Indicators

economy

The following indicators were derived from the Research Roundtable Workshop discussions and previous indicator research undertaken by the Design Centre for Sustainability and its partner research groups.*

The proposed Economy Indicators are:

Land Use Diversity

Transit Proximity

Housing Diversity

Housing and Employment Intensity

Land Use Diversity

economy

Land Use Diversity reveals the ratio of land uses. Mixing homes, services, and work in concentrated areas improves access and decreases travel distances, thereby increasing net wealth and contributing to economic development. It also preserves land for other economic uses, such as industry and agriculture. Access to services and amenities also provides incentive to live in smaller residential units in denser areas.

DESIGN METRICS

- Simpson's Diversity Index for land uses
- % change in land area used for residential or commercial purposes (excluding agricultural and industrial land uses).
- % decrease in projected parking requirements

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

- Mix land uses to intersperse jobs with homes
- Lower or eliminate parking requirements
- Encourage flexible neighbourhoods to provide adaptive spaces
- Mix residential and commercial unit types
- Consider impact of various uses (i.e. smell, noise, etc.) when planning mixed use areas.

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Transit Proximity

economy

Transit Proximity reveals the capacity of residents to meet their daily mobility needs with transit. Linking people, services, and jobs with active transport and transit routes decreases the cost and time for travel in support of daily activities, thereby increasing net wealth and contributing to economic development.

DESIGN METRICS

- % of population and jobs within 800m of rapid transit, Skytrain Stations, and/or bike corridors
- % of industrial land within 800m of rapid transit, Skytrain Stations, and/or bike corridors
- Trip cost per average commute distance.

SUPPORTING **STRATEGIES**

- Use a network approach to transit, rather than high-speed corridors, to enhance connectivity and reliability
- Distribute land uses and services to enable easy access to transit
- Invest in a convenient transit network to enable a reduction in parking and vehicle traffic load requirements
- Enable density along transit corridors to support transit use

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Housing Diversity

INDICATOR

Housing Diversity reveals the mix of housing types and tenures. A range of unit types within a city provide the means for families of different types and incomes to locate in urban areas near services, jobs, and amenities, thus decreasing travel distances and costs.

DESIGN METRICS

- Simpson's Diversity Index for residential unit types
- Range of housing densities

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

- Lower or eliminate parking requirements
- Encourage flexible neighbourhoods to provide adaptive spaces
- Encourage the mixing of tenures within buildings and neighbourhoods

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Housing & Employment Intensity

economy

INDICATOR

Housing Intensity reveals the capacity of mixing land uses and supporting services that rely on population densities. Employment Intensity reveals the capacity to mix land uses and supporting services that rely on population densities. Locating people near jobs and services supports inexpensive access, healthy businesses, and preserves land for other key economic uses, such as industry and agriculture.

DESIGN METRICS

- % of population within 800m of rapid transit and/or bike corridors
- % of population within designated urban centres
- % of population within a central business district
- % of jobs within 800m of rapid transit and/or bike corridors
- % of jobs within a regional town centre
- % of jobs within a central business district
- % reduction in urban footprint per job
- Average job density
- Average housing density

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

- Mix land uses
- Intersperse jobs with homes
- Lower or eliminate parking requirements
- Encourage flexible neighbourhoods to provide adaptive spaces
- Mix residential and commercial unit types
- Encourage vertical urban expansion to increase densities

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