

New: Active Transportation Initiative

Initiative Title:	Active Transportation
City Council Sponsor(s):	Councillor B. Henderson and Councillor A. Knack
Supporting Department and Lead Staff:	Transportation Services; A. Homes/A. Jones

BACKGROUND:

The City of Edmonton's Active Transportation Policy supports opportunities for Edmontonians to walk, roll, and cycle, regardless of age, ability, or socio-economic status, enhancing the safety, inclusivity and diversity of our communities, and minimizing the impact of transportation activities on Edmonton's ecosystem. The City's Transportation Master Plan: *The Way We Move*, calls for Edmonton to be a walkable, cycle-friendly city - healthy, barrier-free, age friendly, and safe, where active modes are a preferred transportation choice.

While the City of Edmonton has a long history of providing infrastructure and programs that support Active Transportation, the implementation of the City's Active Transportation Policy has been met with challenges. The Active Transportation Council Initiative establishes a framework for the guidance and support that is essential to the successful application and implementation of the City's Active Transportation Policy.

DELIVERABLE:

The overall objective of Council's Active Transportation Initiative is to support and enhance current work of the City of Edmonton.

Through the evaluation of current practices and opportunities for improvement, the Initiative will seek to answer the following questions:

- Why is Active Transportation important to individuals and the communities that make up the City of Edmonton?
- How can we work together to build the City's commitment to support and encourage Active Transportation?
- What should be the focus of our improvement efforts?

The approach allows for consultation with the many varied stakeholders, internal and external, who have an interest in the Initiative and its outcomes. In particular, this Initiative will draw on the collective experience and wisdom of the City's Trails, Paths, and Routes Advisory Committee (TPRAC) (external stakeholders) as well as the City's Active Transportation Network (internal stakeholders).

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

Outcomes will include:

- Enhanced accessibility, safety, security, and convenience, through strategic improvement, expansion, and maintenance of the infrastructure and facilities that support Active Transportation;
- Heightened awareness of the Active Transportation options available to Edmonton's citizens and the benefits of active, healthy living, recreation, and sustainable communities;
- Education for users of Edmonton's transportation systems about their rights and responsibilities, including drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians;
- Strategic plans, policies, procedures, bylaws, directives, processes, programs, and guidelines to support and encourage Active Transportation.
- Shared responsibility for the provision of infrastructure, facilities, programs, and initiatives to support and encourage Active Transportation, through collaboration, cooperation, and partnerships, both internally and externally.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC DIRECTION:

The Way We Move, Edmonton's Transportation Master Plan:

- Strategic Action 4.1: The City will integrate land use planning and transportation decisions to create an accessible, efficient and compact urban form.
- Strategic Action 5.1: The City will pursue expansion of the LRT to all sectors of the city with a goal to increase transit ridership and transit mode split, and spur the development of compact, urban communities.
- Strategic Action 5.2: The City will develop an efficient, effective, accessible and integrated bus network to serve Edmonton with connections to the Region.
- Strategic Action 5.5: The City will implement essential supporting measures to enhance the viability and success of the public transportation system.
- Strategic Action 6.1: The City will create a walkable environment.
- Strategic Action 6.2: The City will create a cycle-friendly city.
- Strategic Action 6.3: The City will create an integrated network of multi-use trail facilities.

- Strategic Action 7.1: The City will develop a comprehensive program to continually optimize the efficiency of the existing roadway system using traffic management and transportation supply measures.
- Strategic Action 7.2: The City will initiate and support comprehensive programs for Transportation Demand Management to encourage a reduction in single occupant vehicle use.
- Strategic Action 7.5: The City will promote and undertake the safe planning, design and operation of the transportation system.
- Strategic Action 7.6: The City will appropriately mitigate the impacts of the transportation network on existing and future residential communities.
- Strategic Action 9.2: The City will work with neighbouring municipalities as part of the Capital Region Board to facilitate and implement a comprehensive, coordinated and integrated transportation system that supports the city and Capital Region's mobility, accessibility and economic vitality.
- Strategic Action 10.2: The City will have robust maintenance practices to facilitate year round transportation.

Links with Other Council Initiatives:

- Public Engagement
- Public Transit
- Recreation
- Seniors
- Traffic Safety
- Winter Cities

START-UP BUDGET REQUIREMENTS:

Existing internal resources will be used to create detailed project plans, public involvement plans, and potential budget requirements for any additional projects or programs that emerge as priorities through this Council Initiative.

TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION OF PROJECT PLAN:

The Council Initiative for Active Transportation is expected to proceed for the duration of the 2013-17 Council Term.