

What We Heard Report: Kilkenny Alley Renewal

Engagement:
May 2022 to November 2022

ADVISE DECIDE REFINE

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Edmonton



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Table of Contents

- 3..... Project overview
- 4..... Public Engagement Spectrum
- 4..... Decision making process
- 5..... What we asked and how we asked
- 7..... What we heard
- 8..... Next steps



Project overview

The Alley Renewal program is a cost effective, long-term strategic approach to renew and rebuild alleys. This program was approved by City Council in 2018 and is focused on improving alleys across the City over the next 25 years.

The Alley Renewal program is funded by an increase to the Neighbourhood Renewal Tax Levy. This levy includes a city-wide contribution and not just a contribution from property owners with back alleys. There is no additional cost to property owners at the time of Alley Renewal.

Kilkenny has been identified for Alley Renewal, with construction anticipated to start in 2023, taking two years to complete. Construction phasing will be determined based on contractor resources, impacts to residents and coordination with other project work, including utilities.

Alley Renewal includes:

- + Reconstructing alleys with a hard surface
- + Improving surface drainage, where possible
- + Upgrading any existing alley lighting with LED bulbs
- + Pruning trees/shrubs as necessary ahead of construction
- + Exploring minor enhancements to improve walking, biking and traffic safety

The addition of new alley lighting is a property owner initiated and funded Local Improvement. Information to initiate the Expression of Interest process to have lighting installed in an alley is provided online at edmonton.ca/LocalImprovements.

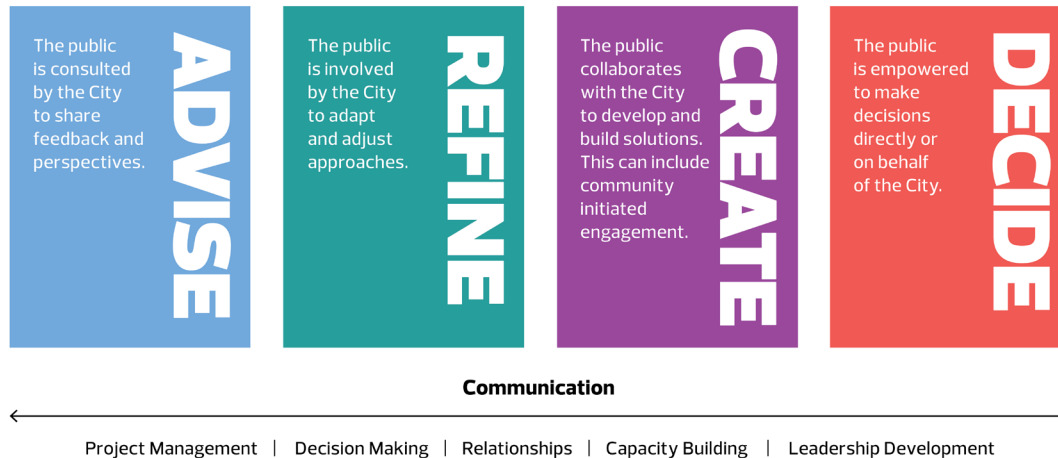
Alley Renewal Public Engagement



Public Engagement Spectrum

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

Increasing influence of the public →

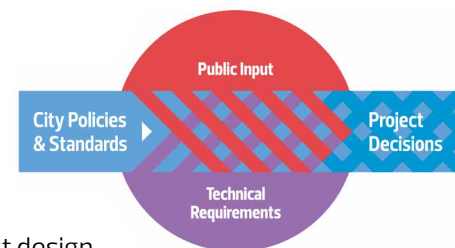


During Alley Renewal, we seek input from property owners and residents as follows:

- + **ADVISE** – Share their perspectives on how the alley is used by residents, how it functions, the issues, opportunities to improve the user experience
- + **REFINE** – Review the alley design and provide feedback and additional considerations
- + **DECIDE** – Invited to choose to add lights to their alley, through the Local Improvement Program (when applicable)

Decision making process

The City makes decisions using a combination of policy and program information, public engagement comments, technical requirements and available funding. This process helps to ensure that the decisions we make are fiscally responsible, align with best design practices, consider the existing public and private infrastructure, land uses and activities in the neighbourhood and result in the best outcomes for our city.



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

What we asked and how we asked

The engagement process informed property owners and residents about the Alley Renewal program and gathered input to inform the alley designs and construction plan. Opportunities for input were provided during the two project phases: Public Engagement and Data Analysis and Decision Making and Reporting Back.

Public Engagement and Data Analysis – May 2 – May 23, 2022

Purpose:

- + Gather local knowledge on concerns and suggestions for improvements
- + Gather local knowledge on private property impacts (for construction mitigation strategies)
- + Inform about the Local Improvement opportunity and process for property owners to decide about adding lights to their alley

Engagement opportunities



FEEDBACK FORM

- + An online feedback form was available to the public from May 2 to 23, 2022 asking respondents to **ADVISE** on how their alley functions and is used, specific issues and concerns about the alley, and potential impacts of Alley Renewal construction on their property. There were 28 respondents



CONVERSATIONS WITH RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

- + Emails and phone calls were received from property owners and responded to by Project Team members



PROJECT WEBPAGE

- + 15 people signed up for project update emails at edmonton.ca/KilkennyAlleyRenewal
- + There were 191 views of the project webpage to view documents and read multiple project pages



COMMUNICATION TACTICS

To inform about Alley Renewal, the engagement opportunity and the alley lighting Local Improvement opportunity, the following tactics were used:



- + An information letter was mailed to property owners and residents
- + Project email updates were sent to subscribers



- + An information booklet and the survey link were shared on the project webpage
- + An email was sent to the Kilkenny Community League, which also offered the opportunity to meet, if desired

Decision Making and Reporting Back – November 2 – 18, 2022

Purpose:

- + Share information about Alley Renewal and project timing
- + Share the draft alley design including new sidewalk connections and gather feedback
- + Gather local knowledge about private property impacts (for construction mitigation strategies)

Engagement opportunities



SURVEY

- + An online survey was available to Kilkenny property owners and residents from November 2 to 18, 2022.



CONVERSATIONS WITH RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

- + One-on-one emails and phone calls from property owners were received and responded to by Project Team members.



PROJECT WEBPAGE

- + 28 people signed up for project update emails at edmonton.ca/KilkennyAlleyRenewal
- + There were 328 views of the project webpage to view documents and read project pages



COMMUNICATION TACTICS

To inform about Alley Renewal, the engagement opportunity and the alley lighting Local Improvement opportunity, the following tactics were used:



- + Project email updates were sent to subscribers

- + 20 lawn signs were located in the Kilkenny neighbourhood directing people to the website for project information and the survey link



- + An information flyer was hand delivered to the homes in Kilkenny

- + An information booklet and the survey link were shared on the project webpage

What We Heard – Concept and Design Phases

Edmontonians who participated in the engagement told us they mainly use their alley to drive and access their garage, parking pads or backyards. Respondents also mentioned using their alley for walking and rolling (strollers, wheelchairs and walkers) and to connect to nearby streets or alleys.

Generally, respondents welcome the project and are looking forward to having their alleys renewed as they have concerns with their current alley conditions. Also noted were concerns about possible impacts to their properties and accessibility during construction.

Common themes among the feedback collected include:

- + Concern about drainage and water pooling
- + Rutting and potholes in the existing pavement are problematic
- + The impact of heavy trucks on the pavement

When asked if there anything the City should consider when installing the proposed sidewalk connections near 82 Street and 149A Avenue, 82 Street and 144 Avenue and on 66 Street north of 149 Avenue, a few comments were received generally noting concerns about the need for lighting for those that walk, as well as ensuring that these new connections link to other sidewalk connections.

A closure of the alley just west of 66 Street and north of 149 Avenue was explored to minimize conflict between those who drive and those who walk and bike. Only a few comments were received on this noting both support and a lack of support for this proposal. The need for lighting was noted.

Next steps

The project team will consider comments received as the project moves forward with Alley Renewal design. The final design and construction information will be shared with the public in spring 2023.

Alley Renewal construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2023.

Stay informed

Visit edmonton.ca/KilkennyAlleyRenewal for more project information.

edmonton.ca/KilkennyAlleyRenewal

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