

## City seeks input during upcoming community engagement projects

(Penticton, BC – May 27, 2020) – Starting in June, the City of Penticton will resume regular outreach to local residents with the goal of gathering feedback on topics of community interest, including: completing the engagement on the proposed route for a Lake to Lake bike lane, starting engagement on the transportation section of the Integrated Master Plan, and obtaining the community's thoughts on controlled and responsible consumption of alcohol in select public spaces during an upcoming pilot.

To support safe social distancing, the City's online engagement platform, [ShapeYourCityPenticton.ca](http://ShapeYourCityPenticton.ca), will be used as the primary method to collect feedback.

"In the past, the City's approach to gathering community input has involved a mix of in-person events and online surveys," said the City's Communication Manager, Philip Cooper. "With COVID-19 remaining a serious concern, our upcoming plans for gathering feedback will favour methods that support the principles of the City's engagement policy, while ensuring provincial health orders are upheld."

In April, the City completed a successful online only survey that attracted feedback from approximately 1400 residents and businesses, making it the second highest participation turn out since initiating its engagement program in 2016.

"We know from this experience that gathering feedback exclusively online is effective when there is strong interest, however we remain conscious that not all community members have access to the Internet, so some aspects of traditional engagement must still be accommodated and planned for," said Cooper.

Oversight of community engagement is once again being led by the City's original Community Engagement Strategist, JoAnne Kleb, who returns to Penticton June 1.

"We are very pleased to have JoAnne rejoin the City and continue her work in this critical role," said Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki.

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