

KELOWNA COUNCIL

Bikes, buses survey says

Majority prefer bike lanes, transit options over more space for cars

By Daily Courier Staff

The promotion of transit and bicycling lanes gets a higher priority than catering to the needs of drivers among people who responded to a City of Kelowna survey.

Three-quarters of the roughly 1,000 people who filled out the survey said it is more important to provide more pedestrian, cycling and transit opportunities than to widen roads for private vehicles.

Today, city council will receive results of the survey, the third in a series aimed at drawing public input as updating of the Official Community Plan progresses.

The 22-question survey focused on issues relating to land use, transportation and public amenities. A total of 1,026 people filled out some portion of the survey, and 823 responded to all the questions.

Some of the survey findings:

— Areas in the north of the city were most supported for development over the next 20 years. For example, 70 per cent favoured development of the land between Glenmore Road and UBC Okanagan.

— Almost 90 per cent favoured higher-density housing along transit routes to encourage greater use of the bus system.

— Three-quarters said they would support the “introduction of design guidelines to ensure that new construction fits with the character of older neighbourhoods.”

Survey respondents tended to be older than the city's population as a whole. People under 40 make up 46 per cent of the population, but they accounted for 31 per cent of those who filled out the survey.

There was also a slight under-representation of Rutland residents, while those who live in the Mission were slightly more likely to fill out the survey than the average Kelowna resident.