and not safe enough;
- Downsview's neighbourhoods are very car-centric;
- residents have to walk a long distance to get places like grocery stores, health centres, subway stations, Downsview Park, and other places they want to go;
- it can be unsafe to bike on the roads, so people bike on the sidewalk;
- walking on sidewalks can be unsafe;
- cars are often stuck in traffic;
- the GO rail corridor is a major barrier;
- lack of signage makes it difficult to get where people want to go; and
- getting to and from three subway stations and the GO station is a challenge.

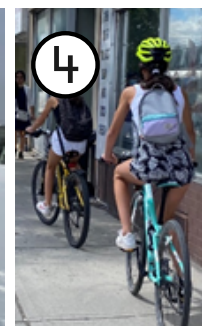


When discussing opportunities, participants said connections are key.

They encouraged Northcrest and Canada Lands to make this a welcoming area for pedestrians and cyclists, and to:

- create a street network that's easy to walk and cycle;
- create more north-south and east-west routes across the site;
- create easy and safe connections from the subway stations to parks, trails, and greenspaces;
- design the streets with all users in mind —people walking and biking, people with disabilities, seniors, parents with children, and people driving; and
- ensure that new connections are integrating new neighbourhoods with the existing ones in a respectful way.

# SNAPSHOTS OF EXISTING CONDITIONS AROUND THE SITE



1. Bustling commercial strip
2. Taking the bus
3. Tough connections
4. Cyclists on the sidewalk
5. Sidewalk that ends

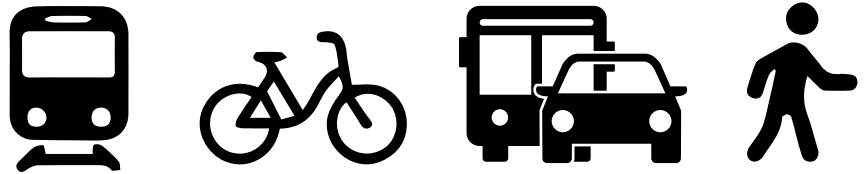
# EMERGING IDEAS

When it comes to planning the future transportation network on the site, the id8 Downsview team is thinking about how to:

- ① **Enable 15-minute communities**  
that provide a mix of land uses and amenities that make it possible for people to carry out most everyday trips locally within the Downsview area by foot, bicycle, or transit. We know a certain amount of density is needed to make this work, especially close to transit.
- ② **Create a “complete” mobility network**  
with a network of streets, paths, and connections that are attractive, safe and efficient for moving around using many different modes.
- ③ **Improve access to existing transit**  
by creating direct connections between the existing TTC subway and GO train stations and existing and future neighbourhoods and local destinations. Improving access is not only about the actual streets and paths, but also the experiences that we have along them created by the dynamic land use mix envisioned as part of a 15-minute community.
- ④ **Connect to the whole region**  
through opportunities to reconnect Downsview to the broader Toronto street grid in support of efficient city and region-wide travel by transit, car, and other modes.

## A MULTI-MODAL NETWORK

Coordinating key networks will allow for many different connections to support all forms of travel around and across the site. There are three main networks we’re thinking about: a connected transit network (including bringing new transit service here and implementing first- and last-mile solutions); a complete street network (including fine-grained streets and blocks); and a comprehensive active mobility network for pedestrians and other modes.



## A CLOSER LOOK AT WALKING & CYCLING

New streets—designed for people—will be the backbone of the complete mobility network and critical parts of our shared public spaces. The pictures here inspire us when we think about how the new streets could look and feel on these 520 acres of Downsview.



Streets scaled to the human experience and integrated with nature



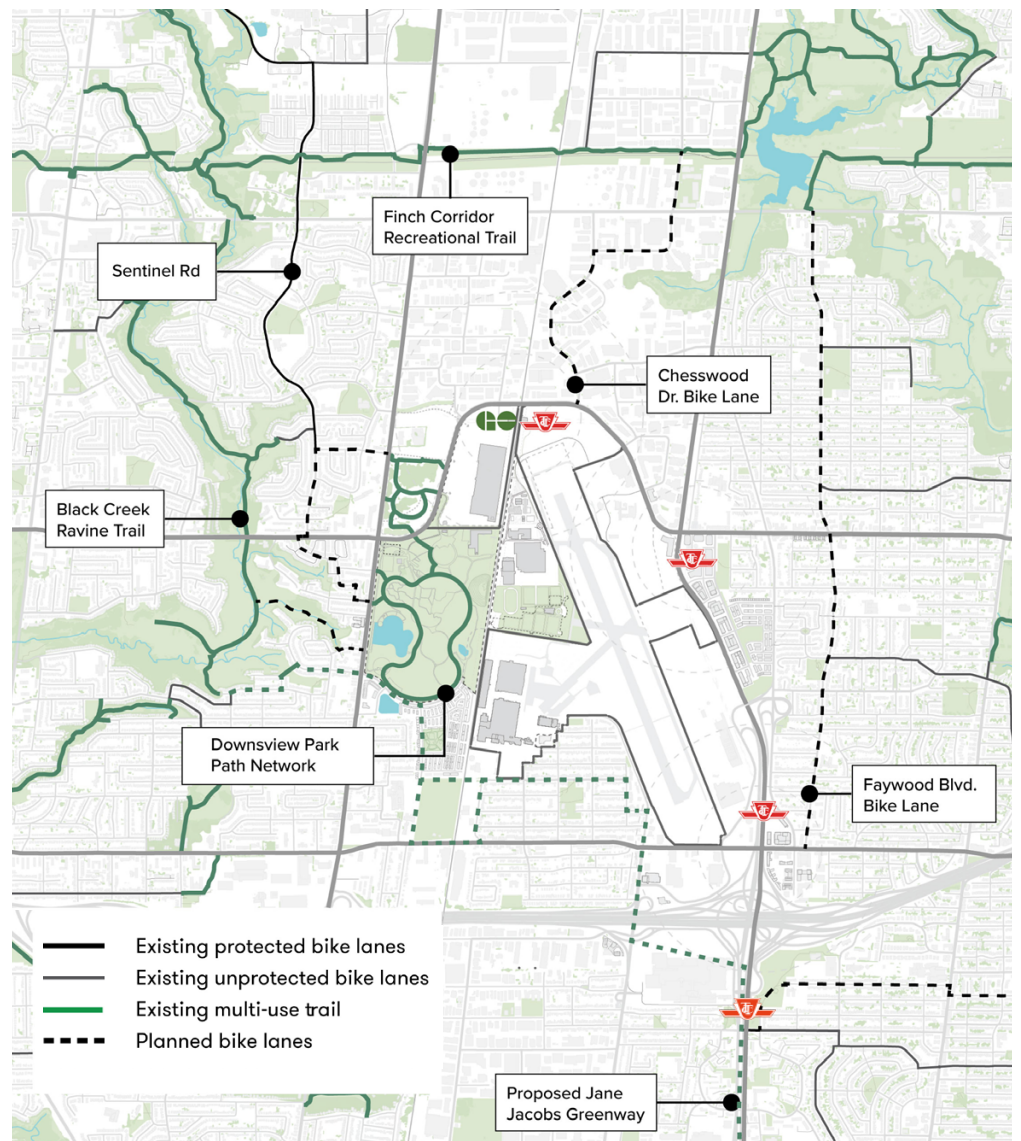
Streets that are bike friendly & have sustainability built-in



Streets that are pedestrian-friendly & vibrant public spaces

# CONNECTING TO THE EXISTING ACTIVE MOBILITY SYSTEM

The id8 Downsview team sees an important opportunity to connect these 520 acres of Downsview to the existing and planned trails, bikes lanes, and pedestrian pathways in the surrounding area as part of a complete, multi-modal mobility network. The map here shows the existing active mobility system — and we're keen to hear from you about important connections to consider.



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## FEEDBACK WE NEED FROM YOU

1. What do you think of the emerging ideas related to getting around and across the site? Are there any you especially like or don't like, and why?
2. How do you see yourself, your kids, or grandkids, and/or people from other communities getting around and across the site? *Some of this feedback will directly inform the Framework Plan and some of it will likely help inform more detailed District Planning and Site Planning work that will happen later.*
3. The implementation will take decades, are there some ideas or areas that should be prioritized over others? If so, which ones and why?
4. Are there any other transportation or mobility-related ideas that the id8 Downsview team should consider? Do you have additional comments or feedback?

Join the conversation on [www.id8downsview.ca](https://www.id8downsview.ca)

Contact us at +1 647 245-3399  
Downsview Hub, 70 Canuck Ave.  
North York, ON M3K 2C5

Share your own Downsview story at [id8downsview.ca/stories](https://id8downsview.ca/stories)