

Reporting Back

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We welcome your input on how we maintain, grow and build Edmonton.

We believe engagement leads to better decision-making.

We are committed to reaching out to our diverse communities in thoughtful and meaningful ways.

We want to understand your perspectives and build trusting relationships with you.

We will show you how you help influence City decisions.

Share your voice with us and shape our city.

105 Avenue (Columbia Avenue) Streetscape and Preliminary Design - Plaza Update

Project/Initiative Background	
Name	105 Avenue (Columbia Avenue) Streetscape Preliminary Design - Plaza Update
Date	June 13, 2019
Location	Elder Jerry Wood Atrium, Allard Hall, MacEwan University
Contact information	Linda Billey, P. Eng. Project Manager linda.billey@edmonton.ca
Level of public engagement	INFORM: Streetscape approved for funding – 109 Street to 116 Street ADVISE: 112 – 113 Street Plaza
Description	<p>The 2006 and 2013 streetscape preliminary designs for 105 Avenue, from 97 Street to 116 Street, provided a vision for a green, pedestrian oriented street (complete street) and was updated to include separated (protected) bike lanes within the road right of way (ROW). Drainage will also be updated in some areas along the ROW. Along with this information, options to accommodate a smooth bike lane transition from the completed Phase 1, between 116 and 119 Streets, were introduced at the public meeting on February 13, 2018.</p> <p>Uni-directional bike lanes on each side of 105 Avenue, moving with the flow of traffic were preferred by the public. This option was presented to the public on October 30, 2018, along with some intermittent parking, sidewalks and boulevard treatments for comment. The preliminary plan was revised to incorporate comments, where possible.</p> <p>Funding was approved for the streetscape between 109 and 116 Streets in late 2018. The</p>



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	<p>plaza between 112 and 113 Streets was endorsed by Council. Stakeholder engagement on the plaza was held on February 23, 2019 to determine the vision and values for its development. From this information, a preliminary plan for the plaza was developed.</p> <p>This third public meeting was held to confirm the vision and values developed during the stakeholder meeting and receive input on the plaza preliminary design prior to final revisions and starting construction drawings. Information on the funded portion of 105 Avenue, between 109 and 116 Streets, was also provided.</p>
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WHAT WAS DONE

A public meeting, at the ADVISE level of the City of Edmonton public engagement spectrum for the plaza between 112 and 113 Streets and at the INFORM level for portion of the road funded for the next stage of construction (109 to 116 Street), was held at Elder Jerry Wood Atrium, Allard Hall, MacEwan University. The event took place from 4:00 to 8:00 PM and had approximately 56 attendees. Display boards, project area maps, and staff were all part of the information sharing. Questions were encouraged and answered.

The key consultation questions were derived based upon the vision and priorities for the plaza that were identified by stakeholders in a stakeholder meeting held on February 23, 2019. The respondents identified if they agreed or not and/or if they wished to make any changes to the vision and priorities. Comments on the plan were also requested of engagement attendees and on-line survey participants.

Feedback on the plaza was collected from the public through a comment form that was available at the event, and online for two weeks afterwards. Comments provided on the display boards and maps at the event were also collected. The project team received 79 comment forms: two at the public meeting, and 77 online. The public meeting was promoted through non-addressed postcards distributed throughout the project area, posters distributed to interested businesses in the area, emailed invitations to identified stakeholders, and through community leagues and business associations. Road signs advertised the event. The road sign message was revised after the event to remind the public about the online comment form.

SUMMARY

The main themes of feedback on the project were:

Plaza Vision: The vision was largely supported. A few suggestions were made for consideration by the project

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team, including but not limited to: all season use, environmental sustainability, and safety.

Plaza Priorities: The priorities were largely supported. A few suggestions were made for consideration by the project team, including but not limited to: more soft landscape (grass and plants), moveable furniture is not preferred and safety is important.

Plaza Plan: A number of considerations were provided regarding the design, including but not limited to: resolution of potential conflicts with users in the plaza (bikes, pedestrians and vehicles), more green space, providing more/varied play equipment, and confirmation of lighting levels and safety within the plaza.

Other: Many comments were directed towards the project intent and items that have been determined including: traffic flow, parking, use of the road and taxpayer dollars. Turning movement/traffic signal comments regarding the 109 Street intersection were also provided.

All public feedback will be considered by the project team, as the project moves forward.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

The following summarizes the comment form results. All comments for open ended questions are **summarized**:

Q1a. The following draft vision was developed from the stakeholder 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. Do you agree with this vision for the plaza? (79 responses)

63% indicated that they agreed with this vision for the plaza. (50 responses)

23% indicated that they did not agree with this vision for the plaza. (18 responses)

14% indicated they were not sure about this vision for the plaza. (11 responses)

Q1b. Is there anything you would like to add? (39 respondents provided comments, 40 had no comment)

Comments received that could supplement/revise the vision statement include:

- All season/all weather design
- Safety - a safe site that does not support inappropriate behaviour and provides safe connections for bikes and pedestrians through the plaza
- Environmentally sustainable/eco-friendly

Comments providing support and non-support for each of the topics listed below were also received:

- Traffic flows - including addition/removal of streets, impacts to traffic flow, vehicle access to area



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- Users conflicts - cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles
- Maintenance - more/better maintenance required, concerns about maintaining streetscape
- Need/desire for the plaza
- Proposed materials and amenities - including fountains, more grass/trees, restrooms
- Decision making process, budgets and use of taxpayers dollars

Q2a. The following priorities were developed during the stakeholder meeting. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following Plaza Priorities? (79 responses)

Plaza Priorities	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Active / gathering / display areas (open space)	27	35	4	2	10	1
	34%	44%	5%	3%	13%	1%
Passive / quiet / reflective areas (intimate space)	23	26	11	9	9	1
	29%	33%	14%	11%	11%	1%
Moveable features, such as furniture, to accommodate various activities	17	22	13	12	14	1
	22%	28%	16%	15%	18%	1%
An identifiable anchor to provide a sense of place, such as, but not limited to, a piece of art or a structure	31	15	16	4	11	2
	39%	19%	20%	5%	14%	3%
Relief from various weather conditions (rain, snow, sun, wind)	36	19	6	9	8	1
	46%	24%	8%	11%	10%	1%
Soft and hard landscape (planting and paving)	33	21	11	3	8	3
	42%	27%	14%	4%	10%	4%



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Opportunities for private sponsorship (e.g. art, structures)	10	23	18	14	12	2
	13%	29%	23%	18%	15%	3%
Infrastructure to support a variety of activities (water, power, gas)	24	20	14	9	9	3
	30%	25%	18%	11%	11%	4%
Ease of maintenance and longevity of materials	45	13	8	5	6	2
	57%	16%	10%	6%	8%	3%

Q2b. Is there anything you would like to add? (32 respondents provided comments, 47 had no comment)

Comments received that could supplement/revise the priorities include:

- Security and safety - inappropriate behaviour onsite
- All season/all weather use
- Maintenance - more/better maintenance required, concerns about maintaining streetscape and cost
- Soft landscape (grass and plants - naturalized in some comments) over hard landscape (concrete, paving, etc.)
- Moveable furniture may not be appropriate

Comments providing support and non-support for each of the topics listed below were also received:

- User need for sports fields
- Keep street as-is
- Multi-modal traffic flows
- Need/desire for the plaza
- Proposed materials and amenities - including fountains, more grass/trees, restrooms
- Decision making process, budgets and use of taxpayers dollars

Q3. Is there anything on the plan you would like to revise? (30 responses)

Comments are grouped by theme. Some responses contained more than one idea and may have been broken out to fit into a theme or repeated to provide information on more than one theme.

Plaza Design

Overall the plaza design was considered acceptable with the following considerations requested:

- Provide water fountain/bottle filling station
- Provide more play area/variety of structures
- Provide more seating with locations in sun and shade

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- Provide more trees/grass
- Design for all levels of accessibility
- Provide art installations with a use (fire pit, lighting, fountain)
- Design for less interaction between vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians (in particular at the east end of the plaza)
- Provide restrooms

Traffic Flow/Conflicts and Parking

- Support for and against the plaza location and resulting traffic flow
- Support for and against on-street parking

Cycling

- Support for and against uni-directional bike lanes
- Support for more bike parking

Safety

- The City needs to plan for safety and security of their intended park-goers. This is an area of the City that has historically not been considered safe to walk or park near. Inappropriate behaviour occurs in this area.

Miscellaneous

- Spend money on infrastructure not aesthetics

Comments on Display Boards

Location specific comments are identified. Comments are not summarized as each comment will be considered with regard to location.

Board: 112 to 113 Street Plaza

- Need power for special events
- Are the pole lights going to provide enough light?
- Additional bike parking by the tables would be nice (2)
- Would love to see food planted in the plaza – native fruit trees and shrubs
- Are pets allowed? Watering station?
- Something interactive for kids and families (referring to play area)
- Play infrastructure should be taken into account, different ages and abilities of children, if the goal is to build a family-oriented space (different sizes/heights/types of structure)
- Concrete vs naturalization – is there a more sustainable option than concrete?
- Is it possible to have a restroom or water fountains so people are encouraged to stay in the park?
- Need good lighting and signage because cars, pedestrians, bikes interact here (referring to access)

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- into Westrich site)
- Something from a sensory perspective: quiet; peaceful; tactile; calming; water feature; visual; places to settle down; programming for people who need this type of space
- What is this property? The city should acquire this land to create a large public/green space (2) (referring to land immediately north of plaza)

Comments on Display Maps

Comments are usually location specific and are not summarized as each comment will be considered with regard to location.

- Can you keep bike trail open during summer during construction? (adjacent to plaza)
- More placemaking for Columbia Avenue along the site (north of 105 Avenue between 111 and 110 Streets)
- Need to lower storm line by 0.5m from preliminary design (parking lot on south side of 105 Avenue west of 110 Street)
- Right turn bay include MacEwan land (at 105 Avenue and 109 Street intersection)
- Need left turn signal from 109 Street NB to 105 Avenue WB (at 105 Avenue and 109 Street intersection)
- So happy the plaza continues to be part of the plan. Love the idea! (adjacent to plaza)

WHAT'S NEXT

All feedback will be considered by the project team as the project moves forward with the refinement of the preliminary design for the plaza. The final design will be posted to the project webpage.

www.edmonton.ca/105avenuestreetscape

Construction for 105 Avenue, between 109 to 116 Street, is anticipated to commence in 2020 with the installation of underground utilities, with streetscape construction starting in 2021.

Thank you for participating in sharing your voice and shaping our city.

For more information on City of Edmonton public engagement, please visit www.edmonton.ca/publicengagement.