



Addressing Suburban Sprawl in Nanaimo

Aug 4, 2023

ABOUT STRONG TOWNS

Strong Towns is a member-supported non-profit advocacy organization that is seeking to change the way we develop communities across North America. Strong Towns has hundreds of Canadian members and is currently hosting a Community Action Lab in Medicine Hat, AB. Our presenter tonight, Norm Van Eeden Petersman, lives in Delta, BC and he leads a housing advocacy group in his city. He is the Director of Membership and Development for Strong Towns. Find out more online at www.strongtowns.org

ABOUT STRONG TOWNS NANAIMO

Everyone deserves to live in a beautiful, equitable, and financially secure city. Decades of auto-oriented development have left their mark on Nanaimo leading to unpleasant, unsafe, and unproductive urban spaces. Together, we can advocate for a city meant for *people*, not cars. Our group is named after and shares the goals of the main Strong Towns non-profit, but we operate independently to support local conversations and initiatives that align with those goals.

<https://www.beautifulnanaimo.ca/> | contact@beautifulnanaimo.ca

ABOUT BOTTOM-UP CHANGE

After decades of major issues arising from the favoured top-down solutions of the planning, engineering, and economic development professions, Strong Towns is advocating for a renewal of the bottom-up, incremental, and locally-responsive ecosystems of opportunity that defined prior patterns of development.



Recommended Reading
Where should investment come from?

Strong Towns 101
Free introductory video course



THE STRUGGLE AND OPPORTUNITY

Talk with someone about their experience living here. *Where do they see people thrive? Where are people struggling? What are their hopes and dreams for your community? Even if they haven't heard much of Strong Towns yet, is there an opportunity to work together to make your place stronger?*

LOOK AROUND YOU

1. Some of the hallmarks of the **traditional development pattern** include its human scale, mix of uses (commercial and residential), and especially its flexibility. *Are there places in your community where traces of the traditional development pattern can still be found?*
2. Some of the hallmarks of the **suburban development pattern**—or the Suburban Experiment—is that it is scaled for cars, tends to separate uses, and is built all at once. *Where in your community do you see the suburban development pattern?*

WHAT IS A STREET? A ROAD? A STROAD?

1. A street is a platform for building wealth. Successful streets are places where humans, and human interactions, flourish. *What are some successful streets in your community?*
2. A road is a high-speed connection between productive places. *What is an example of a successful road in your community?*
3. A stroad tries to be both a street and a road, and ends up failing badly at both. *What is an example of a stroad in your community? Describe some of the features that make it unsafe, unproductive, and uninviting*



Resources
Active
Transportation

Slides and Recording
Available here after
the talk

