

CAPITAL BOULEVARD/108 STREET FAQs – July 2015

Where is it?

The portion of 108 Street between 99 Avenue to 104 Avenue in Edmonton's downtown.

Impetus for this project:

108 Street is the front door to the Alberta Legislature. Edmonton has had a long term interest in doing a project to recognize Edmonton's capital city role and to create a destination street that integrates the Legislature into the downtown.

Key Design Objectives:

- To extend the formal character established by the Legislature building and forecourt into the downtown.
- To protect and enhance the north-south view axis to the Legislature Building and Grant MacEwan University.
- To enhance the link between the legislature grounds, downtown, NorQuest College and Grant MacEwan University.

Outcomes (Public Art/Design Principles):

- Capital Boulevard will be viewed in its entirety as a public art/design project
- The Boulevard will be a separate entity in the downtown, with a distinct character
- Art/design works on the street, oriented to both pedestrian and motorist views, will set the character of the street.

What will enhance Capital Boulevard?

- Five focal points, one per block, will contain primary public art/design works
- Generous sidewalks with rolled curbs for pedestrian activity and comfort
- High quality and distinctive benches and streetlights
- Paving stone road surface with a sandblast accent on concrete sidewalks
- Coloured glass finials (decorative pieces) to top the streetlights
- Landscaping (grass, trees, shrubs and perennials)

What is the status of the street?

In November 2014, the glass finials were installed on the street lights. All of the roadwork is complete. The bollards were removed along the edges of the street and were kept around the centre islands. Art installations are the current and final focus. Discussions and decisions about permanent installations are occurring. In the meantime, temporary art installations may be installed in 2015.

Why is the street not closed to traffic?

The boulevard must accommodate the needs of the many properties and businesses that front the street. Because of this, two-way traffic was deemed as imperative. However, pedestrian space has been gained by narrowing the road and removing the typical curbs.

How much has the City spent on this project?

\$1.5 million per block face

How much did the decorative finials cost?

Keith Walker, the designer of the finials, was eligible for the Per Cent for Art Grant Program through the Edmonton Arts Council. The project cost approximately \$125,000 in total.

Why has the project not been completed sooner?

One of the challenges of constructing street improvements as opposed to closed public space construction is the need to keep the street open during construction. This increases the time it takes to complete the project, as the project must accommodate the needs of motorists, pedestrians and surrounding businesses and properties. In addition, weather issues can lengthen the construction timeline. As individual components are completed, these elements come together to support the overall design.

INFORMATION

For more information on the ongoing improvements to downtown Edmonton, please visit www.edmonton.ca/go_downtown/capital-boulevard