

105 Avenue Plaza (Columbia Avenue)

Fact Sheet

Edmonton

About the Project

The City of Edmonton is improving 105 Avenue (Columbia Avenue) between 97 Street and 116 Street. The intent of this project is to help revitalize the appearance and function of the street for pedestrians, cyclists, and community members. This will support the creation of a sustainable, vibrant, and well-designed neighbourhood that is accessible by a variety of transportation types and users.

A plaza between 112 and 113 Streets was proposed in the 2006 and 2013 preliminary designs but did not receive any further design development during the 2018 preliminary design update. The intent was to have stakeholder engagement specifically on the plaza once the preliminary design for the roadway was endorsed by City Council's Urban Planning Committee. This occurred in late 2018, along with the Council's budget approval for the next phase of construction from 109 Street to 116 Street. This phase will also include the plaza construction from 112 Street to 113 Street.

Plaza Stakeholder Engagement

The intent of the stakeholder engagement was to:

- Identify the vision for the plaza
- Determine the potential programs or activities – both passive (seating) and active (events) - that the stakeholders would like to see occur in the plaza
- Determine what is required to make those activities a success
- Prioritize the activities and the amenities required to facilitate the program

The following vision for the plaza was developed from the feedback:

Vision: *The plaza will be a **flexible space** and will safely accommodate a wide range of activities and programs for the immediate and long term use. It must be recognized that the activities and programming considered today may not be the same in the future.*

The stakeholders identified the following priorities that they felt the plaza should include:

- Active/gathering/display areas (open space)
- Passive/quiet/reflective areas (intimate space)
- Moveable features, such as furniture to accommodate various activities - flexibility and multipurpose elements are key
- An identifiable anchor to provide a sense of place, such as, but not limited to, a piece of art or a structure
- Relief from various weather conditions (rain, snow, sun, wind)
- Soft and hard landscape (planting and paving)
- Opportunities for private sponsorship (e.g. art, structures)
- Infrastructure to support a variety of activities (water, power, gas)
- Ease of maintenance and longevity of materials

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A variety of activities and programming were also proposed for the plaza. The project design team was tasked with developing a plan for the plaza that incorporated a high degree of flexibility and opportunity for a variety of users and uses. An efficient route through the plaza for cyclists and pedestrians was also required.

Access to the residential development to the south was also required. Emergency services determined access through the plaza would not be required.

The Plaza Design

The draft plaza design provides a mix of spaces for passive (e.g. seating) and active (e.g. events) use. Low feature walls separate and define spaces, and provide opportunities for sitting.

The east side of the plaza includes the vehicle access to the Park Avenue Development, as well as shared use space for cyclists to enter and leave the plaza. A four-way stop and roll face curb entrance from 112 Street will slow down motorists and cyclists. Planting and feature walls separate pedestrians from the shared use cycling and motorist space.

A shared-use path for pedestrians and cyclists is planned for the west side of the plaza. Different paving patterns help to guide a defined path through the plaza for both cyclists and pedestrians. Pedestrian area on the north and south side of the plaza connect to the streetscape sidewalks, providing a continuous link for pedestrians to enter or pass through the plaza. All paved areas in the plaza, including space for both cyclists and pedestrians, will have an even grade, making it more accessible for everyone.

The concrete paved areas can be used as a gathering area for programmed events or a quiet area for rest and relaxation. A centrally located art/play area can be a visual attraction to the plaza as well as an opportunity for play. A variety of gathering areas are also planned within the plaza, including picnic tables, benches, a grass area and the feature walls.

Some areas will have trees and shrubs for shade and visual enjoyment. Trees will also help buffer wind and provide some protection from rain. A grassed area is also included in the plaza for play or events.

The City team will work with the Edmonton Arts Council to integrate art into the plaza. A place for art has been identified in a central location to embrace and incorporate the arts in the design of the plaza.

Opportunities for feedback on the plaza design will be provided at the June 13, 2019 public meeting and through an online survey. Please complete the survey by June 28 at edmonton.ca/105AvenueStreetscape.

For more information, go to: edmonton.ca/105AvenueStreetscape