Vancouver: Significant Achievements; Significant Opportunities to Be Even Better

A Talk by
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Introduction

• Vancouver began as int’l city
• Century later in we hit global stage via
  • EXPO ’86 – our 100th birthday party
  • Asia Pacific Initiative 1987 Genesis of YVR “privatization”
• Vancouver’s successes and opportunities foci here
Overview of discussion

- Presentation examines
  - Vancouver’s successes
  - Current and future opportunities
  - Chief among these are
    - Being economically competitive
    - Integrating economic and land use strategies
    - Integrating transportation and land use
    - Enhancing experience/enjoyment of the city
Some natural assets

• We’re beautiful - super place to live
• Diverse multi-cultural society
• Time zone between Europe and Asia
• On great circle route from West Coast to Asia
• Relatively mild climate w/great summers
• Abundant high quality diverse natural capital and resources
Some developed assets

• Gateway efforts tie us globally
  – YVR best airport on continent 5 years running
  – Port Metro Vancouver biggest in Canada, 4th on continent
• Universities/educational system very strong
• Parks, recreation, cultural resources first rate
• Tourism, culture, architecture/engineering global
• New media, IT and biotech sectors vibrant
• Populating downtown and opening 3 waterfronts
• $9+ billion investment in 4 rapid transit lines
Current challenges

- Balkanized regional bodies
- Growing congestion, pollution and travel times
- No regional economic strategy
- Poor integration of transit and land use
- Restrictive rent-seeking land use policies
- Often sluggish-rigid planning responses
  - 2-3+ year rezoning period
  - Planning and market dynamics disjointed
    - i.e., Banning condos in CBD core
    - Zoning tied tightly specific sectors (failed I-3 zoning)
Seizing Opportunities to Excel

• Integrating transport and land use effectively
• Integrating land use and economic strategies
• Making the urban realm more enjoyable
Integrating Transportation and Land Use

• Transportation and land use complements
• Different sides of same coin
• In competitive global city must be tightly integrated
• Efficient urban form - excellent access critical
  – Hong Kong versus Bangkok
• Integrated T/LU systems a must
...Two Good Examples
Toronto’s North York Station Area
Planned Oakridge Redevelopment
...A Bad Example from Vancouver (in process of changing very soon)
Broadway and Commercial Driver Intersection: A badly missed opportunity
Elements of an Economic Strategy

• Position region to compete globally
• Ensure excellent mobility - efficient urban form
• Build exports services AND resources
  – Architectural, engineering and IT design services
  – Travel, tourism and culture
  – Education and health care
  – Biotech, new media and IT
• High value manufacturing - niches
• Attract/retain people, talent, jobs and investment
• Livability helps, just a start
Integrating land use w/economic strategies

• Economy diverse and unknowable
• Land use must be flexible
• Housing is “wired” - workplace and home
• Can’t tie land use to sectors
• Industrial-retail-office-residential blurring → more flexibility
• Land use must accommodate future economic sectors
Improving the Urban Experience: Urban Design and Infrastructure Opportunities to Enhance Livability AND Competitiveness
Pedestrian Zones - Walking Cities
Copenhagen’s *Strøget* – a half century old justly famous walking street

Source: [http://courses.nus.edu.sg/course/ecs/wong/trip/stroget.png](http://courses.nus.edu.sg/course/ecs/wong/trip/stroget.png)
Calgary Downtown Pedestrian Zone
Sparks Street Mall Ottawa

http://www.flickr.com/photos/danielbeaton/2866204142/
Whistler’s Town Centre Walking Zone
Outdoor dining and sidewalk cafes
A Small Square and Bistros in Paris

Sidewalk Cafes, Recoleta, Buenos Aires

http://lh3.ggpht.com/_T6O5wlCNIWU/RkIfjVWHcWI/AAAAAAAAABM/MbevBX_uacE/la+biela.jpg
Waterfront Dining
Riverwalk San Antonio and Tour Boats

http://www.wildnatureimages.com/I to R/River_Walk_Umbrellas.jpg
Thames River Walk
Mid-block walks and arcades
Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II Central Milan: 1865-1877

Piccadilly Arcade London – 1816
Burlington Arcade London - 1819

http://gallery.nen.gov.uk/image65054-swfl.html
Royal Arcade
Melbourne –
Built 1859,
Renovated
2002-04

Street fairs and markets
Orchard Street Market NYC

http://www.corbisimages.com/images/67/6CB85BD0-EDA4-42A0-8454-F7681EDDA95E/KF004974.jpg
Rue Mouffetard Street Market Paris

http://parisbynumbers.files.wordpress.com/2010/03/mouffmarkt3.jpg
Urban waterway pedestrian bridges
Pedestrian bridge in Calgary

A pedestrian bridge over Biscayne Bay

http://www.gkdmetalfab.com/assets/2004/October/35a.jpg
Weather protected pedestrian paths
Rockefeller Center – A pioneer underground city
Calgary +15 System and Transit Mall
Signage - Directions in Toronto PATH System

http://www.tampabay.com/multimedia/archive/00097/lat_underground_1213_97728c.jpg
Underground City Montreal

http://www.hickerphoto.com/data/media/25/quebec-F76T1302.jpg
Closing

- Region to grow by 1 million by 2040
- Compete globally for people and investment
- Opportunities noted here can help City and Metro region do all this and more
- Have achieved great things as city/region
- Can do even better
- One thing we can’t do is sit on our laurels

Source: http://www.cotecnausa.com/CCM/Images/view_port_singapore_1.jpg