

Building Better Revitalized Neighbourhoods

# Vanier South-Overbrook

## Consultation Report



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# INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the perspectives of residents, landowners, community associations and agencies in the Vanier South-Overbrook area about what is important for their community, now and in the future.

This information is intended to inform the development of a Neighbourhood Revitalization Strategy for the community which will identify service, program and infrastructure improvements as well as revitalization opportunities. It will help the community continue to grow as a place where residents can meet their everyday needs, participate in community life and succeed as well as attract new residents and businesses to the area.

## Highlights of Consultation Process



**148**

responses were received  
through the online survey

The online survey asked residents to specifically provide feedback on the St. Laurent commercial corridor and then rank the most important, major change that they would like to see in this area.

Over **280** people participated in  
the consultation process



**14**

meetings were held with community  
associations and residents, agencies,  
school boards and services providers

These meetings included both the area immediately around St. Laurent Boulevard and also were focused on the larger neighbourhood (area of interest) to collect feedback on the assets in the community, the needs of residents as well as the existing and upcoming programs and services.

## THANK YOU!

Special thanks goes to the many residents who took time to complete the online survey and attend meetings to provide feedback and to the many representatives of community associations, agencies and organizations who took time to meet and provide information on the services and programs offered in the area. Everyone provided valuable insight to the neighbourhood and offered thoughtful feedback.

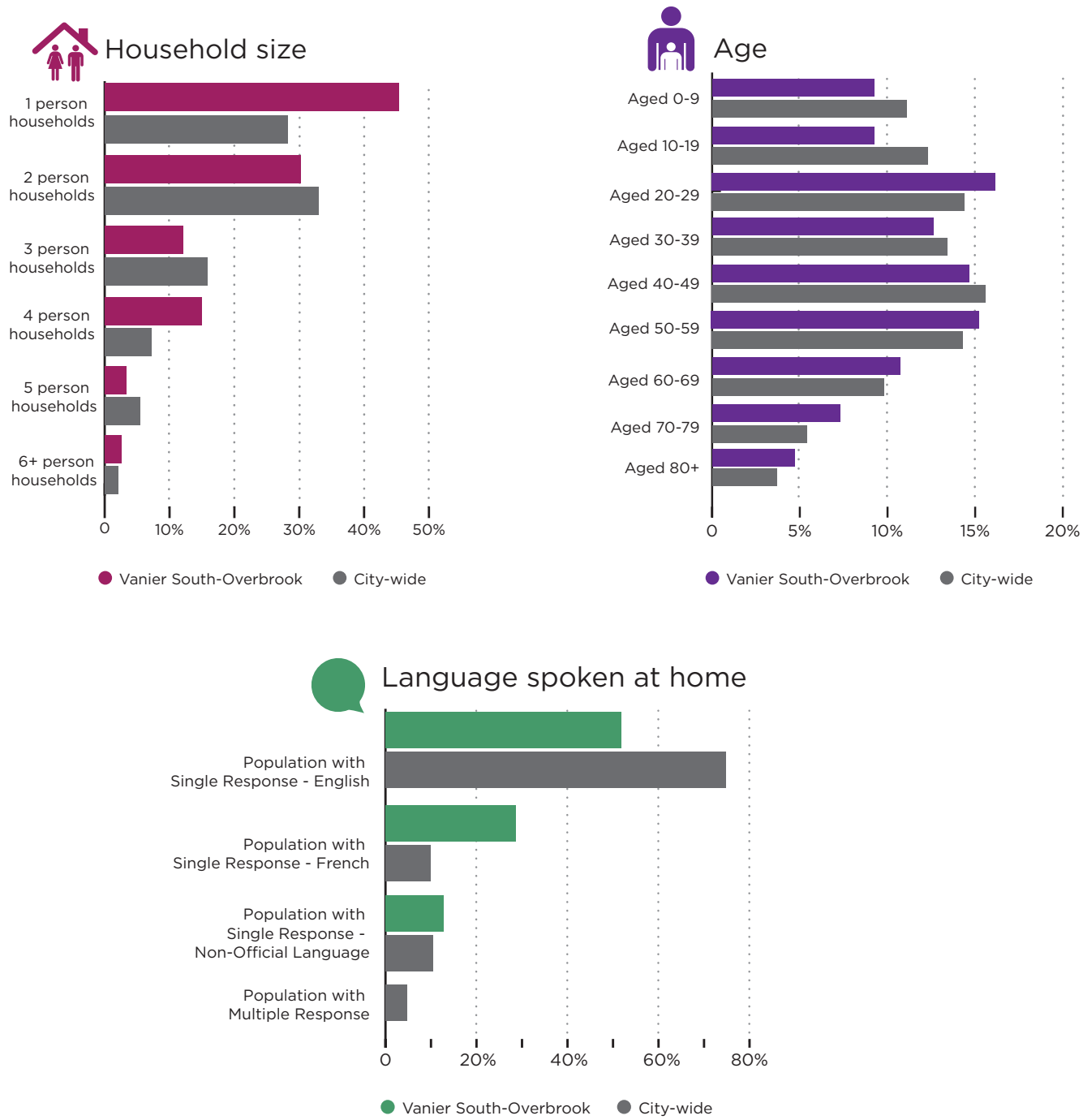
# VANIER SOUTH-OVERBROOK

The neighbourhood of Vanier South and Overbrook were one of the areas chosen for the Building Better Revitalized Neighbourhoods initiative.

## The People

### History:

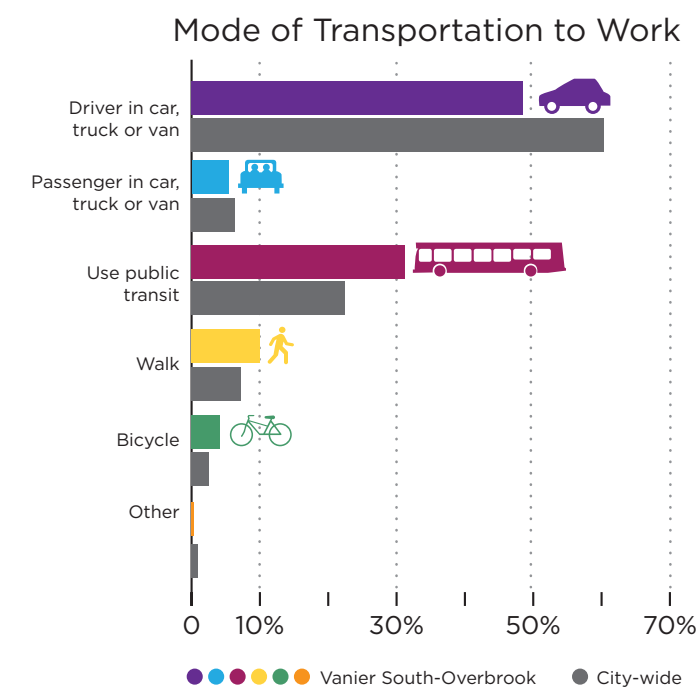
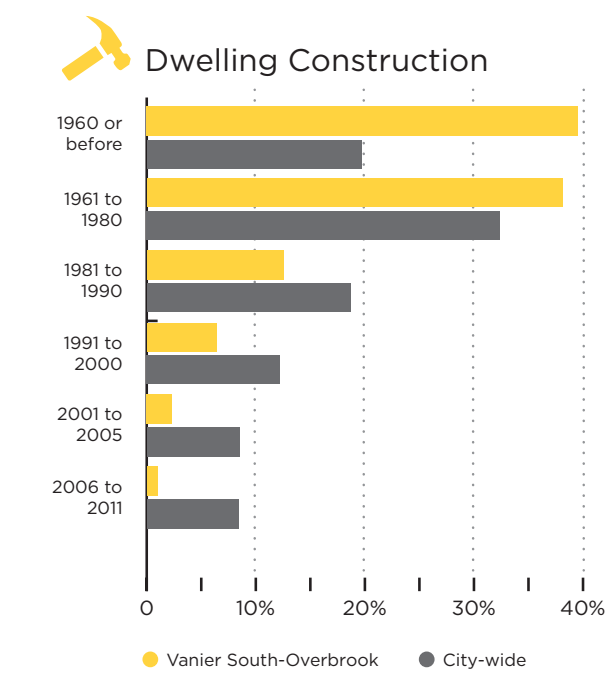
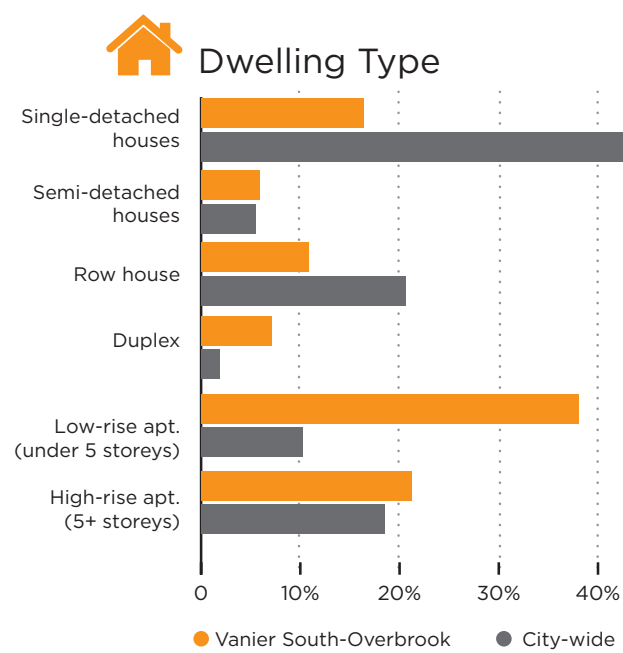
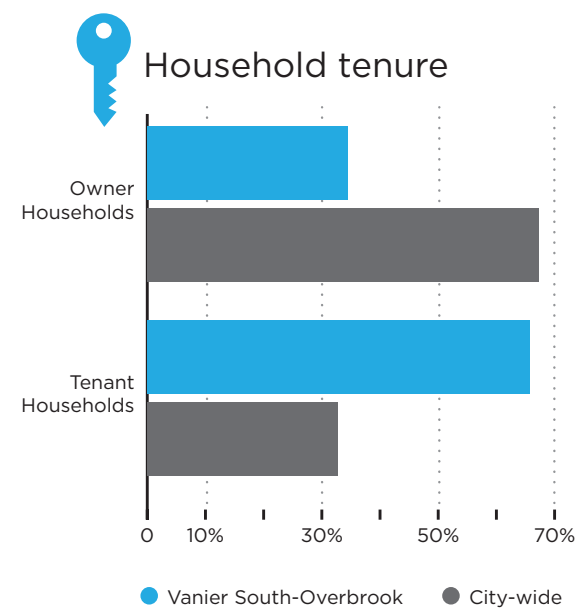
This is a well-established area with most of the housing constructed prior to the 1960's and a large population of French speaking residents. Vanier South and Overbrook remain proud communities with many residents able to trace their family histories to the area's early days.



# VANIER SOUTH-OVERBROOK

## Tenure and Housing:

The range of housing types contributes to the diversity of the area while providing residents with affordable housing options at different stages throughout their lives.



## Transportation options:

Active transportation is an important element for the community. Many residents commute to work on foot, by bike and use public transportation more than other residents in the City.

# VANIER SOUTH-OVERBROOK

## The Place

### Accessible to downtown:

Over time, as the meaning of downtown Ottawa evolves, this area's close proximity to downtown Ottawa is seen as an asset to residents. The recent addition of the Adawe Bridge crossing has opened up even greater access to downtown on foot or by bike.



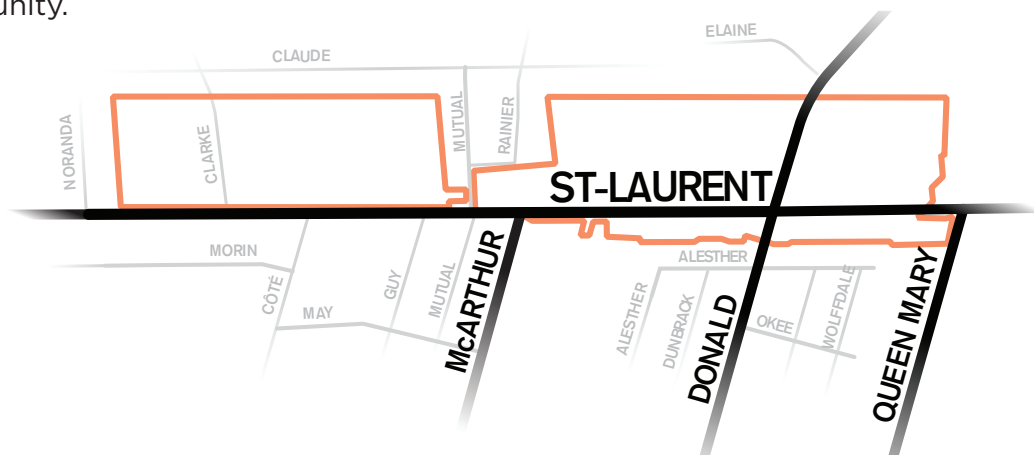
### Provides daily needs:

The St. Laurent Boulevard corridor is recognized by many residents as providing a range of daily shopping needs, a direct link to the St. Laurent Transit Station.



### Mainstreet potential:

Many residents see the potential for St. Laurent Boulevard to become a reimagined mainstreet for the community.





# VANIER SOUTH-OVERBROOK

## Local commercial nodes:

Residents have identified key areas, such as Overbrook's "Four Corners", where local commercial nodes are appreciated and supported.



## Parks and outdoor spaces:

Residents enjoy their parks, outdoor skating rink and basketball courts as well as the direct access to the Rideau River pathway and open space.



## Active transportation:

Residents value safe cycling routes and pedestrian networks to provide access to destinations such as the St. Laurent commercial corridor, transit station and to schools and parks.



# WHAT WE HEARD

## St. Laurent Corridor assets:



Opportunities for redevelopment

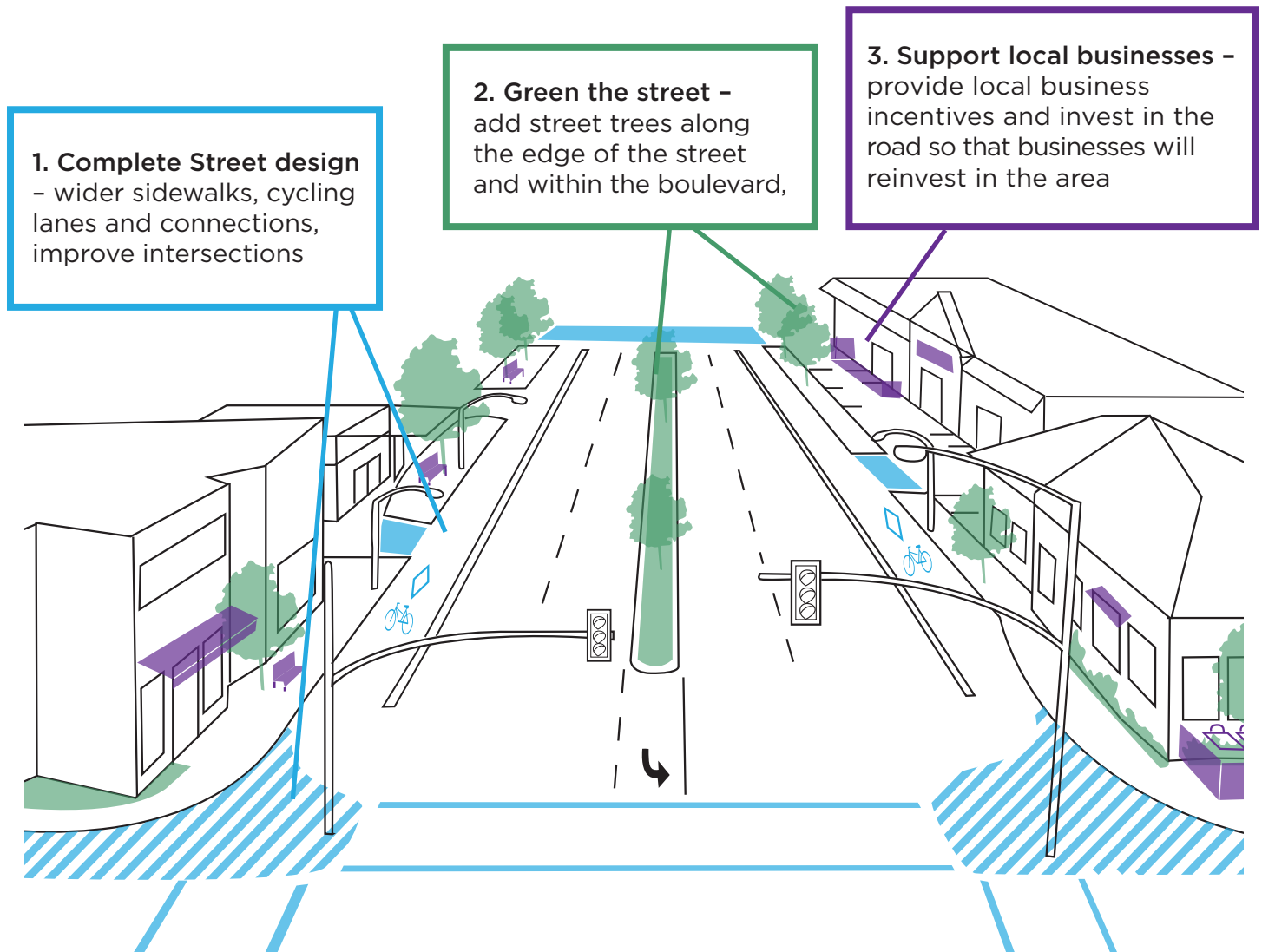


Variety of businesses



Good transportation options

## Top Priorities for St. Laurent Boulevard





# WHAT WE HEARD

## Guiding Principles and Themes

Feedback from the consultation mainly consisted of how any future changes to the neighbourhood should be done rather than what specifically should be done. The following are guiding principles and themes that reflect the feedback from the consultation.

### Prepare for Neighbourhood Changes

The effective design of our neighbourhoods is important to health and neighbourhood vitality. Redevelopment, land use decisions and economic development initiatives all offer opportunities for positive changes to the neighbourhood.



- Identify redevelopment opportunities with good urban design features and a mix of uses
- Assist with changes to private property, such as improvements to facades, change of uses
- Offer economic development incentives for businesses
- Identify opportunities for major change along the St. Laurent corridor

### Enhance Neighbourhood Connectivity

How we design neighbourhood connectivity has a significant impact on health of the daily lives of the public and the neighbourhood. Creating safe and accessible environments through all modes of transportation will ultimately yield positive results for the neighbourhood.

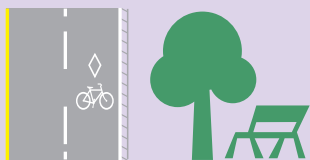


- Convenient and safe cycling lanes with better connectivity to existing routes
- Encourage the use of public transportation with improvements to bus shelters and better connections to the St. Laurent transit station
- Improve the pedestrian environment and walkability to key destinations
- Add more traffic calming measures on local streets

# WHAT WE HEARD

## Improve the Public Realm along St. Laurent Blvd

The public realm contributes greatly to the safety and strength of a neighbourhood. The public environment fundamentally and aesthetically affects interactions and impressions of the neighbourhood.



- Enhance the environment along St. Laurent Blvd with better streetscaping including street trees, street lighting, benches
- Improvements to the St. Laurent Blvd/Donald St. intersection
- Changes to St. Laurent Blvd including reducing the number of lanes, improving intersections

## Enrich the Natural Environment

The way we design natural environments is fundamental in determining the health, beauty and public realm of neighbourhoods. By preserving, connecting and creating new open and greenspaces, the area can prosper from the mitigation of negative health impacts, connectivity issues and offer more natural places for resident interaction.



- Encourage access to greenspace and public open space
- More parkland
- School site opportunities for greenspace
- Community garden opportunities

## Targeted Neighbourhood Initiatives

Targeted neighbourhood initiatives are ones that are either specific or targeted towards a specific site within the neighbourhood.



- Youth employment strategy
- Future of Rideau High School
- Better access to online services and programs by providing free WiFi in key locations
- Establish new partnerships with service agencies and organizations that provide programs and services in the neighbourhood such as advertising assistance for programs and partnering with housing providers when redevelopment occurs

## NEXT STEPS



The community consultation generated numerous meaningful responses to inform the Building Better Revitalized Neighbourhoods project for Vanier South-Overbrook. This feedback provides an understanding of the community's assets and direction for short and long term actions for the City and its partners to consider as part of the Neighbourhood Revitalization Strategy. Everyone who participated in this consultation process will be invited to provide feedback again when a draft of the Revitalization Strategy is available for comment in the Fall of 2017.