

BRAMPTON PLAN RADIO SERIES ENGAGEMENT REPORT

From August to October 2021 as part of the community engagement plan for Brampton Plan, the City of Brampton conducted community outreach on a series of local ethnic radio shows. The language which the outreach was conducted in was Punjabi. In collaboration with members of Council and internal staff, the city engaged in conversations around the following city-building matters:

- Transportation and Jobs;
- Housing;
- Accessibility, Recreation and the Environment; and
- Places of Worship.

Below you will find a summary for each of the episodes, which includes the name of the show, host, date, topic, along with the staff and Council participants. If you have any questions about the reports, or would like to learn more about Brampton Plan, please contact opreview@brampton.ca.

Episode #1

Show: The Harjinder Gill Show

Channel: 1350AM

Date: August 04, 2021

Topic: Transportation and Jobs

Guest: Councillor Harkirat Singh, Nasir Mahmood (Planner III, Development, PLANNING, BLDG & ECO), Satwant Hothi (Plans Examiner - Zoning, PLANNING, BLDG & ECONOMIC DEV), Simrandeep Chadha (Permit Expediter, PLANNING, BLDG & ECONOMIC DEV)

MIREMS REPORT

Brampton Vision 2040: City officials discussed Infrastructure Development plans - Punjabi

Description: The topics of the Active Transportation Master Plan under Vision 2040, the GTA West Highway, and the Hurontario LRT were discussed on the show. City Councillor Harkirat Singh said that the Transportation Master Plan is very important for the South Asian Community as many community members are associated with the transportation industry. Current affairs expert Manan Gupta said that the City is seeking inputs from the residents on the Master Plan. He asked about the important aspects of the plan that Brampton residents should be focused on, while sharing their opinion. Nasir, a staff member at the City's planning and development department, said that the plan emphasizes safe, innovative, and sustainable transport methods so that people use more public transit. He also talked about the Hurontario LRT, two way GO service, and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) - the three initiatives will help people in "transit oriented travel." Host Harjinder Gill shared Councillor Singh's concerns that community members do not share their opinions through email. Gupta suggested that the City should introduce more tools of interaction. City staff member Satwant Singh said that

transportation, jobs and employment, housing including affordable housing, accessibility, and places of worship are the issues on which the City will host discussions in the coming days. He said that residents can email their questions and concerns to opreview@brampton.ca. Permit Expediter Simrandeep Singh Chadha responded to questions on parking for trucks. However, he gave no time frame when this issue would be resolved.

RADIO - 1350 AM Ramz Punjabi (Daily5) - Brampton, 04/08/2021 - TALK SHOW, 35 mins, 07/09, Punjabi

NEU (ID: 602831asa - 242w)

Episode #2

Show: Parvasi Radio

Channel: CJMR 1320

Date: August 18, 2021

Topic: Transportation and Jobs

Guest: Councillor Harkirat Singh, Himanshu Katyal (Planner III Development, PLANNING, BLDG & ECONOMIC DEV), Nabonita Singh (Clerk, Addressing & Records, PLANNING, BLDG & ECONOMIC DEV) Bindu Shah (Planner III, Policy, PLANNING, BLDG & ECONOMIC DEV)

MIREMS REPORT

Brampton 2040 vision: City officials talks about transportation industry - Punjabi

Description: City Councillor Harkirat Singh and other city officials joined the show to talk about the Brampton 2040 Vision. Singh said many people in Brampton are associated with the transportation industry. City of Brampton Policy Planner Bindu Shah said that public consultation is a very important part of the project. She talked about the redevelopment of many places in Brampton in accordance to future plans. Regarding transportation, she said that Brampton is a major hub of warehousing and manufacturing businesses, and trucks are a prominent feature on Brampton roads. In consultation with the public, the City will develop a parking strategy and modify routes for trucks. Clerk, Addressing and Records Nabonita Singh talked about naming Brampton streets. She said that multiculturalism will be more reflected in street names. She highlighted the need for sustainable design for transportation. She said that the GTA 400 series highway has been opposed by many municipalities. The City is making efforts to provide an alternative to the highway. Shah urged listeners to visit Brampton.ca to share their thoughts and opinions on the official plan.

RADIO - CJMR Parvasi (Daily5) - Oakville, 18/08/2021 - TALK SHOW, 40 mins, 10/11, Punjabi
NEU (ID: 604416asa - 175w)

Episode #3

Show: Radio Khabarsar

Channel: 770AM

Date: September 01, 2021

Topic: Housing

Guest: Councillor Harkirat Singh, Bindu Shah (Planner III, Policy, PLANNING, BLDG & ECONOMIC DEV), Satwant Hothi (Plans Examiner - Zoning, PLANNING, BLDG & ECONOMIC DEV), Simrandeep Chadha (Permit Expediter, PLANNING, BLDG & ECONOMIC DEV)

MIREMS REPORT

Brampton 2040 vision: Discussion with City Planners

Description: Jagdish Grewal - Simrandeep Chadda, Permit Expediter and Economic Development Planner, along with Bindu Shah, Policy, and City Planning & Design Planner sat down for an interview. This is the first time that city officials have come to the Punjabi community in order to understand the context of planning and city permits, as well as to discuss the city's plans with the residents. The discussion revolved around the housing crisis. While politicians often speak of these issues, city planners have a different perspective on these matters. Shah spoke about Vision 2040, which is Brampton's plan for development to grow until that year. Vision 2040 was approved in 2018, and subsequent planning has been aligned with its directives. Every year around 5,000 houses have to be planned, according to Shah. By 2051, the population of Brampton is supposed to reach 1 million, and so urban development has to proceed so that it can take care of such a large number of people. Heritage Heights is a prospective location for such development. The host inquired how many houses actually get built in the year, to which Chadda responded by saying how in the last 2 years these numbers have increased significantly, and applications keep increasing every year. In 2021, the number of applications has already surpassed 5,000. Around 7,000-8,000 permits have been given this year already, and many of these include second-dwelling-unit permits, which Shah said was a good sign. Second-dwelling units, however, can present new problems, such as the parking spaces in front of such houses being over-occupied, and tiny driveways become clogged, and inhospitable to pedestrians. One of the ways to allay this concern is to focus on the development of public transit, thereby reducing the need for a personal car. On the topic of public transport, the host asked about the LRT and whether there were plans for its further development. Shah said she was unaware of the LRT's development because that was not her department, and that she would respond to this query via e-mail, but she did say that she was aware of the development of BRT in the area. The host then invited callers to ask any questions, and these queries revolved around whether there had been an extension of the time provided by the permits for construction due to the pandemic, how building inspectors are racist and harass Punjabi people and create confusion, and about government controls on builders' price increase policies.

RADIO - WTOR 770 AM Asian Awaz (Weekly) - Toronto, 01/09/2021 - INTERVIEW, 10 mins, 6/10, Punjabi

NEU (ID: 605794ssu - 396w)

Episode #4

Show: Good Morning Toronto

Channel: RED FM Toronto

Date: September 16, 2021

Topic: Accessibility, Recreation and the Environment

Guest: Councillor Harkirat Singh, Nabonita Singh (Clerk, Addressing & Records, PLANNING, BLDG & ECONOMIC DEV) and Bindu Shah (Planner III, Policy, PLANNING, BLDG & ECONOMIC DEV)

MIREMS REPORT

Brampton 2040 – Punjabi Discussion

Description: Shameel Jasvir - Host Shameel Jasvir spoke to City Councillor Harkirat Singh and two other officials from the City of Brampton's Planning, Building & Economic Development division. They discussed the City's plans for 2040, which outlines provisions to tackle both economic and environmental issues. According to City official Nabonita Singh, "The city is building a network of well-connected bike lanes and recreational trails that make travel by bike a safe and desirable option for work, recreation and school trips." She also added that Brampton is a Green City, and the City is committed to planting more trees in urban areas in an attempt to create more green space. According to Nitika Jagtiani, the City of Brampton's vision is to plant one million trees by 2040.

RADIO - Red FM 88.9 Good Morning Toronto (Daily5) - Toronto, 16/09/2021 - NEWS, 10 mins, 06/12, Punjabi

NEU (ID: 607252kau - 113w)

Episode #5

Show: South Asian Voice

Channel: 1350 AM

Date: September 27, 2021

Topic: Places of Worship

Guest: Councillor Harkirat Singh, Nasir Mahmood (Planner III, Development, PLANNING, BLDG & ECO) and Tejinder Sidhu (Planner I, Policy, PLANNING, BLDG & ECONOMIC DEV)

MIREMS REPORT

Brampton 2040 – Discussion on development of places of worship in the City of Brampton

Description: Kulwinder Chhinna - Host Kulwinder Chhinna was joined by City Councillor for Ward 10 Harkirat Singh as well as Tejinder Sidhu, planner for the City of Brampton's building policy, and they discussed Brampton's city planning future. The discussion revolved around places of worship in and around the city and how well-integrated they were in the general urban environment. Sidhu began by talking about how most parts of the city permit the development of such local institutions of worship, while Singh discussed how he had dealt with the challenge of constructing places of worship on lands earmarked for other uses, in particular industrial ones. Singh talked about how according to a survey by Punjabi Community Health Services, more than 80% of families in the City of Brampton visit their places of worship, and gurudwaras in particular were important sites for community and society, especially during the pandemic, when they provided many essential services to neighbourhoods. Furthermore, the Councillor spoke of how many religious organizations, such as the Sri Guru Nanak Sikh Centre of Brampton, had been developing essential services; the organization was building a long-term care centre. A second city planner joined the show, and he too stressed that while it was simple enough to obtain a permit to build a site of religious worship in most places, in industrial areas it was difficult for reasons of noise and safety. As a place of worship is regularly frequented by people of all ages, it should be located in a safe place away from emissions. He expressed hope that the city plan for Brampton would pay attention to these points. The issue of adequate parking around sites of worship was discussed as an important consideration. Councillor Singh talked about options for above-ground and underground parking which would save space.

RADIO - South Asian Voice Radio 1350 AM (Daily5) - Toronto, 05/10/2021 - INTERVIEW, 10 mins +, 01/01, Punjabi

NEU (ID: 609251ssu - 295w)