

# Vancouver: Significant Achievements; Significant Opportunities to Be Even Better

A Talk by  
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to the Urban Land Institute Town Hall Session  
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Vancouver, BC



# Introduction

- Vancouver began as int'l city
- Century later in we hit global stage via
  - EXPO '86 – our 100<sup>th</sup> 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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# Toronto's North York Station Area





# Planned Oakridge Redevelopment



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...A Bad Example from Vancouver (in process of changing very soon)

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# 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





# Calgary Downtown Pedestrian Zone



# Sparks Street Mall Ottawa





# Whistler's Town Centre Walking Zone



# Outdoor dining and sidewalk cafes





# Shepherd Market London



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# A Small Square and Bistros in Paris



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<http://parisnotebook.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/la-sardine-at-sainte-marthe.jpg>



# Sidewalk Cafes, Recoleta, Buenos Aires



# Waterfront Dining





# Riverwalk San Antonio and Tour Boats



© Ron Niebrugge



# Boat Quay Singapore





# Thames River Walk



# Mid-block walks and arcades





# Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II Central Milan: 1865-1877





# Piccadilly Arcade London – 1816





# Burlington Arcade London - 1819



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# Royal Arcade Melbourne – Built 1859, Renovated 2002-04



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# Street fairs and markets



# Portobello Road Market London





# Orchard Street Market NYC





# Rue Mouffetard Street Market Paris





# Urban waterway pedestrian bridges



# Pedestrian bridge in Calgary



© 2009 SANTIAGO CALATRAVA



# Pedestrian bridge in Melbourne





# A pedestrian bridge over Biscayne Bay



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<http://www.gkdmetalfab>

VANCOUVER, BC  
A 2014-11-11, 2014

/assets/2004/October/35a.jpg



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# Millennium Bridge London



# Weather protected pedestrian paths





# Rockefeller Center – A pioneer underground city



# Calgary +15 System and Transit Mall



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/slides/images/img5.jpg



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<http://www.mpi-gcc.org/>



# Signage-Directions in Toronto PATH System



# Underground City Montreal



© Rolf Hicker



# 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/COM/Images/view\\_port\\_singapore\\_1.jpg](http://www.cotecnausa.com/COM/Images/view_port_singapore_1.jpg)