

Enhanced Quality of Life

Criteria 9: The completeness of the Region’s communities is enhanced within the Urban Containment Boundary.

Descriptor 9a: Opportunities to live, work and play are integrated

Measure: Amount of integration among uses

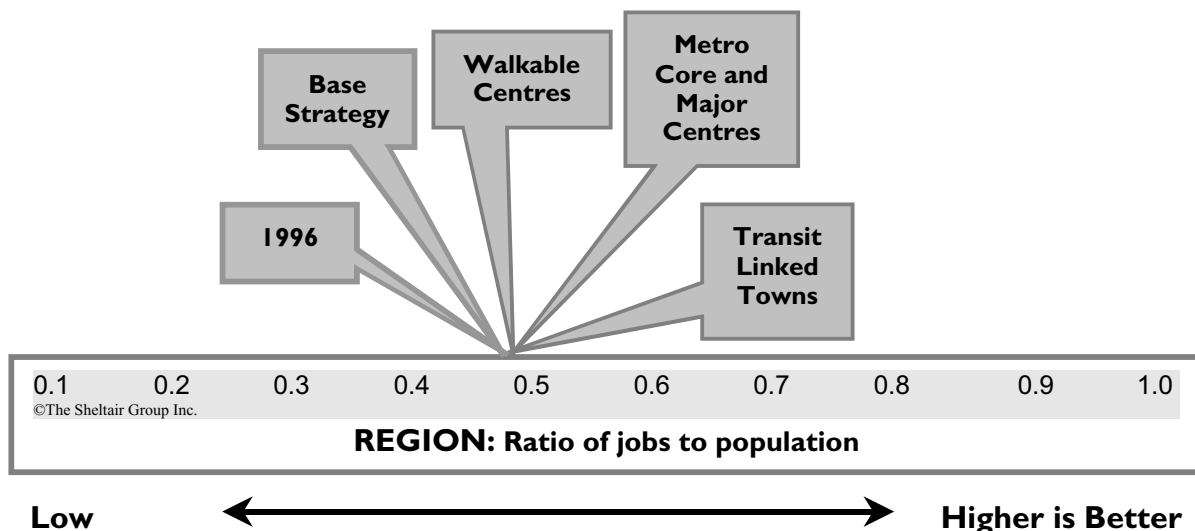
Quantitative Indicator Ratio of jobs to population – #9 in Figure 5

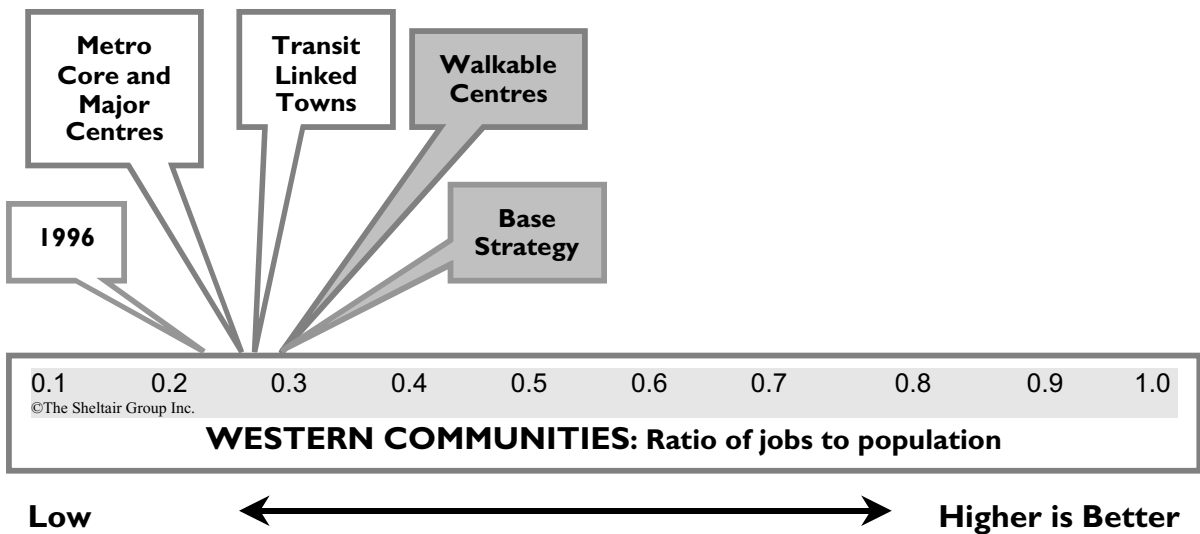
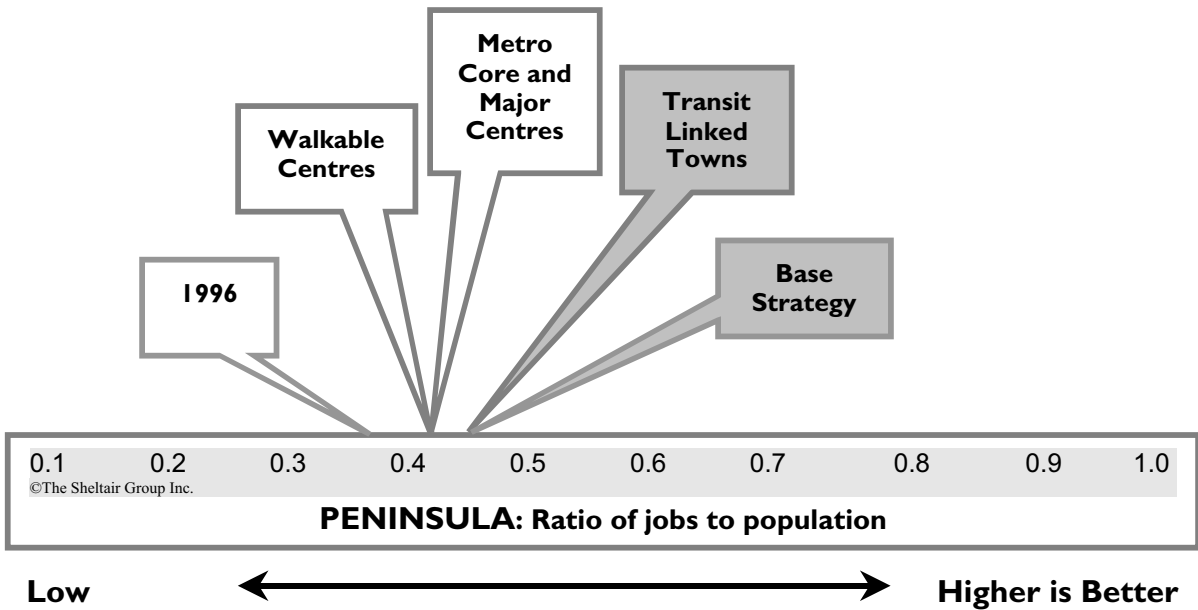
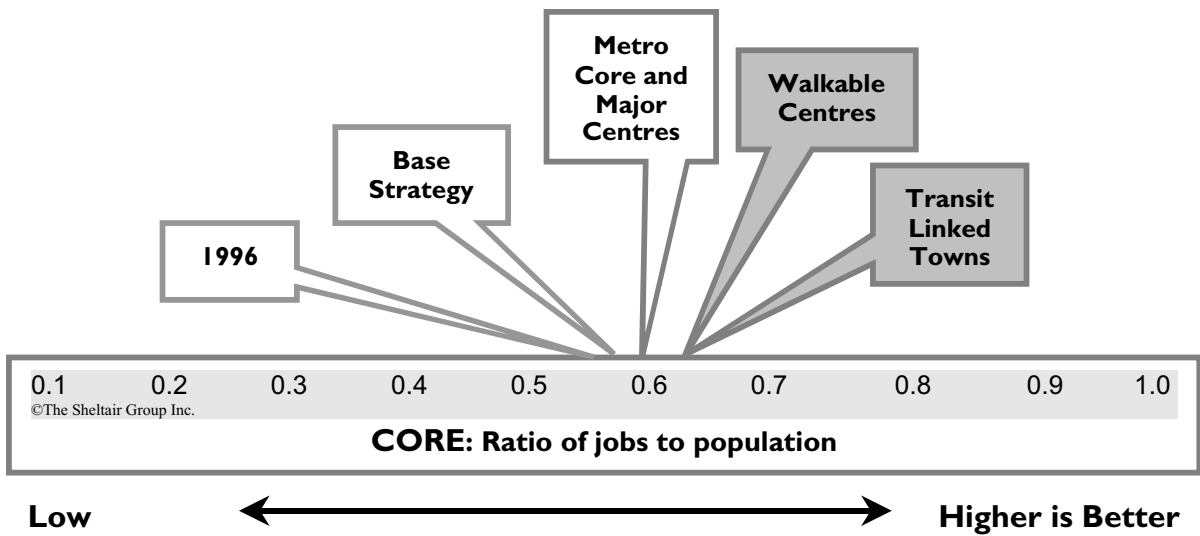
Meaning: Higher is better

Commentary:

The ratio of jobs to population is a good indicator of the amount of integration among uses that takes place in each of the four options. Using the CRD’s population and employment distributions for the four options, when examined at a regional level, there is no difference as the CRD allocated jobs in the future in the same proportion as in 1996. However, when examined on a sub-regional basis, the greatest number of jobs to population occurs in the Core Area and the least in the Western Communities, regardless of which option is selected.

Although not illustrated here, if the relationship between jobs and population is examined just for “centres”, using the CRD’s population and employment distributions for the four options, the rate of employment growth does not keep pace with the rate of population growth. This results in a drop in the ratio in the Metro and Major Centres option from 1.2 to 0.9 between 1996 and 2026. Similarly, there is a drop from 1.6 to 0.9 in the Transit-Linked Towns option and a drop from 1.2 to 0.8 in the Walkable Centres option. This indicates that future jobs have been distributed more widely outside of centres in various parts of the region.





Enhanced Quality of Life

Criteria 9: The completeness of the Region’s communities is enhanced within the Urban Containment Boundary.

Descriptor 9b: All regional residents have good access to goods, services and community activities

Measure: Proximity to activities is desirable

Quantitative Indicator: Percent of population within 400m of a commercial centre – #3 on Figure 5

Meaning: Higher is better

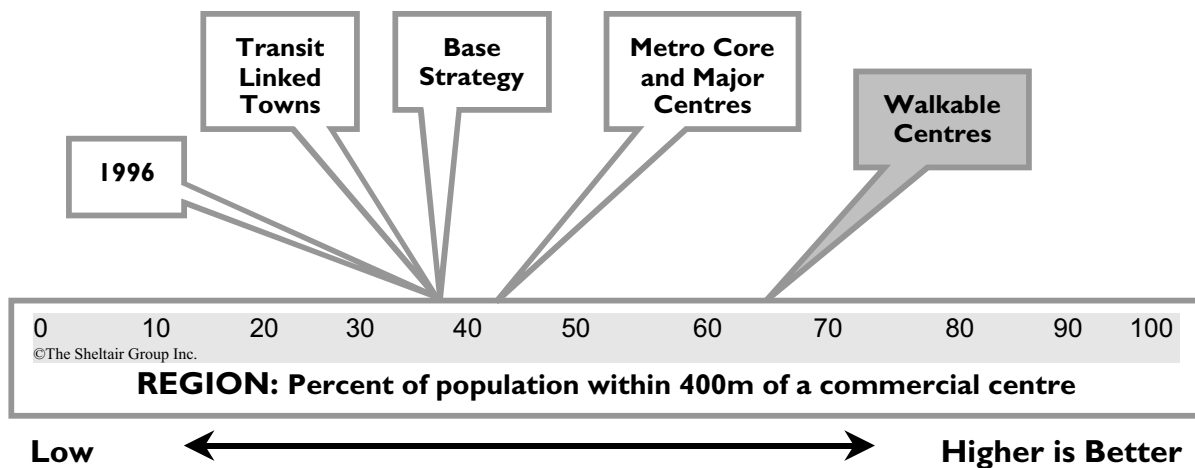
Commentary:

Research has shown that if amenities are within a 5-minute walk (approximately 400 metres) from housing, people will feel like they are both accessible, and accessible by a non-vehicular mode. While this is just one measure of having good access to goods, services and activities, it is an important one in terms of developing complete communities.

The calculation of this indicator followed the same basic protocol as the indicator for Descriptor 1f. For the 1996 baseline and the Base Strategy, commercial centres were determined by two criteria: a minimum of 30 employees per hectare, and inclusion on a list of 59 commercial land use types. For the three options, commercial centres were based on definitions and associated GIS mapping contained within the *Growth Strategy Alternatives for the Capital Region* document.

For all scenarios, the selected commercial centres were then attributed a 400 metre buffer, using GIS mapping. The area of intersection of commercial areas and buffer zones within a traffic zone was then calculated. Finally, the areas of intersection were multiplied by the population density associated with each respective traffic zone, in order to determine the population “captured” within 400 m of a commercial centre.

Although the indicator calculation demonstrates superior performance by Walkable Centres option in this area, this is somewhat misleading. The calculation for the three options was based on centres as outlined in the *Growth Strategies Alternatives for the Capital Region*, potentially excluding some existing commercial centres that may remain active, and should perhaps have been included in the calculation. If this method had been followed, it is assumed that the indicator values for each of the options would have been higher and in a different relationship to each other.



Enhanced Quality of Life

Criteria 9: The completeness of the Region’s communities is enhanced within the Urban Containment Boundary.

Descriptor 9c: Needs of residents of all ages, life situations and incomes are accommodated

Measure: Choice in housing types

Quantitative Indicator Percent of multi-family housing – #1 in Figure 5

Meaning: Higher is better

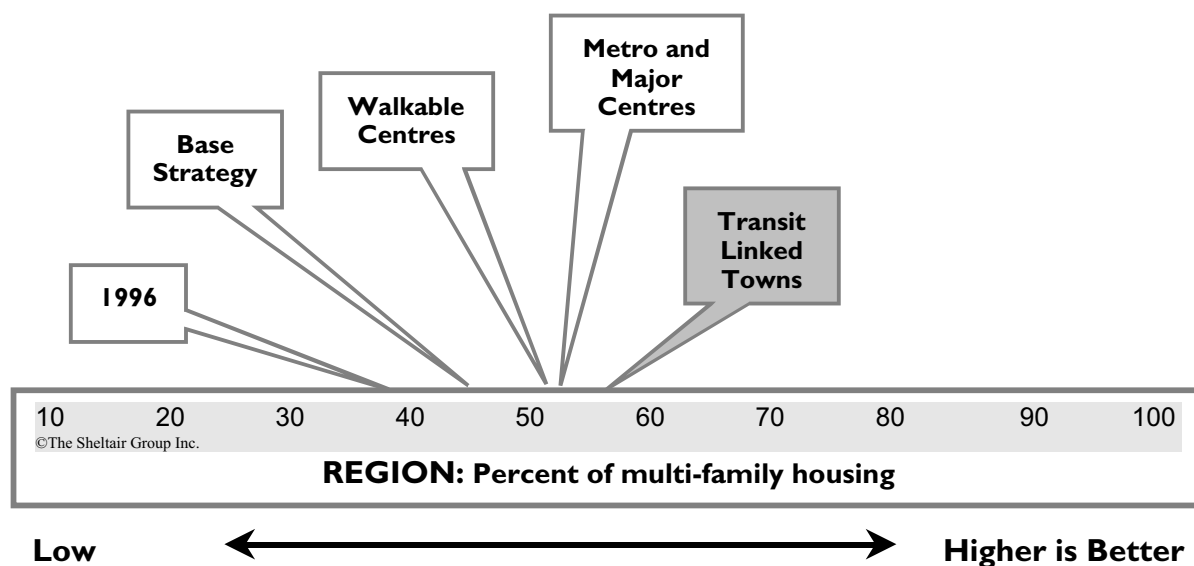
Commentary:

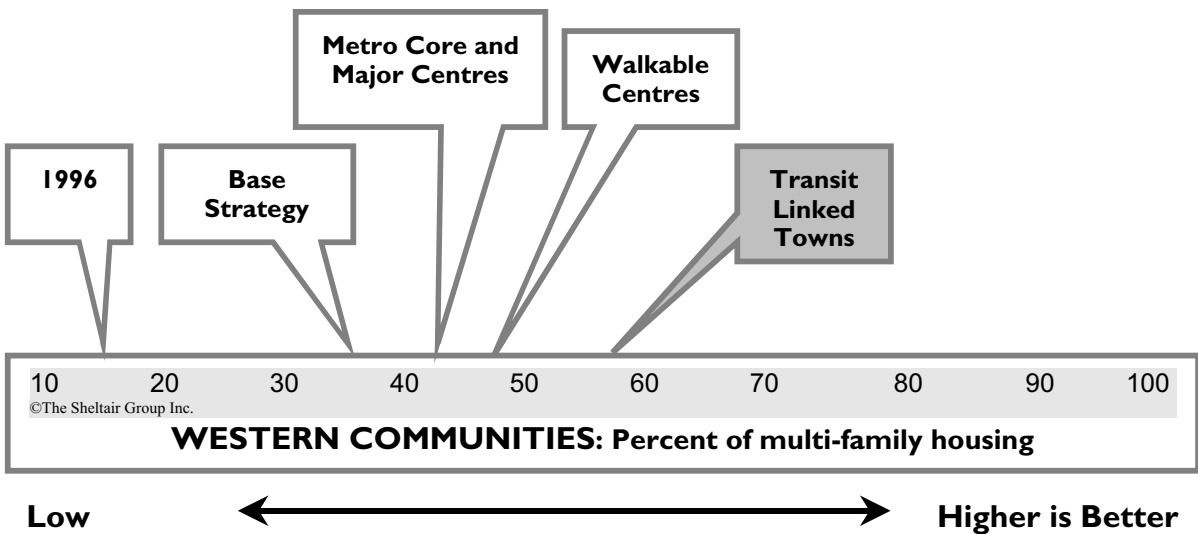
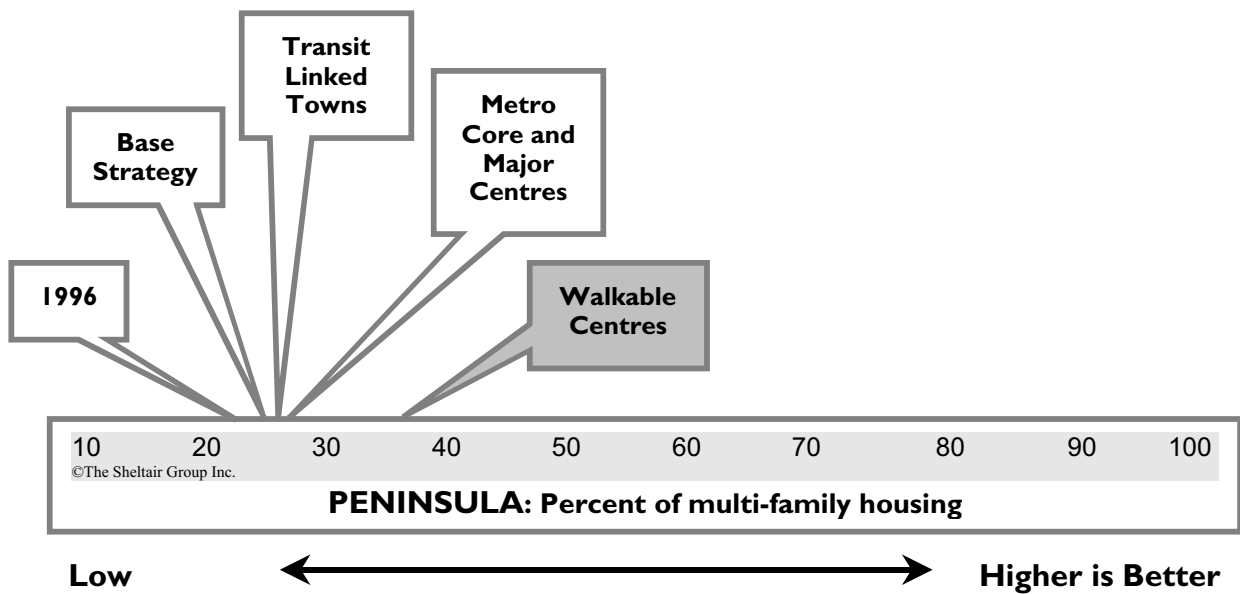
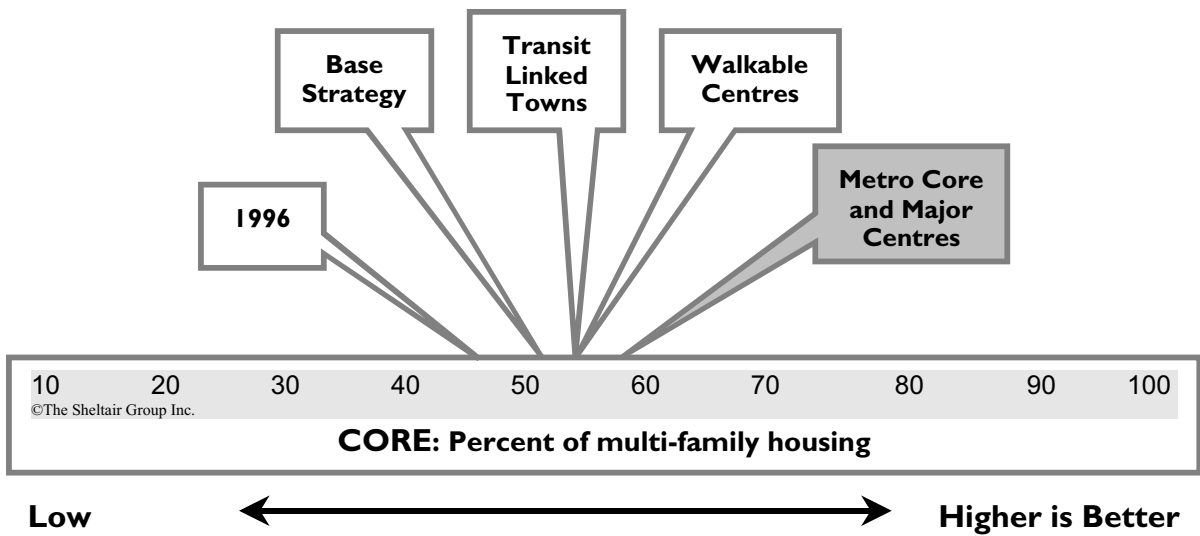
The amount of multi-family housing was selected as a “proxy” for accommodating social diversity. In the context of this regional analysis of four options, the higher the amount of multi-family housing, the greater the range of ages, household sizes, incomes and diverse lifestyles that can be accommodated.

On a regional basis, using the CRD’s housing type distributions for the four options, all options will have relatively more multi-family housing in the future. The Transit-Linked Towns will have the highest amount of multi-family housing. This is primarily because the corridor centres have been allocated relatively high proportions of townhouses and apartment-style housing.

At a sub-regional level, there will be a dramatic shift in housing type in the Western Communities, regardless of which option is pursued. In 1996, only 15% of homes were townhouses or apartments. Twenty-five years from now, if the Transit Linked Towns option were to be fully implemented, about 55% of all housing in the Western Communities would be in a multi-family form.

(Note: If an analysis were to be undertaken of individual neighbourhoods within the region, there would likely be a great deal of variation in the amount of multi-family. In some neighbourhoods there could be very limited social diversity; for example, in areas of primarily detached housing designed and built for families. Similarly, in areas where high density, high rise housing predominates, there may be few families with young children. At the extreme, some new neighbourhoods may be designed and marketed only to retirees.)





Enhanced Quality of Life

Criteria: Community health and stability is maintained and enhanced.

Descriptor 10b: Community social networks are developed and strengthened

Commentary:

Community social networks refer to the organized and informal groups residents of a community are a part of. Social networks range from social and recreational organizations such as Little League and Boy Scouts to school parent groups, or service clubs, political or religious organizations to informal coffee klatches or quilting groups. The small differences among the base strategy and the sub-regions suggest there would be no difference in the ability to develop and maintain community social networks under any of the options.

In urban areas, Walkable Centres where people live, work, shop and play promote social networking as long as those opportunities are available to all residents by also providing affordable housing choices, being accessible and providing sufficient economic opportunities.

Social networking, however, is not only related to proximity. Common interest and common need have forged strong social networks in rural and urban communities.

Monitoring measures could include:

- Number of residents enrolled in community education courses at publicly funded institutions and community centres, by age
- Number of residents enrolled in recreation programs at publicly funded facilities by age

Enhanced Quality of Life

Criteria 10: Community health and stability is maintained and enhanced.

Descriptor 10c: Diversity and differences are acknowledged and celebrated

Commentary:

There would not appear to be any differences amongst the options in the ability to acknowledge and celebrate diversity. A mix of housing types and tenures will allow for people of a range of ages and incomes to reside in the CRD. Affordable, accessible public transportation also allows for a greater population diversity (age, economic, disabled persons). Diversity and differences are often celebrated through the arts. Provision of support for the arts, therefore, indirectly supports diversity. This support is not dependent on a growth strategy option.

Indicators for monitoring purposes could include the following:

- % of special education students served in regular classrooms
- % of people with disabilities in labour force

Enhanced Quality of Life

Criteria 10: Community health and stability is maintained and enhanced.

Descriptor 10d: Education, health services and other community resources are provided by appropriate agencies

Measure: School space operating at or near capacity

Quantitative Indicator: School space that operates at or near capacity – **#39 on Figure 5**

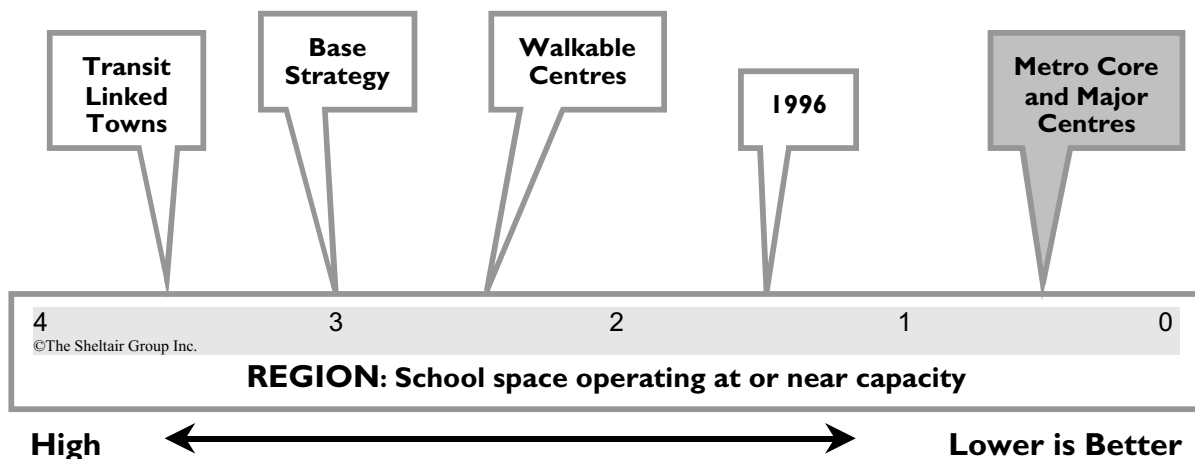
Meaning: Lower is better

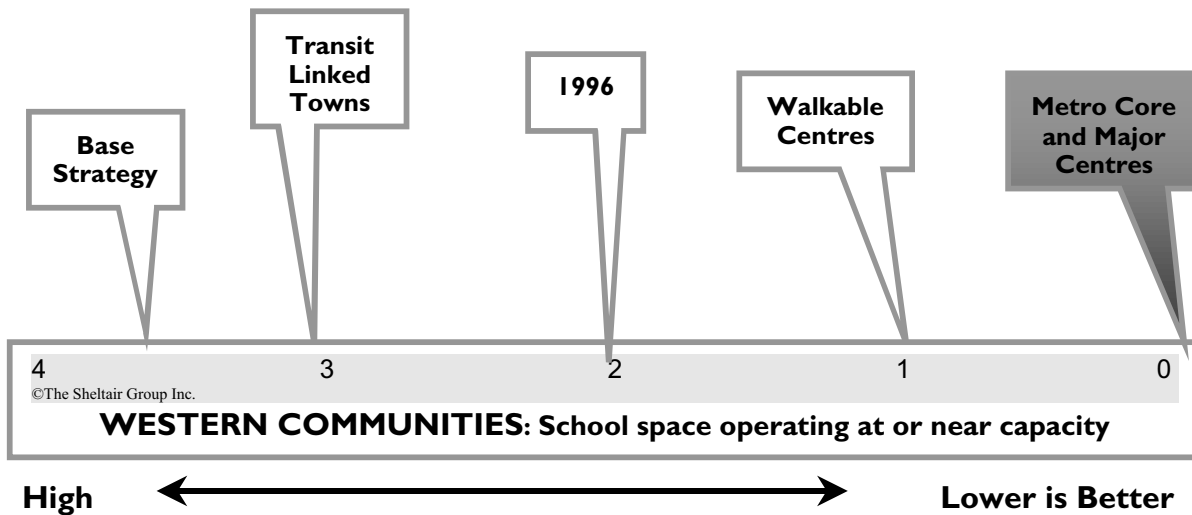
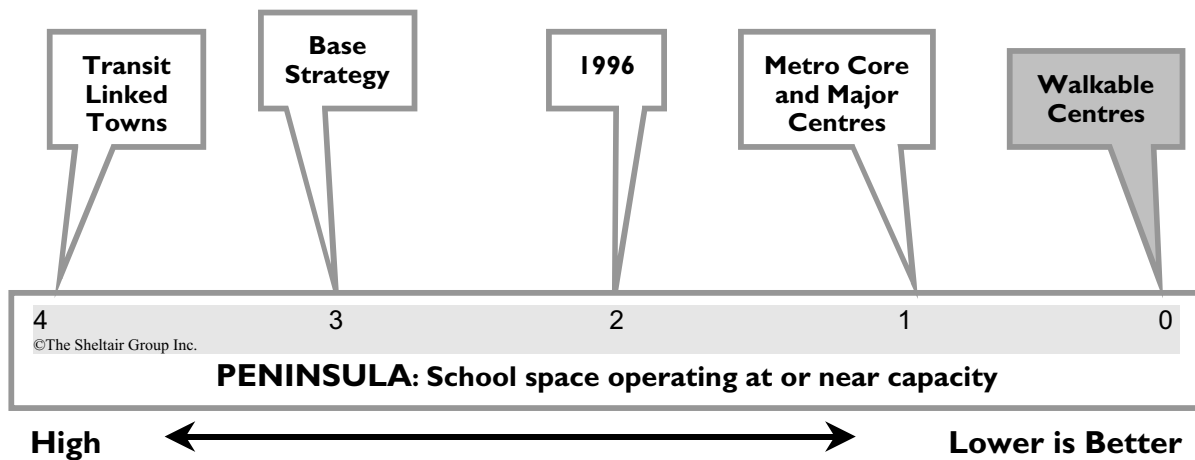
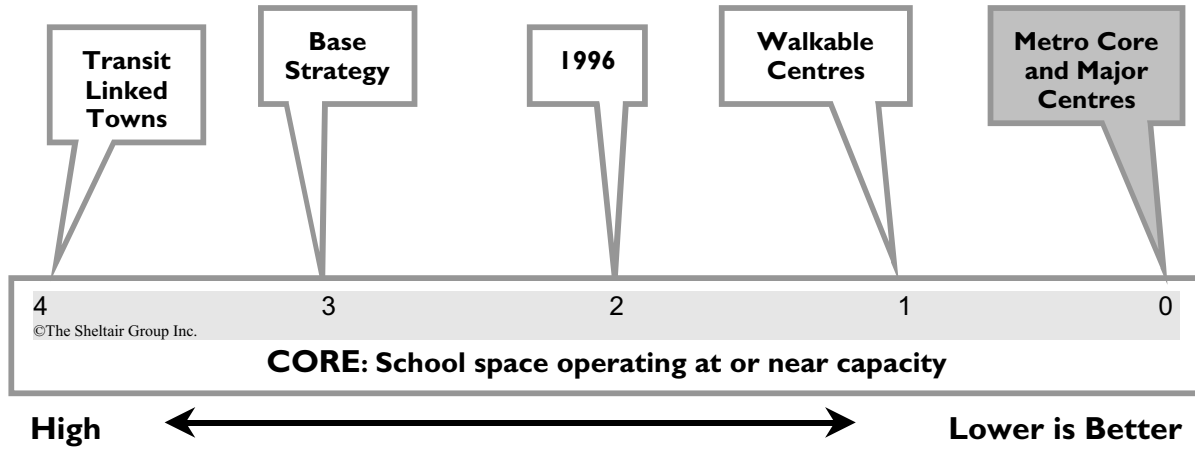
Commentary:

This indicator shows a value for optimum use of existing school space of 0. Relative values of up to 4 are given for each of the options. These numbers represent the relative number of schools under or over capacity in each of the options. Overall, the Metro Core and Major Centres option performs best because it will increase population in the existing urban areas, thus maximizing the use of existing school space. This option will also necessitate fewer new classroom spaces in the Western Communities.

The Core area is already experiencing declining enrolments in its elementary and secondary schools. The Peninsula is experiencing similar enrolment declines. School district officials note that schools in the northern and rural parts of the Peninsula could be better utilized by communities under the Walkable Centres option which would provide pockets of growth in areas likely close to existing school sites.

The Western Communities currently have a shortage of classroom space and this is projected through all of the options. Therefore, schools will need to be built under any of the options. The Transit Linked Towns option is preferred by school district officials because it provides the best opportunity to construct schools combined with other needed community amenities.





Enhanced Quality of Life

Criteria 10: Community health and stability is maintained and enhanced.

Descriptor 10e: Participation in the community is encouraged for all residents

Measure: Amount of participation

Indicator: Percent of registered voters who vote in municipal elections

Meaning: Higher is better, this indicator can be used for monitoring only

Commentary:

Voter turnout, participation in curbside recycling programs, and volunteerism are all measures of community participation. Although baseline data is available, these measures are not sensitive to differences in the base case and three options. These measures can be used for monitoring quality of life for the selected option.

Enhanced Quality of Life

Criteria 10: Community health and stability is maintained and enhanced.

Descriptor 10f: Personal and public safety is maintained or enhanced

Measure: Road injury accidents based on typical observed rates for auto, transit and bike travel throughout the region

Quantitative Indicator: Annual injury accident rate per 1000 population – **#40 on Figure 5**

Meaning: Lower is better

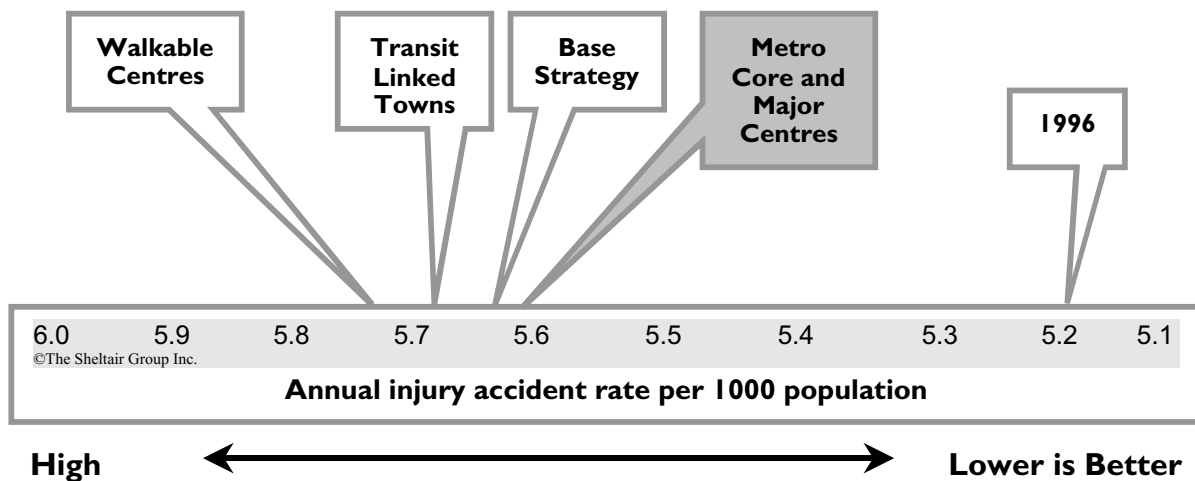
Commentary:

Road injury accident projections are based on actual observed rates over recent years for auto, transit and bike travel throughout the region – all sub-regions have very similar total rates per 1000 population in 2026 with the Metro Core and Major Centres Sub-region marginally in the lead – rates are generally higher than in 1996 due to a 5% increase in annual travel distance per capita.

Through the CRD, statistics on current annual accidents in the region were made available and examined. BC Transit provided information regarding accidents involving buses. Existing annual road injury accident totals were identified under general traffic, transit vehicle, and bicycle headings at 1996 levels. For future years, accident rates were assumed to remain constant in each category and the increases in annual injury accidents were calculated as follows:

- General traffic accidents directly proportional to total vehicle kilometres in the region
- Transit system accidents directly proportional to total transit passenger kilometres in the region
- Bicycle accidents directly proportional to total bicycle trips in the region

The resulting estimates of annual road injury accidents in the three categories were then summed to provide a future regional total. Division by the regional population gives an annual injury accident rate per 1000 population.



Enhanced Quality of Life

Criteria 11: Housing is available to meet the needs of residents.

Descriptor 11a: Adequate, affordable and appropriate housing is available for all residents, including the full range of household, life stage and lifestyle types and income levels.

Measure: Choice of housing types

Quantitative Indicator: Percent of multi-family housing – #1 on Figure 5

Meaning: Higher is better

Commentary:

The more choice in the housing market – new and resale, the more households that can find adequate, affordable and appropriate housing. The amount of multi-family housing is used here as a proxy for choice in the housing market.

Of the four options being considered, on a regional basis the Transit-Linked Towns option allows for the greatest choice in the housing market. Sub-regionally, the Metro and Major Centres option is a better choice for the Core Area and the Walkable Centres option for the Peninsula. The Western Communities would be best served by the Transit-Linked Towns option.

(Note: The best housing affordability measures involve an examination of the relationship between incomes by household type in relation to the price (or rent) of both new and resale housing. As neither income or housing prices can be reliably forecast, this measure cannot be used in this analysis. They would, however, be excellent indicators for use in the monitoring of housing affordability on a regional or sub-regional basis).

