



112 AVENUE ENHANCEMENTS 62 STREET TO 68 STREET

MARCH 2014

112 AVENUE ENHANCEMENTS
OPEN HOUSE
HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB
6603 ADA BOULEVARD
SEPTEMBER 16, 2013, 5:00 – 8:00 P.M.

WHAT WE HEARD

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The City of Edmonton is developing design plans for the 112 Avenue Public Realm Enhancements project between 62 Street and 68 Street, with a particular focus on the commercial area from 64 Street to 66 Street.

A public open house was held on September 16, 2013 to share concept plans with residents and stakeholders and to gather feedback on specific enhancement possibilities. An accompanying online survey was open for commentary for an additional two weeks.

The open house included two presentations at 5:30 and 7:00pm with information displays and project staff available for questions.

A total of 115 individuals attended the event and 75 comment forms were completed and returned. A further 13 individuals completed the online survey. The following provides an overview of the results of the comment forms submitted at the open house and through the online survey.

OVERALL THEMES AND ISSUES

Overhead String Lights

There was strong support for the string lights with 71% of participants feeling that “the overhead string lights help distinguish this part of the



community from the residential area” and 62% of participants feeling that “the overhead string lights compliment the character of the adjacent communities”.

A number of participants commented that they liked the overhead string lights concept saying “[the string lights] will enhance the charm of the neighbourhood” and “this is a unique opportunity, I hope this is pursued and implemented”.

There were a few comments about budget, and some commented that the project team should consider omitting the string lighting if budget is an issue.

In mid November 2013 a letter was sent to the 13 property owners adjacent to the proposed location for the overhead string lights, informing them that although the City would cover the construction costs of the lights through the City’s Great Neighbourhood program, the ongoing maintenance and energy consumption costs would have to be covered by adjacent property owners.

The adjacent property owners expressed little support for this initiative. Therefore, the **overhead string lights will not be included in the overall project plans.**



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Metal barriers



Bollards

Metal Screen Walls and Bollards

Participants were asked to comment on two options being explored as a barrier between the roadway and the benches and planters. The designs include a metal screen wall and/or bollards.

Participants were equally divided on their preference for the metal screen wall versus the bollards. 52% of the participants felt the metal screen wall would make them more comfortable and more willing to use the area and 56% said this of the bollards. Just over half of the participants felt the metal screen wall or the bollards would complement the other design elements in the plan, and about half felt the design elements would complement the characteristics of the community.

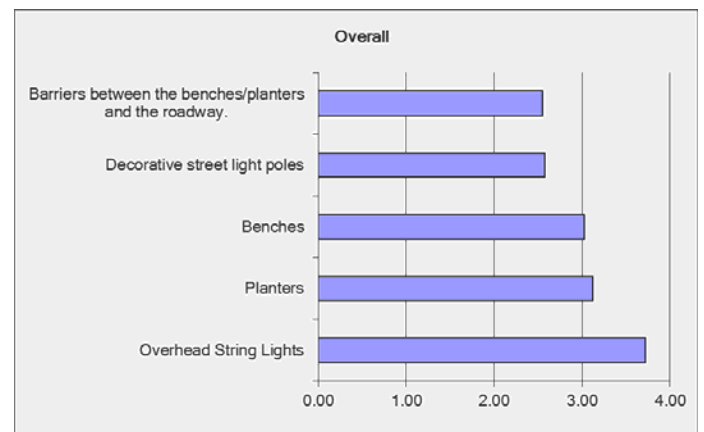
There were many more comments and questions about the metal screen walls than the bollards. A number of people liked the screens saying “the screens are beautiful and provide a very nice space to sit, chat or meet” and “the metal screen wall is decorative, functional and pleasing”. Some participants also felt the screen helped provide the feeling of safety for pedestrians.

However, there were questions and concerns about how the screens would function. There were also a number of questions about maintenance. Others had questions about snow

removal. A few people suggested a combination of bollards and metal screens.

OVERALL THEMES AND ISSUES

Participants were asked to rank a number of design elements in order of importance where 1 is the most important and 5 is the least important.



Based on the rating averages, participants felt that the “**Barriers between the benches/planters and the roadway**” were the most important element with a rating average of 2.55 and the “**Overhead String Lights**” were the least important with a rating average of 3.72.

This result combined with the results and comments about the Overhead String Lights above could indicate that should elements need to be eliminated due to budget constraints, the string lights should be considered to be removed from the design.



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Other Comments

Participants were asked to provide other comments on the project not covered specifically within the survey. Themes included:

- **Anticipation:** A number of participants were quite pleased to see the design plans for the area. Others wanted the project area extended further west.
- **Maintenance:** Some expressed concern over snow, tree and refuse maintenance in the project area, as well as nearby enhanced bus stops.
- **Speeding:** Concerns persist despite design changes.
- **Crosswalks and Traffic Lights:** A number of improvements or additions were suggested.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit: www.edmonton.ca/112avenue

Call: 780.944.5600

Email: 112Avenue@edmonton.ca

WHAT'S NEXT

Preliminary and detailed design work on 112 Avenue reconstruction is continuing with an information session slated for April 2014 in advance of construction. At that meeting, the project team will also report back on feedback gathered for the 112 Avenue Enhancements project.

The reconstruction of 112 Avenue will occur in two phases as follows:

112 Avenue, 50 Street to 60 Street, plus 50 Street from Ada Boulevard to 117 Avenue:
Reconstruction in 2014

112 Avenue, 60 Street to 68 Street, including the commercial area enhancements:
Reconstruction in 2015