

Section 3: Vision, Values and Goals

Sub-topic	Plan Reference	Feedback
Overall		Recognize the working harbour and the importance of the land/water connection as a key principle, such as in the Plan Values and Plan Goals
		In general, community members and the Association are in agreement with the City's overarching vision and goals for Victoria over the next few decades. The draft OCP document was quite well laid out considering the amount of material it was required to cover. We encourage the City to use a similar layout for the final Plan.
Vision		I would prefer to see a vision that embraces the potential to become an even better city. Perhaps use wording such as "Victoria is a wonderful home for people, a hub for business and government, support lively recreation and tourism, and its densification helps prevent the ecological damage caused by sprawl in the region".
		Please drop the utilitarian reference to a "municipal corporation," which detracts from the purpose of the vision, namely to provide an inspiring description of a desirable future condition. As a description of a condition, the vision also should avoid reference to "process," such as "progress toward greater ecological integrity, livability," etc. The vision should describe what Victoria will be, not how it gets there.
		Overall this is a very cautious Vision, it reads well but lacks substance. <u>It fails to recognise the reality of what we already know about climate change, energy prices, product & travel costs, etc.</u> One first needs to develop an understanding of the overall 2041 physical, economic and social conditions and then relate them to the City & region:

		<p>So we need to face this reality & include in the Vision 2041 that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The region, anchored by the downtown, has become a world renowned sustainable community 2. This was initially triggered by the regional commitment in 2012 to a low carbon economy that gives the earth and the atmosphere a chance, an outside chance, of recovery 3. This was echoed by the UN decision in 2014 to phase out all fossil fuels by 2030 4. Renewable energy provides 100% of our energy requirements through an island wide “distributed system” based on solar, wind, ocean and geothermal sources 5. The initial commitment to a low carbon economy and to sustainable development have been the catalyst for the revitalization of the City and for the economy of the region 6. The development of a rail based integrated transportation network, linked to passenger ferries and greenways, spurred this revitalization. 7. Greenways, that abound throughout the City, provide pedestrian, bike, electric mobility devices and community electric bus access to the downtown streetcar loop that forms the backbone of the regional light rail system 8. The automobile has been superseded by a sustainable transport network 9. Nodal communities, farmers markets, clean local industry, and unique tourist attractions abound 10. The downtown is vibrant, as reflected in the 2020 Transportation Action Plan vision that I co-wrote in 2004 (it now needs to be upgraded in light of the above comments):
		<p>Two members felt Section 3: Vision, Values and Goals is uninspired and reads like the vision for any other city.</p> <p>Urban design, heritage conservation and the Vision for City Image policies (p. 62 in Placemaking) should be included within the Vision. The Waterfront Toronto Plan was cited as an example that champions design excellence as part of a sustainable development framework.</p>
		<p>The Plan Vision lacks a physical vision for the city. A vision for urban form could be written as the introduction to the Placemaking chapter.</p>
		<p>The 2041 Vision should, in my opinion, reflect Victoria the place: the current ‘generic’ vision statement is seemingly transferred from the Sustainability Strategy - and to be blunt could apply to any city.</p> <p>If the overall Vision can’t be changed, then Section 8 should spell out the OCP’s aspirational, specific goals for Victoria as an urban environment – as a place to live, visit, work and invest. In addition, I suggest that this section should be moved forward in the document to become Section 6, both to emphasize its importance and set the stage for ‘Land Management and Development’ (as an aside - why not the usual ‘Land Use and Density’?).</p>
		<p>Vision 2041 refers to “ecological integrity.” In a fully urbanized area like Victoria, ecological integrity cannot be achieved. At best, Victoria can strive to minimize its adverse effects on ecosystems.</p>
<p>Overview</p>		<p>The OCP should recognize the limits to planning, by stating what the OCP can and cannot do. At what level of detail does an OCP stop and action by developers, the community, and others begin?</p>

		A statement is needed to better recognize the significance of Victoria’s built form, which people come a long way to see.
		Social objectives should emphasize that land use objectives are not the only objectives in this OCP
	p. 16	Section 3 – Page 16 – States the population of Victoria will increase from 83,000 to 103,000. I highly recommend that OCP indicate where that growth is likely to be absorbed. Specifically which communities are envisioned to house these extra 20,000 people. I think having a vision of where extra housing units will have to be added would be useful for planning purposes.
	p.16	“The rediscovery of the centre has also resulted in the revitalization of many of Victoria’s great stock of Victorian and Edwardian buildings, returning life to Old Town and Chinatown and further enhancing the quality of place.” Comment; Yes, true. However, many of these are much changed, or torn down for new or simply raised up so as to lose their original proportions on streetscapes. Such buildings often lose much of the original green with too large additions or new buildings nearby.
Plan Values	p. 17	Page 17 plan values – no quality of life values
		The Plan Values section lacks any reference to Victoria being British Columbia’s capital, which seems important enough to warrant mention.
		We look forward to seeing a final OCP document which strives to create a City that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – values residents quality of life – values the environment by striving to eliminate as much pollution as possible. – values economic growth through new and diversified business activities that are consistent with the type of city we all want to live in
	Value 3.5, p. 17	Value 3.5 – term “life cycle” is confusing; considering using a different term.
	Value 3.9	Plan Values 3.9: We note that downtown is not described as a centre for homes and believe the residential aspect of the downtown should be acknowledged here and throughout the document as well wherever a similar list occurs (i.e. p.18).
	p.17	We suggest the addition of a point we will call 3.14: Assist in the development of affordable housing by efficient and effective approval processes during planning, rezoning, and building permit stages.
Plan Goals		OCP goal statements and those in VSF are not always the same – will be hard to cross reference them.
		Label goals box as “Goals from the VSF” in order to clearly identify origin
	p. 18	Transportation and Mobility Goal C – clarify that “accessible” refers to “universal design”.

p. 18	Clarify in one of the Transportation and Mobility goals the physically active component of transportation as a desirable element.
Figure 3	Figure 3, Environmental Management, says, “Biodiversity thrives in Victoria’s urban environment.” I am not sure how biodiversity can thrive, but even if it can, biodiversity does not thrive in urbanized places, where natural habitat is appropriated for human settlement. Perhaps “Biodiversity can be encouraged in the remaining natural areas in the City, and in the sea around us.”
Figure 3	B. Victoria’s Harbour, coastline, ponds and streams support healthy populations of fish and other aquatic life. A worthy and attainable goal!
	Infrastructure, item “E” uses past tense, whereas all other sections are present tense.
p. 21	Page 21 Climate Change & Energy – no mention of cruise ship or tourism bus pollution
p. 19	Economy – add a Goal F regarding “maintaining and encouraging government employment” to elevate the importance of this sector to a status comparable to tourism and other important sectors.
	Economy, item “A”, focuses on new businesses. What about nurturing existing businesses that have invested and sought to thrive in Victoria (often in the face of many obstacles)? This section should refer to “integrating business into Victoria’s economic and cultural fabric.” It seems strange that this section lacks reference to the provincial government or federal government, two of the biggest employers in the City. Should we not encourage government to stay in Victoria, invest, and grow?
Economy Goal C	Add the word “change” at the end
	Community well-being. Item “E”. What does “Victorians can support...their neighbours in difficult times” mean?
p. 19	Food Systems Goal A is overly ambitious. Remove “most of” from the goal statement. Goal B seems redundant given high level of knowledge amongst Victorians. Add “Victorians have the...resources” to Goal B.
Food Systems Goal	I suggest including under 16(B) that Victorians have access to skills and knowledge to grow, <u>process and/or preserve</u> their own food in urban areas.