

# What We Heard Report: Calder Neighbourhood Renewal

Exploring Opportunities  
September 2019

SHARE YOUR VOICE  
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

REFINE

# Project background

Through the Building Great Neighbourhoods and Open Spaces Branch, the Neighbourhood Renewal Program rehabilitates residential roads, replaces street lights, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, and adds missing sidewalk links in your neighbourhood where possible. Opportunities to improve parks and public spaces are also explored. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2021.



*Calder neighbourhood scope map*

# Where we are in the decision-making process

The Neighbourhood Renewal program follows the roadmap below, and this report focuses on public input that was heard during the "Exploring Opportunities" phase. At each step, the project team will share with you how your input will inform the decisions being made.



## LEGEND

- Public Engagement and Communications Opportunities
- Concept Phase
- Design Phase
- Build Phase
- Operate Phase

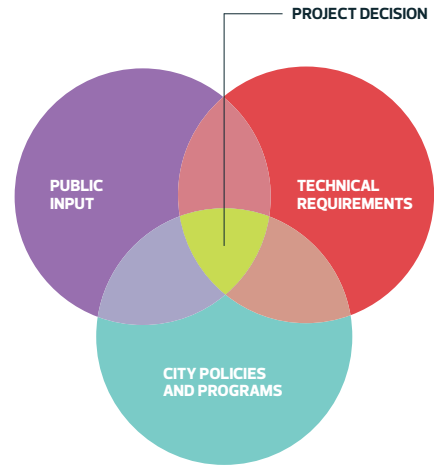
# How decisions are made

The decision-making process takes into consideration technical requirements, City policies and programs as well as public input.

Technical requirements may include elements like roadway widths and constraints such as mature trees. City policy includes road design standards such as the Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards which support the City as a whole. Public input includes local knowledge, concerns and desires.

Every decision is different. This means that the level of influence that public input, technical requirements, and City policies have varies for each decision.

We commit to telling you how public input influences decisions according to the public engagement spectrum.



# Calder community vision and guiding principles

We worked in collaboration with the community to **CREATE** a community vision statement and a set of guiding principles.

The vision will be used to guide decision making for neighbourhood renewal in Calder and future community-led initiatives. Guiding principles are ideas that inform how the vision should be applied to neighbourhood design and used to inform the choices for community-led initiatives.

## Vision:

*Calder is a well-maintained, diverse, historical rail community. Bright and happening for all ages and backgrounds. Calder is rich with natural beauty, heritage and community pride. It is a neighbourhood full of connections to services and amenities for all ages. Calder is unique in its historical significance and how together we live, work, play and gather. It has a small town feel within a big city.*

## Guiding principles:



**Greenery:** Calder features a natural beauty full of green spaces and tree lined streets.



**Accessibility and connections:** Calder provides freedom of movement through safe and accessible connections for all ages and abilities, whether they walk, bike, drive or take transit in the community



**Historical Pride:** Calder values and maintains its unique character stemming from its strong history, heritage and community pride.



**Sense of community:** Calder prides itself on the neighbourhood's diversity and togetherness, fostered through friendliness of residents, public gathering spaces, public art, regular community programs, events and initiatives.



**Local amenities:** Calder offers a wide range of services and amenities for all ages, in and around the neighbourhood.



**Neighbourhood safety and attraction:** Calder feels safe and inviting with friendly people, active public spaces, cared for properties and well-lit parks and pathways.

# Exploring opportunities: What we did and what we asked

We organized the following opportunities for the public to help **REFINE** our understanding of opportunities to improve Calder.



## Surveys

- + An online survey was available from **September 14 – 24, 2019**. The survey asked the public to share the ways they experience living, working, playing and traveling in the Calder neighbourhood.

**13 participants**



## Walk and workshop

- + An “Exploring Opportunities Walk and Workshop” took place on **September 14, 2019**, at the Northwest Edmonton Seniors Centre. Participants walked through the neighbourhood and stopped at important Calder landmarks to share their input about opportunities for neighbourhood renewal. Attendees also participated in a series of small group exercises to further explore issues and opportunities for their neighbourhood.

**35 participants**



## Community conversations

- + During this phase, we identified stakeholders in the area to have conversations about specific design considerations. Conversations have occurred with local business owners, faith organizations and the community league. These meetings occurred throughout **Fall 2019**. These meetings occurred throughout Fall 2019 and into Winter 2020.

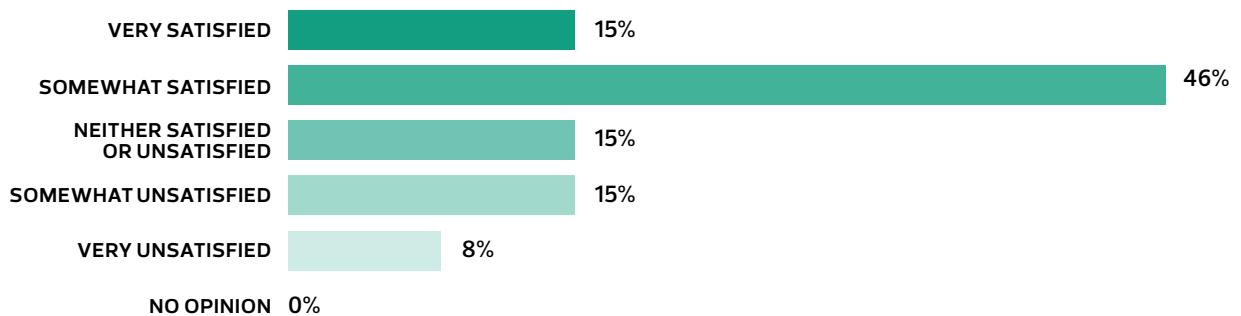
**12 participants**

# What we heard

The following is a summary of what we heard through public engagement during the Exploring Opportunities stage of this project. The summary has been developed to reflect the frequency of how often a comment occurred, and recognizes the diversity of the responses we received for the questions that were asked.

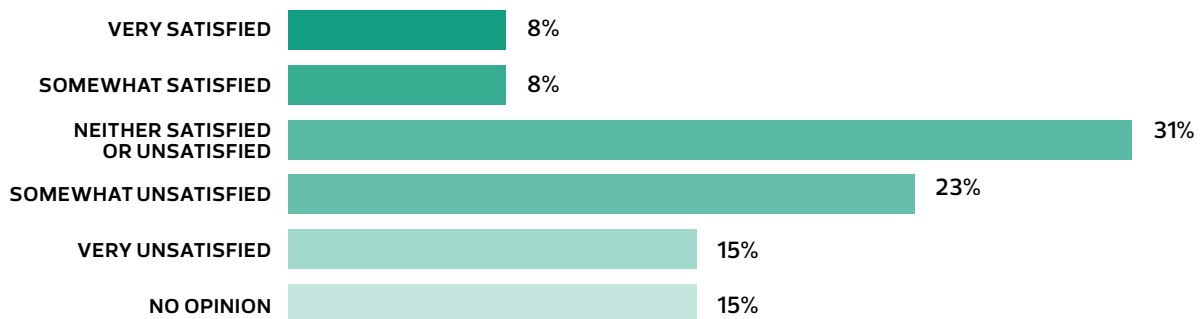
## From the survey we heard:

### How satisfied are you with *driving* in your neighbourhood?



- + Participants indicated that upgrades to roads in Calder could improve the satisfaction of drivers and promote safety for people who drive, walk and bike.

### How satisfied are you with *biking* in your neighbourhood?



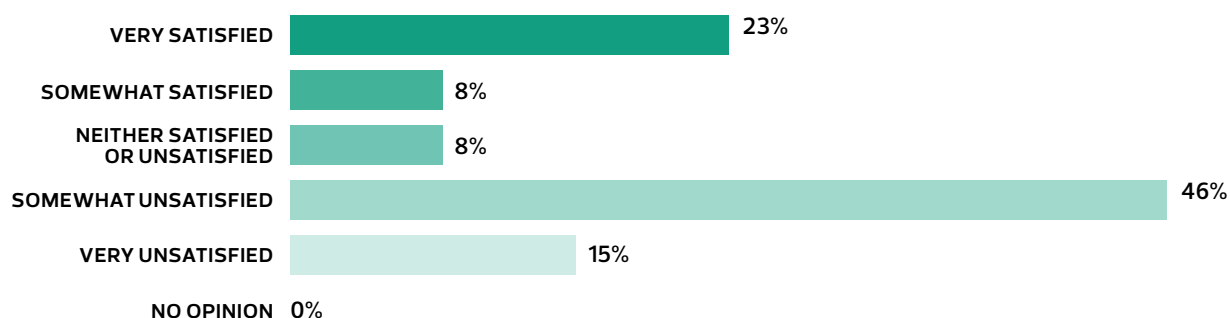
- + Respondents indicated that creating a dedicated bike route with improved bike infrastructure would promote connectivity and improve safety for people who bike.
- + Participants suggested that the City consider roads that are less busy when choosing a dedicated bike route in Calder.

# What we heard (CON'T)

The following is a summary of what we heard through public engagement during the Exploring Opportunities stage of this project. The summary has been developed to reflect the frequency of how often a comment occurred, and recognizes the diversity of the responses we received for the questions that were asked.

## From the survey we heard:

### How satisfied are you with walking in your neighbourhood?



- + Participants advised that new and improved sidewalks in Calder are very important and will enhance the experience of people who walk.
- + People suggested that better lighting would also make people who walk feel safer.

*"I love the green spaces, parks and playgrounds in our neighbourhood... We can always use improvements to green spaces but we're very lucky to have so many in Calder."*

## Six themes emerged across engagement opportunities:

- + Historic character
- + Open space upgrades and recreational opportunities
- + Placemaking
- + Community safety
- + Streets and connections
- + Traffic



Theme	What you said	What we heard
<b>Historical character</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ "I love our old homes and huge trees!"</li> <li>+ "History is important, I suggest plaques to capture history."</li> <li>+ "There is a lack of history and public art related to trains and railyard."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ People shared that the history of the neighbourhood is unique and should be highlighted.</li> <li>+ Participants felt that it was important to identify and highlight historic spaces and landmarks by using plaques, marking historic walking routes and other creative ways.</li> <li>+ The public shared that recognition of the Indigenous past and the present character of the neighbourhood would be welcomed.</li> <li>+ Participants identified that the Canadian National Railway along with long standing faith and cultural groups of Calder should be recognized as historic partners that established Calder.</li> </ul>
<b>Open space upgrades and recreational opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ "I suggest adding a Pathway in park, upgrade playground equipment, and add exercise equipment."</li> <li>+ "Touchdown Park and the community league park need some upgrades."</li> <li>+ "Calder could use more scenic open spaces. Parks need upgrading."</li> <li>+ "Keep berm for winter use."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Residents felt that the many green spaces in Calder are key elements of Calder's unique character.</li> <li>+ Participants stated it is important that open spaces and parks be enhanced and rejuvenated, and believed these spaces would be more inviting and residents would wish to visit more.</li> <li>+ Participants felt welcoming parks and open spaces create more opportunities for residents to connect with neighbours.</li> <li>+ Participants indicated that additional amenities (i.e., benches, waste bins, picnic tables, and lighting) would encourage multi-generational use of parks in Calder.</li> <li>+ Residents with mobility needs identified some park amenities are inaccessible.</li> <li>+ The public shared that innovative additions (i.e., skateboard park, spray park, barbecues, basketball courts, community gardens, adult fitness equipment) to parks would provide additional recreational opportunities.</li> <li>+ Families with young children identified the need to upgrade or replace rundown playground equipment.</li> <li>+ Participants shared a desire to use current infrastructure that is not currently operating. Amenities such as the community league skating rink could be used for skating in winter and family activities in the summer.</li> </ul>

Theme	What you said	What we heard
<b>Placemaking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ "There's a great mural on the side."</li> <li>+ "There aren't a lot of places to sit, a reading area is needed."</li> <li>+ "I suggest adding an Indigenous space, art piece perhaps."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Enhancing places (i.e., seating areas, public gathering spaces) for residents to connect with each other was important to many.</li> <li>+ Participants felt that public art could bring beauty to the neighbourhood.</li> <li>+ Residents believed that additional public gathering spaces would provide opportunities for connection with their neighbours and the community.</li> <li>+ Participants recognized the value of regular community programming, initiatives and events and wished more were planned for the future.</li> <li>+ Participants appreciated well-kept, beautifully planted flower beds, landscaped properties and public spaces within the neighbourhood.</li> <li>+ Business operators and owners on 129 Avenue between 119 and 120 Street would like the community to access their services.</li> </ul>

<b>Community safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ "I'm uneasy with loitering groups on sidewalks."</li> <li>+ "It doesn't feel safe"</li> <li>+ "The hill is creating sightline issues, trees blocking sightline."</li> <li>+ "Add better visibility, lighting to stop crime."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Participants expressed safety concerns in parks due to limited sightlines from untrimmed trees and unmaintained landscaping.</li> <li>+ The public shared that lighting is insufficient in some parks and along some roads in Calder, creating dark areas.</li> <li>+ Many participants felt that the design of some parks and insufficient lighting create spaces for crime and unsafe activity.</li> <li>+ Residents expressed a need for an increase in neighbourliness in order to build a safe and supportive community where residents would not be isolated.</li> <li>+ Participants shared that getting to know their neighbours at the workshop helped them feel safer.</li> </ul>
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Theme	What you said	What we heard
<b>Streets and connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ "The sidewalks are scary and unusable to walk, bike or run."</li> <li>+ "Sidewalks need to be redone with dipped corners for bikes and wheelchairs to have easy access."</li> <li>+ "Sidewalks are old, uneven and do not slope down to street level."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ The public shared that streets and sidewalks are in poor condition throughout the neighbourhood.</li> <li>+ People who walk and people who bike indicated that there are gaps in connections.</li> <li>+ Residents with mobility needs expressed frustration moving around the neighbourhood due to lack of sidewalk ramps.</li> <li>+ Participants shared the need for separated bike routes where people who bike would feel more comfortable away from vehicles.</li> <li>+ Workshop participants suggested crosswalks are needed on 132 Avenue to support pedestrian crossing.</li> <li>+ Some participants suggested that bike routes with updated bike facilities could be added to the neighbourhood.</li> <li>+ Participants indicated that key community destinations within Calder are not well connected (i.e., parks are disconnected and spread out).</li> <li>+ The public identified 129 Avenue can be difficult to cross at a number of locations.</li> </ul>
<b>Traffic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ "126 St - People shortcut if there's an issue on 127 St."</li> <li>+ "121 St - There is very fast traffic, could use traffic calming."</li> <li>+ "120 St - Congested street parking on both sides."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Participants felt that traffic congestion is an issue at peak times at some locations, in particular, around St. Edmund School and Calder Elementary School as well as 113A Street at 129 Avenue.</li> <li>+ Participants shared that shortcutting and speeding occur on some roads in the neighbourhood.</li> <li>+ Speeding along 129 Avenue and along 121 Street is a concern for some residents.</li> <li>+ Shortcutting was identified by some participants on 115 Street, 116 Street, 120 Street and 126 Street.</li> <li>+ Residents suggested some traffic signal considerations be made for 113A Street and 129 Avenue. Accessing the Calder neighbourhood off of 113A Street, or crossing from Calder into Lauderdale is difficult during times of high traffic.</li> <li>+ Residents expressed necessity of the 151 Bus Route on 129 Avenue.</li> </ul>



# Community Engagement Advisory Group

On November 27, 2019, the Community Engagement Advisory Group (CEAG) met and provided input for us to consider as we plan and implement public engagement activities for the Calder Neighbourhood Renewal project.

Members provided the following input which we will consider for future engagement in the neighbourhood.

- + Provide opportunities and activities for younger attendees. This may increase participation of families with children.
- + Schedule public engagement events on dates and at times convenient for a variety of schedules.
- + Offer public engagement opportunities at least two times, to provide people with more opportunities to participate.
- + Use a variety of promotional materials (i.e., signage, electronic correspondence, postcards) to communicate with the community about upcoming engagement opportunities.
- + It is important to provide the appropriate amount of information about designs, concepts and options. This will help people to make well informed decisions and help them to understand the impact of their input on what is being presented.
- + Clear and well labeled images, plain language descriptions, and questions that are well-defined can help people to understand what is being proposed and how their input will be considered.
- + Provide participants with an explanation about the specific questions being posed and the type of information the project team is seeking. This will help attendees to understand how their input will be considered.

As a result of this input from the Community Engagement Advisory Group, the upcoming January 2020 events will be held on two different days, at two different scheduled times. Information will be provided on display panels to ensure participants understand what is being proposed and what kind of feedback we are requesting. We will continue to promote the events in a number of different ways.

# Next Steps

Thank you to all participants who shared their input during the Exploring Opportunities phase of Calder Neighbourhood Renewal. We will consider your input along with technical requirements and City policy and programs while developing draft options for the next phase of Calder Neighbourhood Renewal. Draft options will be developed for parks, streets and connections, traffic calming, bike routes, placemaking, and historic character. You will have the opportunity to help us REFINE these draft options at a public event in January 2020.

For more information regarding the Calder Neighbourhood Renewal, upcoming public engagement events, and to subscribe for project updates, please visit [edmonton.ca/BuildingCalder](http://edmonton.ca/BuildingCalder).



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

This is your city and your neighbourhood. We want to understand how you experience your neighbourhood and ask for your input on what we might do to make it better.

We will engage and work with you on the renewal of roads, sidewalks, street lights, and park spaces, and promote other community opportunities to enhance how people live and interact in your neighbourhood. We commit to being open and transparent about how your input is used. Let's make the most out of your neighbourhood.

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