



Official Community Plan Update

**COW Meeting – Visioning
January 19, 2021**





Overview

- Review City's Current Vision, Principles and Mission
- Review Draft OCP Contents
- Create Key words/phrases
- Next Steps



Current Vision (2004)

- **A Healthy Economy:** Our economy is healthy and resilient – Merritt’s “economic pie” is getting progressively bigger through sustained growth
- **A Thriving Downtown:** Our City Centre is thriving – it is the “heart” of our community
- **Room to Grow:** Suitable sites are available for new development, particularly light industrial / service commercial / business park development
- **Viable City Finances:** The City’s financial situation is healthy, generating funds through fair taxes and other sources to do what’s required



Current Vision cont'd

- **Well Managed City Assets:** The City's infrastructure and amenity assets are being well looked after, ensuring an appropriate standard of services in existing and new development areas
- **A Great Place to Live:** Merritt is seen by residents as a great place to live from all perspectives – employment, housing, community services, natural amenities, safety, quality, accessibility, community pride
- **A Progressive Image:** Merritt's image is being transformed – outsiders and residents alike see Merritt as an attractive, progressive community with a bright future



Current Vision cont'd

- **A Great Place to Visit:** Tourists and highway travellers see Merritt as a great place to visit – lots to see and do, quality support services, positive first impressions enticing visitors to spend more time and money in Merritt



Current Guiding Principles (2004)

- **Leadership by Council:** The people of Merritt are looking to Council to provide effective and inspired leadership in providing vision for the future and taking action in carrying the vision forward
- **Setting a Positive Tone:** To promote our community effectively, the attitude and culture of Merritt needs to be as positive as possible. Everyone is an ambassador for our city
- **A Blended Approach for Handling New Development:** Council is committed to both facilitating development / creating a development friendly climate AND making sure it's done right for the benefit of all parties



Current Guiding Principles cont'd

- **Partnering with Others:** Council will be actively seeking to work cooperatively with others, knowing that by engaging others and combining our resources, we can accomplish far more than any one group can alone
- **Communication in all Directions:** Council recognizes the importance and value of good communications and is committed to ensuring effective communications are happening – providing information, listening to what people have to say, engaging others in dialogue and problem solving
- **Emphasis on Results:** Council recognizes that plans, goals and actions are important, but they are of no value if they do not yield desired results



Current Guiding Principles cont'd

- **Investing in the Future:** Council is committed to investing the resources required to achieve results, recognizing that without significant investment of effort, critical thinking and money, very little will be accomplished
- **Capitalizing on our Strengths:** Council's approach to economic development will concentrate on capitalizing on our strengths, transportation / location advantages, existing economic drivers, widespread name recognition as well as our natural amenities
- **Working with Nature:** Council is committed to protecting and enhancing our natural environment in the process of handling ongoing development of our community



Current Principles cont'd

- **Celebration, Recognition and Appreciation:** When good things happen toward achieving our goals, we intend to celebrate them and invite the rest of the community to join us
- **Integration with Other Projects:** We are undertaking several planning projects to ensure we are well prepared for future development and to provide direction for looking after what we already have. Everything is interconnected, so an integrated approach will be taken



Current Vision / Principles (2011)

This 2030 Vision and guiding principles are enhanced as follows:

- The City of Merritt is committed to manageable and “whole picture” growth and development of the entire community
- Merritt supports three commercial areas: the City Centre, Gateway 286 and Gateway 290
- Merritt supports a clean, recreation based, energy self sufficient community interconnected with multi-use greenways and a range of housing for an ideal population of 15,000 people
- Merritt continues to grow up in density instead of out through urban sprawl



Current Vision / Principles cont'd

- Merritt's economy is vibrant, growing and supports an exceptional health care system for residents
- Residents and visitors of Merritt are able to move freely throughout the City on attractive bike and pedestrian trails; part of an extensive greenways system which contains streets with multi-use pathways, street trees and parks and a regional cycling network connected to the Kettle Valley Railway Corridor with an abundance of sustainable self-propelled, non motorized outdoor recreation options inside and outside the City boundaries and an effective and economical public transit system
- Private developers have built attractive buildings which are complemented by enhancements to the public realm, street trees and green public spaces



Current Mission

- The City of Merritt is a progressive, attractive, economically viable City that is socially responsible and environmentally sustainable



Summary of Current Vision

- Healthy/vibrant economy
- Thriving City Centre
- Available developable land
- Sufficient taxes
- Asset management
- Great place to live/visit
- Progressive image
- Manageable growth
- 3 main commercial centres
- Recreation based
- Greenways
- Active transportation
- Range of housing options
- 15,000 population
- Density
- Exceptional health care
- Attractive buildings
- Public realm enhancements
- Socially responsible
- Environmentally sustainable



Draft OCP Contents

A – Plan Overview

B – Identity

C – Shaping Our Community

D – Building Relationships of Trust

E – Our Neighbourhoods

F – Land Use and Development

G – Economic Prosperity

H – Sound Government Practices

I – An Active and Thriving Merritt

J – Infrastructure for the Future

K – Safe and Resilient City

L – Summary

M – Development Permit Areas

N – Implementation

Appendices



B - Identity

- Community Identity
- Population, growth projections

Key words/phrases?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Great place to live/visit | 6. . |
| 2. Progressive image | 7. . |
| 3. Manageable growth | 8. . |
| 4. 15,000 population | 9. . |
| 5. . | 10. . |



D – Building Relationships of Trust

- Strengthening relationships with First Nations
- Increasing resident engagement and involvement

Key words/phrases?

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. . | 6. . |
| 2. . | 7. . |
| 3. . | 8. . |
| 4. . | 9. . |
| 5. . | 10. . |



E – Our Neighbourhoods

- The 15 minute neighbourhood – walking/biking distance to amenities
- Urban villages – higher density / mixed use nodes

Key words/phrases?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 1. 3 main commercial centres | 6. . |
| 2. . | 7. . |
| 3. . | 8. . |
| 4. . | 9. . |
| 5. . | 10. . |



F – Land Use and Development

- Density, housing options, affordable housing
- Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Agricultural
- City Centre, Airport

Key words/phrases?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Thriving City Centre | 6. . |
| 2. Available developable land | 7. . |
| 3. 3 main commercial centres | 8. . |
| 4. Range of housing options | 9. . |
| 5. Density | 10. . |



G – Economic Prosperity

- Economic Diversification
- City Centre, Airport
- Tourism

Key words/phrases?

1. Healthy/vibrant economy 6. .
2. Thriving City Centre 7. .
3. 3 main commercial centres 8. .
4. Great place to visit 9. .
5. . 10. .



H – Sound Government Practices

- Asset management & DCCs
- Reliance on Long term plans
- Development friendly practices

Key words/phrases?

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1. Sufficient taxes | 6. . |
| 2. Asset management | 7. . |
| 3. . | 8. . |
| 4. . | 9. . |
| 5. . | 10. . |



I – An Active and Thriving Merritt

- Recreation facilities, parks
- Arts, Culture, history and heritage
- Age friendly

Key words/phrases?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 1. Recreation based | 6. . |
| 2. Greenways | 7. . |
| 3. Active transportation | 8. . |
| 4. . | 9. . |
| 5. . | 10. . |



J – Infrastructure for the Future

- Roads, active transportation, transit
- Water, sewer, stormwater, waste, recycling, composting
- Capital planning

Key words/phrases?

- | | |
|--------------------------|------|
| 1. Active transportation | 6. . |
| 2. . | 7. . |
| 3. . | 8. . |
| 4. . | 9. . |
| 5. . | 10.. |



K – Safe and Resilient City

- Crime prevention
- Public realm safety – age friendly, sidewalks, bike lanes, intersections
- Poverty reduction, food security
- Climate change, Emergency preparedness – wildfire, water, air quality

Key words/phrases?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Socially responsible | 6. . |
| 2. Environmentally sustainable | 7. . |
| 3. . | 8. . |
| 4. . | 9. . |
| 5. . | 10. . |



M – Development Permit Areas

- City Centre, Urban Village, Airport
- Multi-family Residential, Mixed Use, Commercial, Industrial
- Geotechnical, Wildfire, Riparian

Key words/phrases?

- | | |
|------------------------------|------|
| 1. Attractive buildings | 6. . |
| 2. Public realm enhancements | 7. . |
| 3. . | 8. . |
| 4. . | 9. . |
| 5. . | 10.. |



Next Steps

- OCP Steering Committee will provide input
- Council and Steering Committee input → OCP consultant
- Draft Vision statements developed → Council review and selection
- Draft OCP document → Public and Council review

- Next COW Meeting: February 16
→ OCP policy development