

Jasper Avenue New Vision

Frequently Asked Questions

Edmonton

What will be the benefits of the Jasper Avenue New Vision project for Edmontonians?

Jasper Avenue New Vision intends to re-establish Jasper Avenue as a main street, making it a destination—a place all Edmontonians can be proud of—as well as a symbol of the vitality of Edmonton’s downtown and the city as a whole.

This plan calls for Jasper Avenue to feature a high-quality pedestrian experience that will attract more visitors to the downtown core and support area businesses.

The vision calls for sidewalks to be widened. How will the widening of sidewalks impact traffic lanes?

The same number of traffic lanes will remain along Jasper Avenue in the future, however they will be narrowed slightly, where necessary, to allow for widening of sidewalks to enhance the pedestrian space.

What will be the impact to traffic flow as a result of a more pedestrian oriented Jasper Avenue?

Jasper Avenue is a designated main street and falls under the City’s Main Streets and Complete Streets guidelines. These will be used to guide the concept plan development. Consideration will be given to narrow vehicle lanes and the removal of some on-street parking to increase sidewalk widths and help prioritize moving more people along the corridor.

The intent is that Jasper Avenue retain its role as a key transportation link and main street. Jasper Avenue is both a place for business and residents, and a link for people arriving and departing from downtown. Motor vehicles will be accommodated similarly to how they are today; however there is a desire to enhance and rebalance the environment for pedestrians, and transit users.

How will bicycles be accommodated on Jasper Avenue (92 Street to 109 Street)?

The City of Edmonton has designated 100 Avenue, 102 Avenue, and 105 Avenue as east-west corridors for the Downtown Bike Network. As such, Jasper Avenue will generally not have designated cycle facilities. However, there may be limited opportunities to provide

cycle facilities at targeted locations along the study corridor. The Downtown Bike Network crosses Jasper Avenue at 96 Street, 103 Street, 106 Street and, potentially, 99 Street. This project will look at the feasibility of tying into the City's bike grid.

When is construction scheduled to take place?

Phase 1 construction from 100 Street to 102 Street was completed in 2013. Phase 2 construction from 96 Street to 100 Street is scheduled to begin in 2019. Construction is expected to last at least 2 years. The project team will be coordinating the Phase 2 work with other construction work in the area. There is no schedule for construction of the remaining sections of the avenue as funding is not currently available.

What is the Main Streets Guideline and what role does it play in the development of the Jasper Avenue New Vision concept plans?

A guideline for designing Edmonton's main streets was created in 2015. Jasper Avenue was designated a main street in 2016. The Main Streets Guideline, together with the Jasper Avenue New Vision, will be used to guide the development of the concept plans.

Main streets are both important places and important transportation links. Both these functions need to balance. Main streets are designed to:

- Improve the pedestrian experience
- Entice people to linger by widening sidewalks
- Provide additional space for street furniture and landscaping
- Buffer pedestrians from traffic

How will this project blend with other downtown projects like The Quarters, etc?

The Jasper Avenue New Vision will identify an upgraded road and streetscape along the entire study area that will provide an aesthetically pleasing Jasper Avenue streetscape that complements adjacent projects, including: the Armature (96 Street from Jasper Avenue to 103A Avenue); Experience Jasper Avenue (109 Street to 124 Street); and other private land developments.

How will the Jasper Avenue New Vision (92 Street to 109 Street) and Imagine Jasper Avenue (109 Street to 124 Street) projects work together?

The intent is for Jasper Avenue New Vision and Imagine Jasper Avenue to share some design elements to ensure continuity along the avenue.

Jasper Avenue will continue to provide two traffic lanes in each direction along the entire corridor (92 Street to 124 Street) although the lanes may be narrower than what currently exists.

The pedestrian space will be enhanced to provide an unobstructed walking corridor along with adjacent street furnishings such as benches, lights, planters, trees, bus shelters, bicycle racks, garbage cans, and more. On-street parking opportunities may be reduced or converted into flex space that could also be used by pedestrians for events and festivals, restaurant patio space, and more.

What will be the construction impacts of the Jasper Avenue New Vision projects?

The Jasper Avenue New Vision will provide an upgraded road and streetscape that will better balance the needs of Edmontonian to live, work, and play downtown.

During construction there will be disruptions to vehicle and pedestrian traffic along the corridor. Construction is tentatively scheduled for 2019-20 for Phase 2 between 96 Street and 100 Street, but construction staging and potential roadway disruptions are unknown at this time. These details will be shared at a later date with the public and stakeholders. There is no timeline for construction for the remaining sections of the avenue.

To minimize the impacts to commuters and other visitors to Jasper Avenue, the City is coordinating the construction of 96 Street to 100 Street to coincide with construction of the Shaw Conference Centre under Jasper Avenue.

What will be the impacts to transit on Jasper Avenue?

The Jasper Avenue New Vision project team is working with Edmonton Transit System to accommodate bus movements along the corridor. Some bus stops may be consolidated or relocated to provide more efficient and effective bus movement along Jasper Avenue.

The City's Transit Strategy may recommend changes to bus routes and frequency along Jasper Avenue. The Jasper Avenue New Vision plan should provide flexibility to accommodate potential changes to the bus network.

What will be the impacts to parking along Jasper Avenue?

Jasper Avenue is a very constrained roadway. To provide enhanced pedestrian, transit, and vehicle movements along the corridor, some on-street parking may be removed or relocated. Some parking spaces may be restricted to short-term parking or loading zones to better accommodate business or resident access. This project will attempt to provide flexibility and options for roadway use if land uses or adjacent properties change.