

# Connect 43 Ave

## 43 Avenue Shared-Use Path

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

To encourage active modes of transportation and to link the communities of Rideau Park, Duggan, Greenfield, Aspen Gardens and Royal Gardens, the City installed on-street bike routes along 40 Avenue in 2013. These routes were installed to reach the goal of expanding Edmonton’s bike network in an inexpensive manner, as directed by City Council. The on-street painted bike lanes were removed in 2015 as they did not meet the needs of the users nor the communities.

Searching for an alternative, the City returned to the communities in 2015 to discuss how to balance community needs with the installation of bike routes in the area. Through public consultation with residents and a Stakeholder Input Panel, made up primarily of community members, several options were developed. In April 2016, based on the evaluation of all collected data, the City approved the construction of a Shared-Use Path (SUP) along the 43 Avenue pipeline corridor from 106 Street to 119 Street.

### CONCEPT PLANNING

Concept planning is the next phase in design and construction of the SUP. The concept plan will determine details 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.

### PLANS FOR 117 STREET

Along 117 Street, the recommended SUP is proposed to be on the east side of the road. The road width will be narrowed as required to accommodate the recommended SUP width and to reduce impacts to the adjacent properties. Due to the need for roadway reconstruction with these changes, the recommended option will be constructed in coordination with the Royal Gardens Neighborhood Renewal Program currently scheduled for 2019. As an interim solution, pavement markings (i.e. sharrow) will be provided to encourage cyclists to travel on the road and to increase the awareness of drivers to expect bicycles along the road.



## WHAT WE HEARD

Since the beginning of the concept planning project in August 2016, the City has consulted with key stakeholders including Edmonton Catholic and Public School Board Planners, Community Leagues, Sports Field User Groups, a Stakeholder Input Panel, as well as various Community Businesses and Organizations. Concerns and suggestions were grouped into the following four themes:

**Safety:** The Shared-Use Path should be safe for all users, including cyclists and non-cyclists. High traffic areas (i.e. around school and the LRT crossing on 111 Street) should have extra attention paid to them to protect path users.

**Action:** The City has considered various technical factors and engineering measures to improve the safety of the path users. Proper signage, signals, and crosswalk markings will be provided to warn path users and drivers to avoid potential conflicts, where necessary. In addition, as per the Community Standard Bylaw and the Traffic Bylaw, the City will be responsible for maintaining the Shared-Use Path in proper condition and will keep it clear of all snow and ice.

**Connection:** The Shared-Use Path should connect with other paths and bike routes. It should function as a link between communities, potentially serving as a “linear park”.

**Action:** The Shared-Use Path will be designed to connect with existing pathways along its alignment to provide better accessibility to schools, recreation centers and/or communities. It will also be connected with existing bike routes to direct users to a wider bike network.

**Destination:** The Shared-Use Path should bring users to key community destinations (e.g. schools, commercial businesses, Edmonton Public Library, etc.)

**Action:** The Shared-Use Path alignment is designed to connect community residents and cyclists to local destinations as well as to the wider bike network. Close considerations were given to connect users to the

schools along the path alignment, Edmonton Public Library and local businesses at the east and west ends of the path.

**Recreation:** The Shared-Use Path should be a space for everyone (pedestrians, cyclists, cross-country skiers, dog-walkers, etc.) and encourage physical activity.

**Action:** The City wants to make public spaces more walkable and bikeable and safe for all types of users. The path will be open for everyone with the exception of motorized vehicles.

## NEXT STEPS

The City has organized a Community Event on December 8, 2016 at D.S. MacKenzie Junior High School from 5-8 pm. Input from this event will help to finalize the alignment of the 43 Avenue Shared-Use Path. Preliminary and detailed design will be the next phases of this project, with construction of the SUP scheduled for 2017.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Telephone: 311

Email: [connect43avenue@edmonton.ca](mailto:connect43avenue@edmonton.ca)

Visit: [www.edmonton.ca/connect43ave](http://www.edmonton.ca/connect43ave)

