CONNECT 43 AVE
COMMUNITY EVENT
DECEMBER 8, 2016

WHAT WE HEARD

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The City of Edmonton is finalizing a concept plan for a Shared-Use Path (SUP) along the 43 Avenue pipeline corridor from 106 Street to 119 Street.

The 43 Avenue route was chosen based on previous public engagement after the removal of the bike lanes that were formerly located on 40 Avenue.

The 43 Avenue Shared-Use Path is currently in the concept planning stage of the project, which will be followed by detailed design and construction. The concept plan will determine specifics of the alignment along the route, considering technical requirements and input from key stakeholders.

The 43 Avenue Shared-Use Path will:

- Create community connections
- Encourage active modes of transportation, such as cycling and walking
- Enhance recreational opportunities
- Utilize green spaces along 43 Avenue
- Maintain parking
- Improve safety and walkability with proper signage, curb ramps, intersection markings and crossing signals

The City hosted a Community Event at D.S. MacKenzie Jr High on December 8, 2016 to present the recommended concept plan to the public and to ask for input on community points of interest as well as potential placement of benches and landscaping along the path.

FEEDBACK RECEIVED

A total of 48 individuals attended the Community Event, with 14 of those completing a comment form. A further 24 individuals completed the survey online, either via the project website, edmonton.ca/surveys or social media. The total number of completed surveys is 38.

The following provides an overview of the feedback received. **Note: not all respondents completed each question.**

- The majority of survey respondents are area residents (87%), with most of those (61%) living in the Royal Gardens neighbourhood, 15% living in Rideau Park, 9% in Greenfield, 9% in Duggan and 6% in Aspen Gardens.
- Few respondents (3%) are representatives of an association/organization, and 3% are school representatives.
- 53% of respondents indicated that they are a pedestrian who uses the 43 Avenue corridor, while 37% indicated that they are a cyclist who uses the 43 Avenue corridor.
- 34% of respondents attended previous public engagement events for the Engaging 40 Avenue bike lanes, while 63% had not attended a previous event.
THEMES

After compiling the public input received both from the event and the feedback survey, a number of themes emerged.

### Connections

**Benefits**
- The majority of responses received indicated that the proposed SUP alignment successfully connects the communities through which it runs, by providing an easy and direct travel link to get from one community to another.
- The SUP will also connect users more efficiently with their destinations, such as schools, sports fields, Confederation Leisure Centre, etc.

**Challenges**
- Some respondents felt that the concept plan was not clear on how the proposed SUP connects to other existing pathways and future cycling facilities (i.e. no specified North/South connection to Greenfield or Duggan or East/West connection to Aspen Gardens).

**Actions**
- The design of the SUP considered connections to existing bike routes north/south at 119 Street and 114 Street. Future planning for 106 Street bike facilities will incorporate a connection to the 43 Avenue SUP alignment.

### Safety

**Benefits**
- It was noted that one of the safety benefits of the SUP is that it would take cyclists and non-cyclists off of the roads, decreasing the chances of collision with motorized vehicles.
- It was also stated that this will be a safer route for students/children to get to schools and playgrounds, particularly in Royal Gardens and Rideau Park.

**Challenges**
- Much of the public input centered on how to ensure the safety of SUP users at road crossings, especially those near schools.
- The intersection at 111 Street and 43 Avenue was of particular interest to the public. The primary concerns were:
  - Signal timing (i.e. walk lights and left turn light)
  - Speed and volume of traffic at peak times
  - Maintained placement of the crossing on the north side of 43 Avenue

**Actions**
- Road crossings will have appropriate markings and signage indicating how both SUP users and motorists should proceed safely.
- Signal timing has been optimized for all intersection users.
- The intersection will be monitored to identify if traffic mitigation needs to be put in place.
- The existing north side crossing was selected through a design safety audit during LRT design and construction.
- Numerous respondents suggested construction of a bridge or tunnel at 111 Street
- Many respondents expressed concern about the SUP being constructed within the Royal Gardens Pipeline Corridor off-leash dog area. The primary worry is the potential interaction between dogs and cyclists.
- The importance of proper lighting along the SUP was also noted as a matter of importance for both safety and security.

- While such a crossing is beyond the budget of the SUP project, it could be considered if warranted in the future.
- Proper signage will be installed along the SUP within the off-leash area, notifying users that they are entering an off-leash dog park.
- Lighting will be installed along the SUP, where required, for the safety and security of users.

### Accessibility

**Benefits**
- A number of respondents felt the SUP will help to promote recreational activities like cycling, walking, running, skateboarding, etc.
- Many respondents said it will feel like a more intentional recreation space by providing both cyclists and pedestrians with a better route to access field and park areas.

**Challenges**
- Some respondents commented that the present pedestrian and cyclist facilities, or the lack thereof, are still acceptable. They stated that both cyclists and non-cyclists are currently getting where they need to be using the existing roads and grassy spaces.
- A number of respondents expressed the desire for the SUP to be cleared of snow and ice on a timely basis, in order to maintain access to the path.
- The presence of the off-leash dog area brought up questions from dog owners who were concerned that the space would not be accessible to them upon construction and completion of the SUP.

**Actions**
- Feedback from previous public engagement during route selection indicated a need for a high quality facility that would be fully separate from vehicle traffic. The design of the SUP meets this need.
- The SUP will be cleared of snow and ice according to the City’s Community Standards Bylaw 14600 and Traffic Bylaw 5590.
- Off-leash areas are considered multi-use. Many of these areas already have shared-use paths running through them, an indication that SUP users and off-leash area users can safely co-exist in the space.
ADDITIONAL FEATURES

Part of the public engagement for the concept plan was to determine the priority for potential additional features to the SUP, should funding be available. Participants were asked to rank the following features in their desired order for priority: Benches, Landscaping, and Signage for destination/points of interest. The results, from highest to lowest priority, are:

1. Landscaping
2. Benches
3. Signage

Results gathered at the December 8 Community Event indicated that residents would prefer landscaping at road crossings and east of the existing sidewalk at 116 Street and 43 Avenue. No other locations for landscaping were indicated along the pipeline corridor from 111 Street to 117 Street that exists as part of the off-leash dog park.

Participants also indicated they would like benches to be placed at regular intervals along the SUP, and particularly at places where people congregate (i.e. sports fields, parks, schools).

The crossing at 110 Street was another favourable spot for placement of landscaping and benches.

There was also a desire for additional garbage cans along the SUP, especially in the off-leash dog area.

WHAT’S NEXT

Input from the Community Event and the survey will help to finalize the alignment of the 43 Avenue Shared-Use Path, as well as potential placement of benches, landscaping and wayfinding for community points of interest.

Preliminary and detailed design will be the next phases of this project, with construction of the SUP scheduled for 2017. The project team is able to answer any questions you may have about the recommended concept plan.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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