

Candidate Responses 2026 Municipal Election

Questions

1. If elected, what is your vision for improved transportation in North Vancouver?
2. Costs are rising and small business is feeling the squeeze. What will you do to support small businesses and foster business and job growth in North Vancouver?

City of North Vancouver

Councillor

Don Bell

1. Traffic congestion is a problem affecting movement of people and commercial traffic in North Van. We have road allowances created over 100 years ago with smaller populations. Improvements can be made to public transit, existing roads and signalization. Plan for increased growth of commercial truck delivery of goods and services to residents, local businesses and industry.

We also must meet future needs for movement of employees, retail customers, medical visits, restaurant workers and customers, and commuters both to and from our community. Future options include making public transit more frequent, dependable , affordable and convenient, hopefully encouraging commuters who don't need a car for their work to take transit.

Include both vehicle and transit capacity in future improvements of the Iron Workers Memorial Bridge and possibly a North Shore version of Skytrain or new fast rail commuter service. The recently announced R2 Rapid Bus Park Royal to Metrotown is a step in the right direction. Providing truly affordable housing options would allow more business employees to live closer to their employment.

The major options for improving transportation will require significant funding and co-operation from senior levels of government. North Van residents and businesses must be included in planning future transportation.

2. Small and "Mom & Pop" retail businesses, medical, professional and technical offices, restaurants, pubs and coffee shops bring vitality of our local economy. Starting with the Covid Pandemic followed by economic uncertainty, both world-wide and locally, are challenges businesses have faced.

Affordable housing options are needed for local workers to be able to live closer to their work and reduce the need for long distance commuting, especially if it involves crossing bridges to the North Shore. Public transit that is more frequent, dependable , affordable and convenient will help businesses attract and retain employees.

Streamline City licencing and permit processes, and approval times to reduce costs that businesses require starting up or renovating. Enhancing the street level shopping experience by street trees, landscaping and street benches that allow shoppers to rest.

Improvements to street customer parking, including better signage identifying nearby off-street public parking would help attract customers. Review with businesses possible improvements to the Pay Parking program, including the amount of free parking time.

Review the residential to business tax ratios of the annual tax allocation compared to other similar communities. Protect our existing Light Industrial areas and their value to our economy.