

SBOT Development Industry Forum

Dec. 1

8-9 min

- **Good morning.**
- **Acknowledge**
 - **Councillor LeFranc**
 - **Other Councillors in attendance**
- **It is a pleasure to be here today to speak to you about my favourite topic Surrey and all the wonderful investment opportunities that are available here.**
- **Ladies and gentlemen, I can stand here and tell you that we are the fastest growing city in the province, that we will overtake Vancouver as BC's most populous city by**

2041, and that we have a prime location for businesses to flourish in.

- **And I haven't even mentioned that we have ample room to grow!**
- **But I think the best way to show you the progress and investment in this city can be encapsulated by taking a look at Surrey's ever changing skyline.**
- **Our City Centre has seen exponential growth... for example, we have a 52 story skyscraper that is on the verge of completion right in the heart of the city.**
- **When it opens, 3 Civic Plaza, will be the tallest structure south of the Fraser.**

- **City Hall has relocated to City Centre and the SFU City Campus continues to expand.**
- **And I have lost count the number of cranes that are dotting our skyline in our city's core, and I can assure you there will be plenty more sprouting up throughout the city.**
- **Surrey is an *"investment destination."***
- **That is what we were dubbed in a report released last month by *Western Investor*.**
- **A big reason for that is that Surrey, along with the South Fraser region, is projected to "absorb 70 percent of the entire region's population growth over the next 25 years."**

- **And just a few weeks ago Surrey made headlines once more as it was named as the best place for real estate investment in BC by the Real Estate Investment Network.**
- **There's no question that people are taking note of the substantial growth and enormous investment potential in Surrey.**
- **In just the last 5 years alone there has been \$285 Million invested into our Innovation Ecosystem.**
- **... and we are not resting on our laurels and that's why we have created a new Economic Strategy that will ensure Surrey becomes *the* regional nexus for commerce and a nationally-recognized centre for**

innovation over the next decade.

- **Our plan is to put Surrey in a well-placed position to unlock opportunities in priority areas such as entertainment and lifestyle, innovation, digital information communications technology, transportation and logistics, and smart cities.**
- **When it comes to digital connectivity, our world-class broadband network will have over 90% of our businesses and residents with access to high-speed internet by the end of 2018, which is, by the way, 3 years ahead of schedule.**
- **And speaking of digital infrastructure, we know the importance of data.**

- **As oil replaced gold as the world's most valuable resource, data is now elbowing aside oil to take that vaunted prize.**
- **Here in Surrey we recognize that and that is why we are harnessing data to increase the quality of life for residents and businesses.**
- **For example, we are actively managing traffic congestion by using real-time data and modern technologies to improve the movement of goods and services throughout the City.**
- **This includes implementing sensors that allow us to predict future traffic patterns, as well as message signs that will provide**

drivers with real-time information on traffic volume and alternative routes.

- **It's not only practical but it's smart.**
- **While we are the topic of smart, Surrey has built a reputation as an intelligent city and forward thinking city.**
- **We have also become a centre for higher education.**
- **Not only are SFU and KPU an established and growing presence in the City Centre, but Douglas College is expanding in the city's core.**
- **In conjunction with the phenomenal growth we are experiencing, we are**

making investments to build sustainable, connected, and vibrant communities in which both businesses and residents can thrive.

- **A prime example is our 27km Light Rail Transit project; the first phase will connect City Centre with our Guildford and Newton Town Centres.**
- **Over the last 10 years, the proportion of Surrey residents using public transit to get to work has doubled, which speaks to the growing demand in transit options within the City.**
- **Light rail will not only address this demand, but also serve as a catalyst to build Surrey's future as a walkable,**

liveable city.

- **By building this mass transit system on the 104 Avenue and King George Boulevard corridors, we will transform our city core with mid-rise, medium density, mixed use development that will allow for affordable housing and business options for those looking to reside or set up shop in Surry.**
- **In an effort to accelerate growth, we are committed to doing away with the roadblocks and impediments that stunt growth.**
- **Our goal is to streamline the process and that's why we have developed a NEXUS program to fast track qualifying**

applications of tremendous transformative potential for our community.

- **We want to get these city building projects from concept to reality as we quickly as possible**
- **Take for example, the SFU Sustainable Engineering and Energy Building, which saw its construction start less than a year from the initial application.**
- **Once ramped up, the programs that run out of this new SFU Surrey development will produce approximately 80 new highly skilled graduates each year.**
- **Another fast-tracked development is Anthem Properties' project on the City**

Centre “Canadian Tire” site which was brought to Council in less than 12 months from the initial application.

- **When finished, this master plan project will be the site of six new towers in our ever expanding City Centre.**
- **Ladies and gentlemen, there is no question that the opportunities to do business, to grow, and to flourish in Surrey are limitless, and now is the time to be part of it.**
- **Come invest with us. Come and transform with us.**
- **Thank you.**