

Below is a summary of the 7 replies received (some on behalf of teams) to the reflection questions about the June 18 2013 HCBD KTE Teleconference - Collaborating in NYC for an Active & Fit City.

- ♥ Positive feedback, learnings
- 🔄 Constructive feedback for improvement
- ? Questions, issues, tensions for further discussion and reflection

1.	WHAT DID YOU TAKE AWAY FROM NEW YORK CITY’S EXPERIENCES? WHAT ELEMENTS DID YOU FIND INSPIRING? DAUNTING?
♥	Several participants commented that this was an excellent and highly interesting presentation. There were three main inspiring learnings from the presentations:
♥	<p>Collaboration across sectors is crucial for success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“When city departments and stakeholders collaborate on a common vision, enormous strides can be made”;</i> • <i>“One group can’t accomplish the kinds of change needed in city infrastructure – different perspectives help build a rationale for taking risks.”</i> • <i>“Most inspiring was the evolution of this example of cross-agency collaboration, into a new governance model in the form of a Centre for Active Design. Wow! “</i>
♥	<p>Political and policy leadership play critical roles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Great presentation(s) of experiences from New York. Overall I it was very motivational to see how such a large city can move forward so quickly on implementing changes to their built environment and to get support from key decision makers.”</i> • <i>“Underscored how much can be done in the area of community design, especially if the appropriate resources and political will are at the disposal of the community. The issue of political will cannot be underestimated. If you look at NYC, California and British Columbia, political will has always been central to the facilitation of progressive public health initiatives. This underscores the need to have political champions on board.”</i> • <i>“The first is the critical role that leadership plays in this narrative. The convergence of political leadership and strong leaders within the city’s public health, planning and transportation departments was, I think, a critical success factor.”</i> • <i>“The second is the role of policy and having a clearly articulated vision. In this case, it was PLANYC. This was their ‘playbook’. PLANYC provided the political clout necessary to get cross-agency buy-in to take the city in a new direction, by focusing all of the agencies on the shared goal of creating a livable city. This was the starting point needed to pursue agendas that might not otherwise have been possible. “</i>
♥	<p>In the multi-sector space, it’s important to focus on concrete initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>‘Stay action focussed. Meetings need to be targeted to specific action. Otherwise, people will not commit.’</i> • <i>It’s best to start off with modest but meaningful targets that can deliver early wins. For instance, propose a pilot in a neighbourhood before implementing city-wide design changes. Don’t ignore opposition; bring them onside by hearing their concerns and finding a solution that</i>

	<p>minimizes the risk. Use evidence and objective measures to back up new approaches. Have the courage to press ahead and demonstrate real benefits, even when there are naysayers.</p>
?	<p>What participants found daunting or less helpful was the lack of applicability of NYC’s size, density and policy context compared to Canadian communities’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“ NY had the kind of density needed to force change. It’s been built up, so the implications of adding more traffic are clear. This is not the case in cities where greenfield expansion provides the illusion that sprawling out and relying on automobiles is still a viable option. “</i> • <i>The legislative and policy frameworks that apply in American cities is so different from that in Ontario that there isn’t an immediate takeaway. Also the City is so much denser from a population and land use perspective that it is difficult to find parallels.</i>
2.	SO WHAT IMPLICATIONS DO THE PRESENTERS’ EXPERIENCES HAVE FOR YOUR OWN WORK ON HCBD?
♥	<p>Take-away implications followed the learnings about working across sectors, and within a holistic approach to community design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Reminds me that forging linkages with municipal colleagues is critical. Also, important to take the lead from those agencies responsible for policy development and implementation; i.e. public health plays a vital role as influencer, as opposed to “leader” in decision-making. “</i> • <i>The implications are that it takes leadership in multiple sectors coming together to bring about the kind of transformation we have seen happen in NYC. It’s critical to invest up front in the people who are in a position to influence and shape community design decisions, to understand their concerns and their intentions, as well as to find champions who are willing to work across sectors/disciplines to overcome hurdles that exist. There needs to be a level of political and organisational readiness, and the conditions to support experimentation in order for lasting change to occur.</i> • <i>“Highlights for me the need to approach community design in a holistic way.”</i> • <i>“I think the diagram that resounded the most with this participant is the one about policy: Experience – shaped by – physical space – regulated by – policies. Also a discussion point to be used with respect to the public realm is thinking about it like it’s a “room”.</i>
3.	NOW WHAT? HOW, IF AT ALL, WILL THIS CHANGE YOUR WORK ON HCBD?
♥	<p>Several HCBD sites are continuing to refer to and to circulate the NYC information as a source of “best practices” for heir work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Continue on the track I was on, but I have sent the link to the presentation to a number of my colleagues in Planning. It is “making the rounds” as an example of best practices. “</i> • <i>“Provides more data that we could leverage with HCBD and our other community design work (both policy and advocacy).”</i> • <i>“I think many of the items shared in the presentation can be looked at more closely as we progress with our work locally. There is a tremendous amount of best practices and learning’s for other municipalities. “</i> • <i>“I have worked out an approach that is more appropriate in [my jurisdiction].”</i> • <i>“It does not change anything we are going to do in HCBD as our Actions in our Action Plan are based upon opportunity, willingness, and ability. That said, we can include the two talking points pointed out above in our discussions. (giving full credit of course)“</i>