

Submission of the Dunbar Residents' Association

To: Metro Vancouver Board
4330 Kingsway
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4G8

Re: Regional Growth Strategy Draft

The Dunbar Residents' Association is, like many other community organizations, opposed to the adoption of the Regional Growth Strategy Draft without significant changes.

There are problems with the current draft outlined in the submission of Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver with which we agree. Two of these issues are of particular and urgent concern to us.

Our primary concern is that the Strategy gives a too much control over local land use to non-elected and not directly accountable regional governance bodies such as TransLink and Metro Vancouver. We support the overall goals of the RGS of reducing urban sprawl and coordinating major land use decisions across the region; however, there is no need for the Region and TransLink to be involved in local land use decisions. In particular, the Frequent Transit Development Areas or Corridors that will fall under the influence of TransLink will effectively remove local control over land use decisions in much of Vancouver and in our neighbourhoods. It will result in decisions that are not sensitive to local socially or environmentally sustainable goals. Accountability for decisions whose impact is difficult to predict and which are fundamental to residents' day-to-day lives must be maintained. We are adamantly opposed to having regional bodies make decisions that should be made at a city and neighbourhood level.

In addition, we are opposed to the use of development to fund transit. By linking transit to upzonings and massive development contrary to local wishes, you confuse the issues and actually create opposition to transit improvements. Change in neighbourhood land use should maintain neighbourhood liveability.

Sincerely,
Susan Chapman
President
Dunbar Residents' Association