

# What We Heard

## 76 Avenue Renewal

### Exploring Opportunities

February 2024

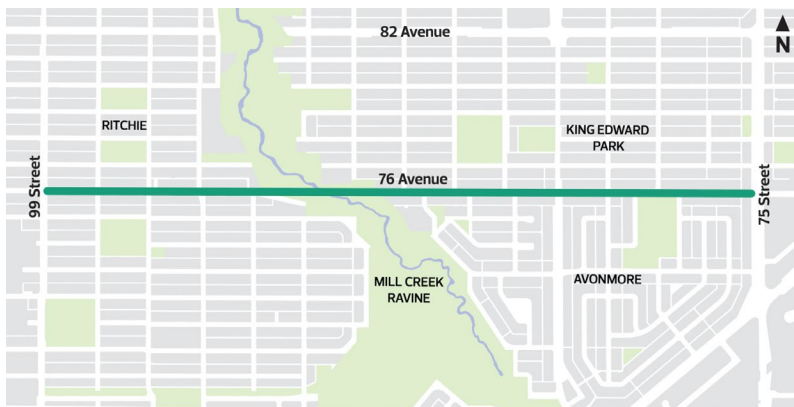
**REFINE**

**SHARE YOUR VOICE**  
**SHAPE OUR CITY**

**Edmonton**

# Project overview

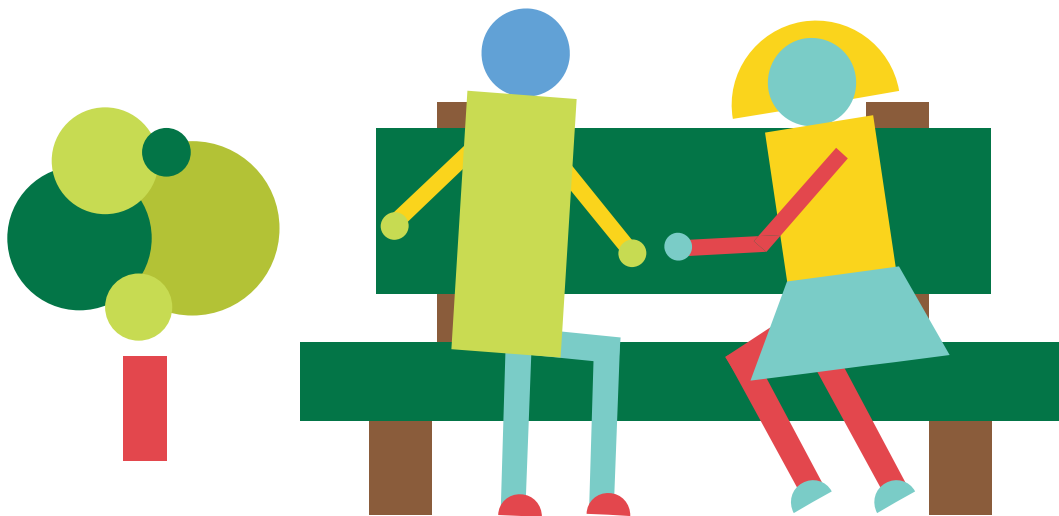
Planning and design for the renewal of 76 Avenue between 75 Street and 99 Street has begun. Through the project, opportunities to renew roads and sidewalks and improve street crossings, bike connections and gathering spaces are being explored.



76 Avenue Renewal Scope Map

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# Public Engagement Spectrum

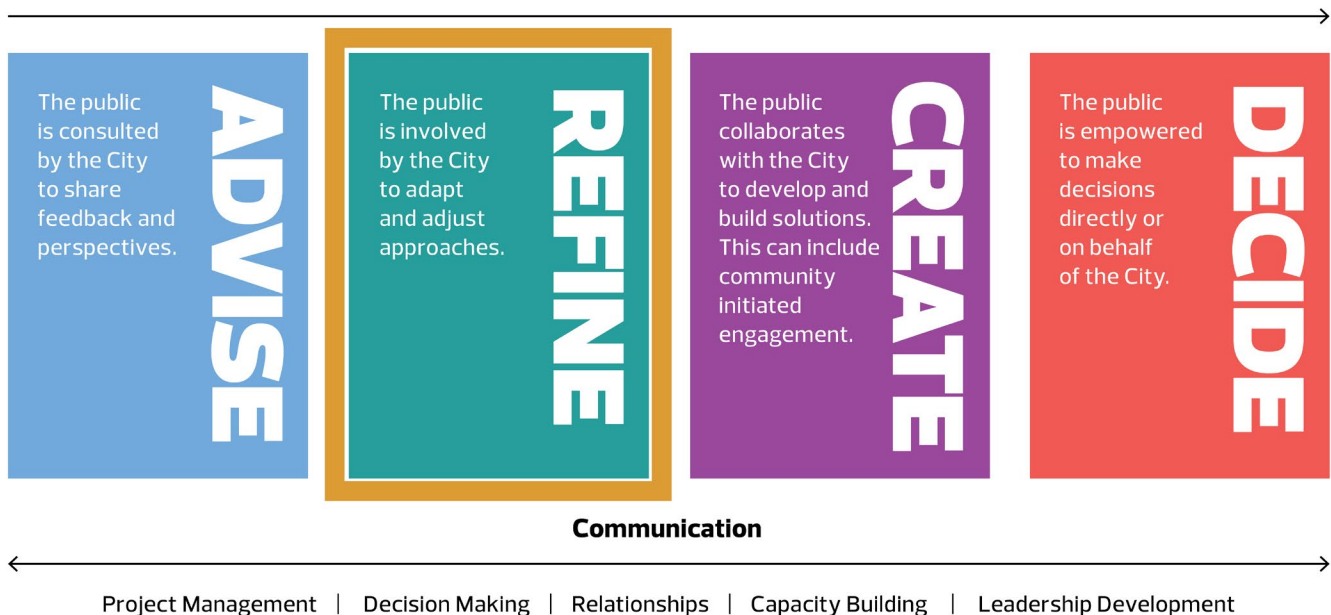
The City of Edmonton seeks input from residents to help guide the project. The City's Public Engagement Spectrum, below, shows the four levels of influence the public can have on decisions made by the City throughout the project.

In this stage, the public was invited to provide input that would help:

- + **REFINE** the Project Team's knowledge of neighbourhood assets, opportunities and priorities

We commit to telling you how public input influences decisions according to the Public Engagement Spectrum.

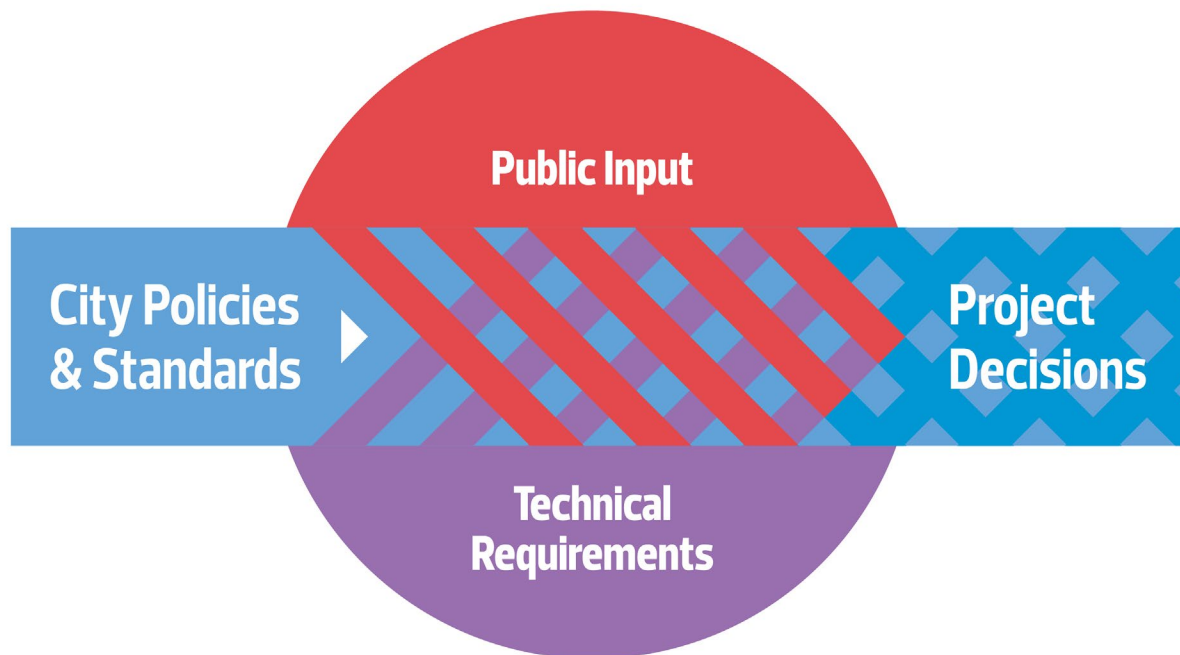
## Increasing influence of the public



# Decision Making Process

City policies and programs such as the Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards, Safe Mobility Strategy and Winter City Strategy provide the overall direction for Neighbourhood Renewal designs. As each neighbourhood is unique, the Project Team asks for input from residents who live, work and play in the neighbourhood and considers technical aspects such as roadway widths and conflicts with utilities and trees to determine what will fit in the neighbourhood.

This process helps to ensure the decisions we make are fiscally responsible, align with best practices, consider the existing public and private infrastructure, land uses and activities in the neighbourhood and result in the best outcomes for our city.



# What we asked and how we asked

The 76 Avenue Project Team organized the following activities for the public to provide input and to help **REFINE** the project team's understanding of the opportunities for 76 Avenue.

**A number of engagements were open to the public from February 13 – March 3, 2024.**



## Survey

- + An online survey was available to the public from February 13 to March 3, 2024. Respondents were asked to help us **REFINE** our understanding of how 76 Avenue is being used today and what opportunities the City should explore for the future.

**1,223 survey responses**



## In-person drop-in event

- + An in-person drop-in event occurred on February 22, 2024, at the Ritchie Community League Hall
- + The event included project information and asked:
  - + What are the community's favourite things about 76 Avenue
  - + What are the community's challenges regarding 76 Avenue
  - + What improvements could be made to 76 Avenue
  - + What the community's ideas are to improve driving, biking, walking and public gathering spaces on 76 Avenue
- + Participants were encouraged to ask questions and provide feedback through interactive posters and maps

**170 Participants**



## Communication tactics

- + The following communication tactics were used to raise awareness of the engagement opportunities.
  - + One **road sign**
  - + 60 **yard signs**
  - + 8,681 **letters** delivered
  - + 5,222 page views on the **project web page**
  - + Two **social media ads**, reaching 34,700 people

# What we heard

The following sections include a summary of what we heard at the in-person drop-in event and through interviews, comments and the online survey. The summary has been developed to reflect the relevancy, frequency and diversity of the responses received to the questions that were asked to participants.

## What are your favourite things about 76 Avenue?

Participant comments and feedback centered around the themes outlined below.

**Central connections:** Participants love 76 Avenue because of its central location, which connects to different parts of the city and its neighbourhoods.

**Walkability:** The area offers walkable access to various amenities, restaurants, and businesses, making it very convenient.

**Peaceful:** It's peaceful and not as busy as other areas.

**Room for growth:** The community is not as developed and commercialized as others, and has low density.

**Unique character:** The area has beautiful historic homes and a small town feel that sets itself apart from other places.

**Dynamic:** Participants valued the area's mixed uses and the constant development and redevelopment, which makes it an exciting place to live.

*"76 Avenue connects to major roadways that allows me to get into and out of my neighbourhood easily."*

*"One favourite aspect is the lively commercial hub between 100 Street and 95 Street, which serves as a vital center for the neighbourhood, offering a variety of shops, restaurants, and cafes within walking distance."*

## What challenges exist along 76 Avenue?

Participant comments and feedback about challenges along 76 Avenue centred around the themes outlined below.

**Driving safety:** Speeding and aggressive driving along with using the avenue as a shortcut makes 76 Avenue feel unsafe.

**Walking and rolling safety:** Narrow, missing or deteriorating sidewalks are barriers for people who walk or use mobility devices.

**Biking safety:** Lack of biking infrastructure makes biking feel unsafe.

**Infrastructure and services:** Vehicle congestion, road conditions and public transit options were shared as concerns impacting mobility in the community.

*“Need better traffic control on 76 Avenue and 96 Street intersection.”*

*“Inconsistent sidewalk quality and width near certain high traffic areas.”*

*“Very tight roads for both driving and cycling.”*

## What improvements could be made to 76 Avenue?

Participant comments and feedback about improvements to 76 Avenue centred around the themes outlined below.

**Connectivity:** Improve connections between 76 Avenue and surrounding neighbourhoods.

**Multi-modal transportation:** Improve infrastructure for people who bike, walk, and roll.

**Sidewalks:** Repair and widen sidewalks.

**Green access:** Improve access to outdoor green spaces, preserving access to Mill Creek Ravine for all users and keeping streets green and clean.

**Intersections:** Improve visibility and user comfort for people walking, biking, rolling, and driving.

**Inclusive design:** Improve accessibility of 76 Avenue for people of diverse abilities, families and children.

**Beautification:** Add elements to make 76 Avenue visually distinct and beautiful for visitors and residents.

**Build up business:** Renewal designs should encourage future commercial and residential growth of the neighbourhood.

Other themes heard included focusing improvements on residents who live along the street and having minimal impact.

*“Greenery and more seating near the commercial area. The benches are always filled in summer.”*

*“A separated bike lane well connected to Avonmore and Bonnie Doon LRT and to Mill Creek Ravine trails.”*

*“Improve the sidewalks around the Ritchie Market area to encourage a more vibrant atmosphere.”*



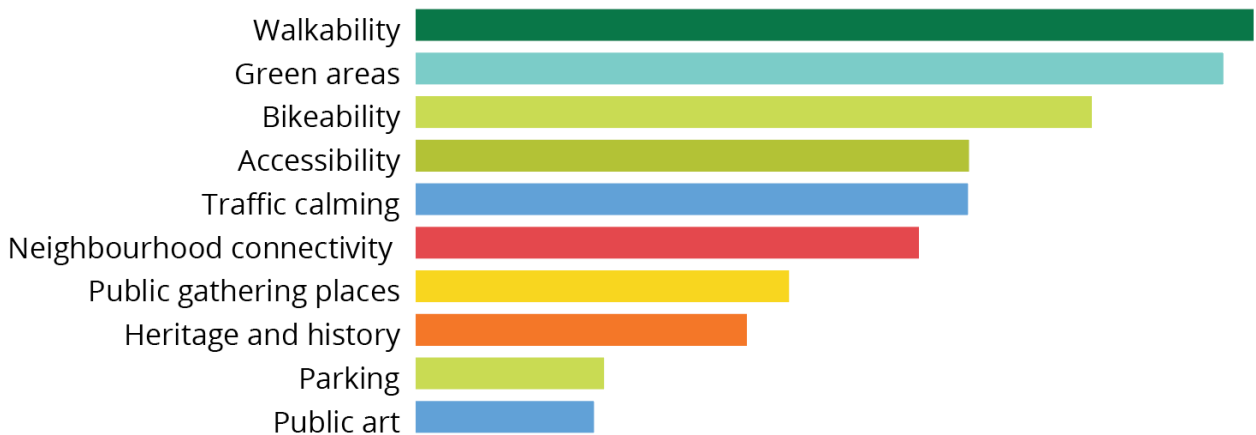
# What are the most important things for the City to consider?

The public was asked to identify priority elements from a list of common themes. They are listed below from most to least frequently raised by participants.

- + **Walkability** – safety, connections
- + **Green areas** – boulevards, landscaping, trees
- + **Bikeability** – safety, connections, bike parking
- + **Accessibility** to neighbourhood homes/businesses by all modes of travel (transit, drop-off and pick-up, driving, walking and biking)
- + **Traffic calming** – slowing traffic down, shortcutting
- + **Neighbourhood connectivity** (moving in and through the neighbourhood)
- + **Public gathering places**
- + **Heritage and history** of the neighbourhood
- + **Parking (vehicle)** in the neighbourhood
- + **Public art**

*“Make it a beautiful streetscape that flows into the ravine area.”*

*“Accessibility of all amenities and features for wheelchair users and people with reduced mobility.”*



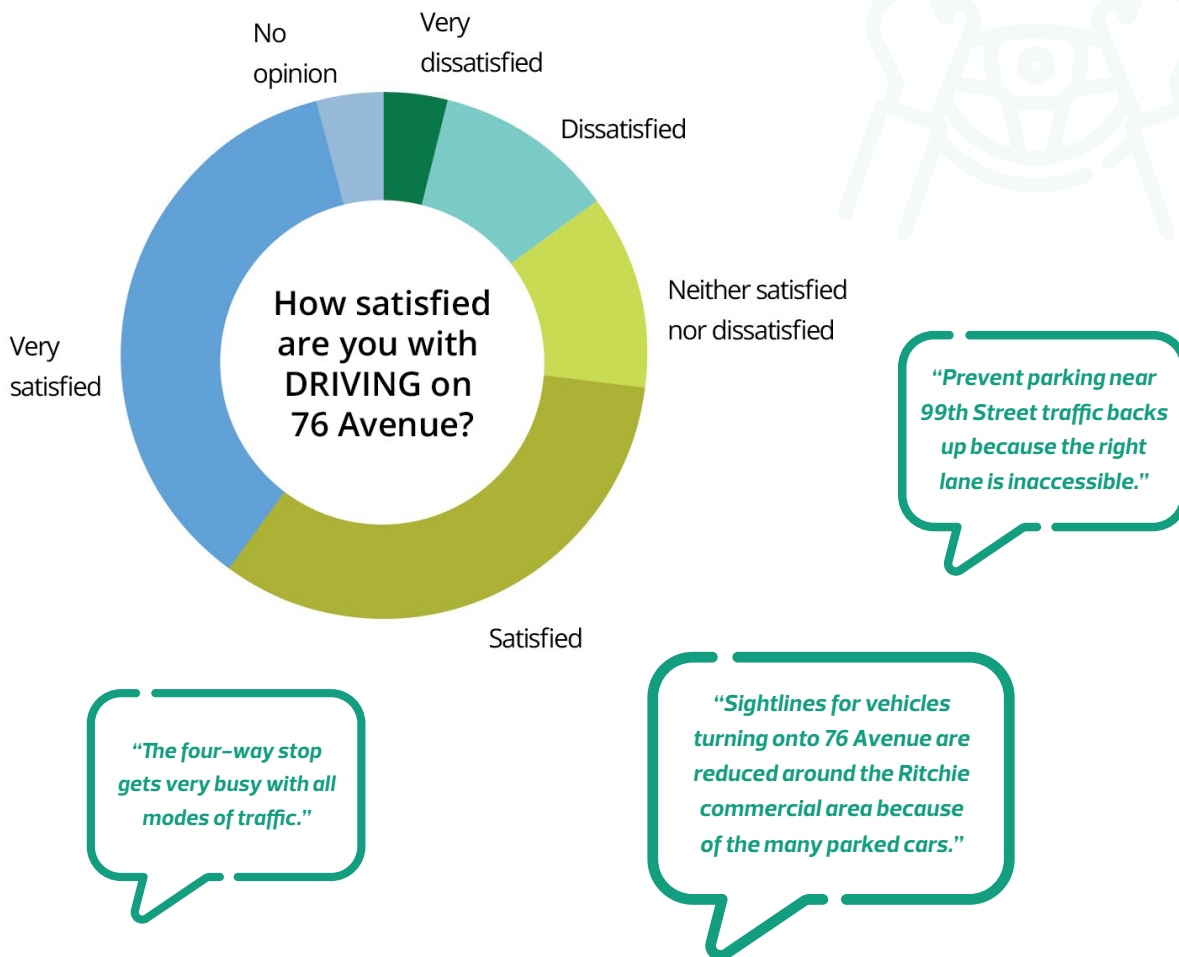
# Exploring Opportunities

Participants shared ideas and thoughts on various issues and opportunities which could be considered for the 76 Avenue Renewal project. The following section includes a summary of what we heard under the following four categories:



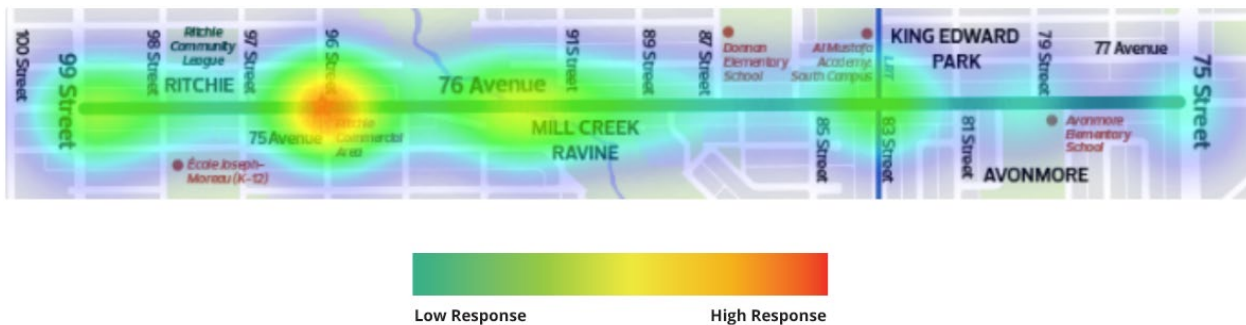
Driving	Biking	Walking and rolling	Public gathering places
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## Driving

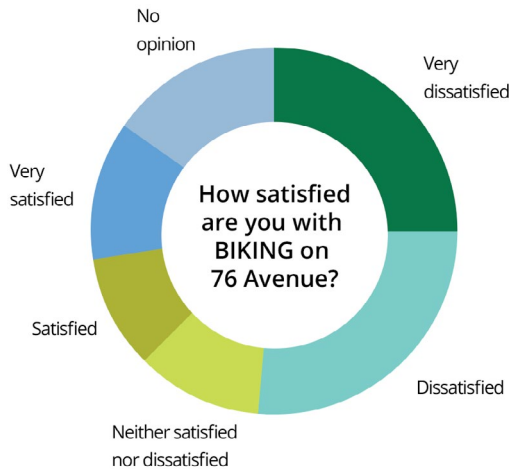


- + **Wider renewed roads:** Participants would like to see wider and newer roads, especially repairs to the asphalt by the ravine crossing
- + **Speeding:** There are concerns about speeding, especially by 99 Street, 96 Street and the ravine
- + **Congestion:** The four-way stop on 96 Street, school buses near schools, Ritchie Market walking activity and street parking close to 99 Street can lead to traffic congestion
- + **Traffic signals:** The timing and duration of traffic signals could be improved to allow for ease of traffic flow at 75 Street, 83 Street, and 109 Street
- + **Sightlines:** Participants indicated a need for improved sightlines and visibility especially on 89 Street, 96 Street (Ritchie Market) and 98 Street
- + **Traffic calming:** Participants suggested traffic calming measures to slow traffic such as curb extensions, traffic signals on 96 Street and speed monitors in the ravine
- + **Shortcutting:** Participants suggested measures to discourage people who drive from using 76 Avenue as a shortcut, especially on 85 Street and 82 Street

**Locations where you find challenges or would like to see improvements to DRIVING on 76 Avenue:**



## Biking



*“Very tough to access ravine, very unsafe to bike whole stretch. Tough to access LRT.”*

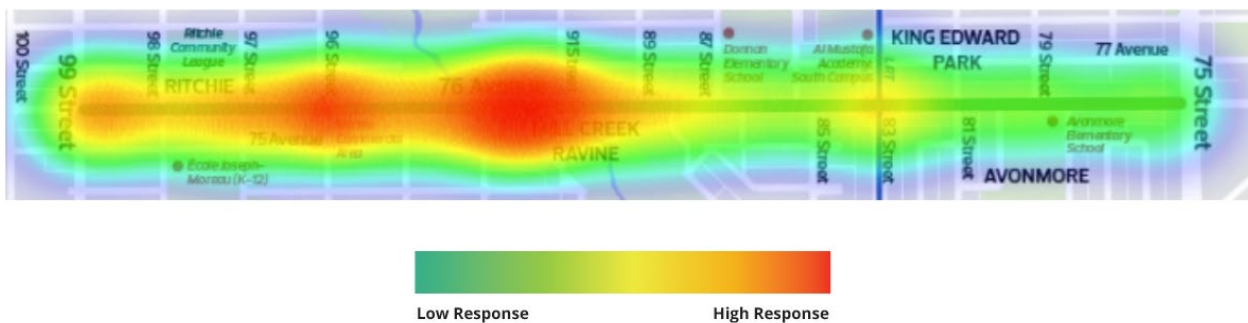
*“Adding separated bike lanes would increase bike usership and help narrow the road to encourage drivers to go slower.”*

*“Seeing as there are no bike lanes, cars are impatient with cyclists. I have been passed recklessly by angry drivers for cycling on 76 Avenue.”*

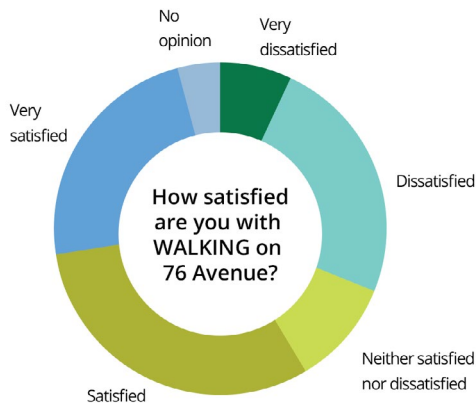


- + **Bike infrastructure:** Protected bike lanes with accessible bike parking is desired. People who bike may feel unsafe on the roads and with traffic. Separated bike lanes should have good visibility between people biking and people driving at intersections and crossings
- + **Bike network:** Enhanced connectivity to other biking networks would be beneficial
- + **Biking and vehicle parking:** Some participants were concerned that bike lanes would reduce parking and viewed this as undesirable. Conversely, other participants indicated street parking makes biking difficult
- + **Existing bike lanes:** Some participants feel like those who bike should use existing bike lanes instead of creating new ones
- + **Shared pathways:** Create shared pathways for those who walk and bike, ensuring there is enough space for both to safely use them

### Locations where you find challenges or would like to see improvements to BIKING on 76 Avenue:



## Walking

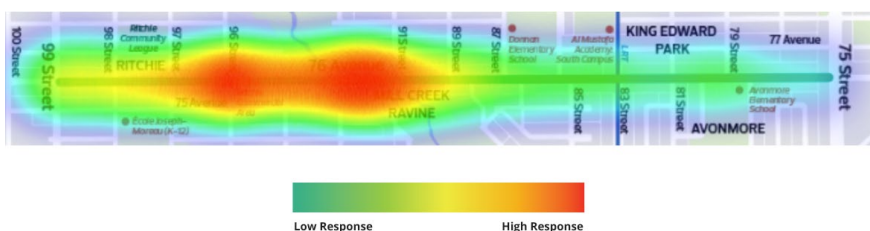


*"Sidewalk quality throughout this area is poor with some streets not having sidewalks on both sides. Crossing 76 Avenue is always a hazard and I rely on those intersections with flashing lights to get across."*

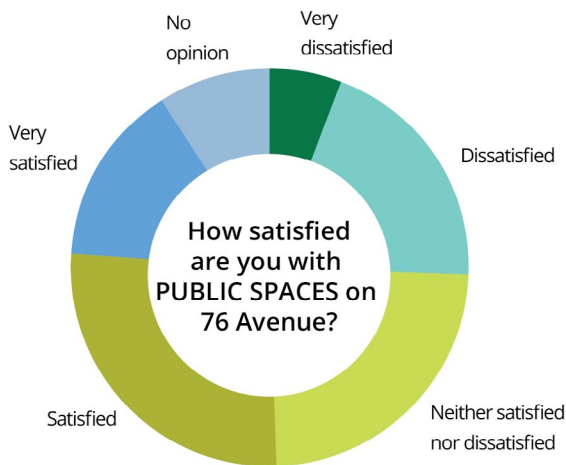
*"Parked vehicles close to intersections obscure the view of pedestrians crossing 76 Avenue."*

- + **Missing sidewalks:** Participants identified missing sidewalks on the southside of 76 Avenue through the Mill Creek Ravine and north of 76 Avenue along 97 Street
- + **Separate walking and biking:** Participants would like to see separation of those who walk and bike
- + **Nature:** Adding trees and greenery would enhance 76 Avenue
- + **Sidewalks:**
  - + Raised crosswalks with additional lighting to improve accessibility and visibility are desired, especially on 78 Street, 89 Street, 96 Street, 97 Street and 99 Street
  - + Widen sidewalks throughout 76 Avenue
  - + Participants would like improvements to crosswalk lights at multiple intersections including those at 83 Street and 99 Street
  - + Add boulevards between sidewalks and the road to improve comfort for people who walk
- + **Safety:**
  - + Lower speed limits
  - + Reduce street parking to aid in visibility for those who walk

## Locations where you find challenges or would like to see improvements to WALKING on 76 Avenue:



## Public gathering places



*“Public gardens and flowers on boulevard. Trees and benches, places to land.”*

*“Too much space dedicated to cars, not enough gathering space or access to shops for folks with limited physical mobility.”*

*“Benches should be available at regular intervals along 76 Avenue. Other than a small area at 76 Avenue and 96 Street, there are no public gathering spaces.”*

### + Physical amenities:

- + Add outdoor amenities like lighting and waste bins
- + Add seating areas on 76 Avenue
- + Add outdoor tables on 76 Avenue

+ **Support businesses:** Participants would like to see infrastructure that advances the hospitality sector, with better accessibility to the business area

+ **Gathering spaces:** Participants feel there are enough gathering spaces and lack of areas to place more

### Locations where you find challenges or would like to see improvements to PUBLIC SPACES on 76 Avenue:



# Next steps

Thank you to all who shared their input during the **Exploring Opportunities** stage of engagement. Next steps will be determined using City policies and standards while considering existing conditions, technical requirements and public engagement input. For more information regarding the 76 Avenue Renewal, upcoming public engagement activities and to subscribe for project updates, please visit [edmonton.ca/76Avenue](https://edmonton.ca/76Avenue).

## Working together to make the most out of your neighbourhood.

This is your city and your neighbourhood. We want to understand how you experience 76 Avenue and ask for your input on what we might do to make it better. We commit to being open and transparent about how your input is used. Let's make the most out of 76 Avenue.

